

FARM PRACTICE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2017/2018

Calf pneumonia

It's pneumonia season! Mainly due to the weather change – cold nights and mornings and mild afternoons. However, pneumonia is a multifactorial disease. Factors such as poor ventilation, different age groups housed together, low colostrum intake, stress and overstocking are just some of the reasons which can lead to a pneumonia outbreak. There are two stages of the disease, acute and chronic. Calves should be treated as early as possible to prevent chronic lung damage.

Early symptoms to look out for include

- Dull and depressed calves
- High temperature
- Raised breathing due to lung damage
- Nasal and eye discharge
- Coughing
- Reduced food intake.



Nevertheless, prevention is better than cure. Vaccination doesn't prevent all infections, however it helps the calf to deal with the disease and can reduce severity of disease and fatal losses.



Contact us, so we can help you to find the best vaccination and treatment program for your farm.

Calving and lambing season starts soon – what to think about now

For many of our farmers the busiest time of the year is about to start – lambing and calving. In the last stage of gestation the foetus is fully developed and can grow significantly in size (in calves up to 500 g) in the last few days!). In order to produce healthy and lively calves and lambs, it is essential to provide the mother with a sufficient amount of minerals and trace elements. Supplementation can be done via mineral buckets, mineral pellets as food additive or via mineral bolus. The advantage of boluses is that every animal receives the correct amount of minerals, whereas the intake of the other options is variable. Whatever method is used, it is important to provide the supplements in the last 8 weeks before calving and 4 weeks before lambing respectively so that the calf or lamb gets the most benefit.

We are a copper, selenium and iron deficient area which can reduce calf viability and getting cows back in calf. However too much copper and selenium can be toxic. A good way to check the mineral and trace element status of your herd is to blood sample a respective number of animals in the herd.

'Johne's Disease Meeting'

We would like to invite you to a Hampden Veterinary Hospital Farm Department evening meeting on Thursday February 1st 2018 at the Veterinary Hospital in Aylesbury, HP20 1AJ, 6:30 pm for a 7 pm start.

This should be a very interesting evening with a talk by the farm vets about Johne's disease and how to break the cycle of infection.

The meeting addresses dairy herds as well as suckler herds.

Drinks and food will be provided. If you would like to attend, please let us know by the 25th January 2018, by phoning the farm office. We look forward to seeing you!



Bovine TB Update regarding inconclusive reactors (IR's)

There has been a new policy introduced in England from 1st November 2017 regarding inconclusive reactors (IR) that subsequently test clear. They are now restricted for life to the farm where they tested positive, unless they have a negative gamma interferon blood test (privately paid for by the farmer) or they go to a red unit or direct to slaughter. This new policy is part of the Government's comprehensive eradication strategy as these cows are more likely to test positive at future tests.

Furthermore, from 1st January 2018 Oxfordshire will be re-classified as fully in the TB Edge Area and will be subject to six-monthly routine surveillance testing. The 6m interval starts after the next annual test in 2018. Therefore, think about bringing your test forward or backwards in your testing window to make timing more suitable for your herd.

Opening hours over Christmas and New Year

Saturday 23th December Office closing at 12:30pm, re-opens Wednesday 27th December.

Saturday 30th December Office closing at 12:30pm, re-opens 2nd January 2018.

Out of ours emergency service provided as usual.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018!

