

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

The Early Bird gets the Worm(s!)



This year has been quite a good one for grass growth, but unfortunately, along with that comes worm burdens in our lambs!

In comparison to last year the trickle of wet weather we have had throughout the season has meant we've seen relatively high levels of worms on some farms and so you're likely to have got the drench out at least once or twice! Later on in the season is the time that we need to be even more strategic in our choice of wormer and question if there could be any other reasons why those last few lambs just aren't finishing!

There are lots of different wormers available and it is sometimes confusing what product to use. White, clear and yellow groups of wormer have been available for a long time and so, on some farms we are finding resistance to one or more of these groups. Your drenches could be working ineffectively without you realising as resistance is not always obvious. Now, later in the grazing season is the time we see resistance cause the biggest problem, as resistant worms that have not been killed with drenches throughout the season will have remained on pasture and multiplied. It is for this reason that we recommend the following:

1. Using a one off Zolvix® or Startect® wormer for all lambs that require worming late in the season



The newer products, group 4 and 5 (Zolvix® and Startect®) have little evidence of resistance and so can be effectively used as "knock-out" drenches. The aim is to target their use to clear out any remaining resistant worms in lambs and prevent any resistance problem getting bigger! By using these

products now we can also ensure that you prevent worms reducing weight gains and get those end of season lambs off the farm before over wintering them! They are also highly useful as quarantine drenches for any incoming stock, so as to prevent bringing in any resistant worms.

2. Drench Tests to ensure your routine worming treatments are working



How do you know that your drenches are fully effective?

With every farm being different, the only way to know is complete faecal egg count reduction tests. These tests are really easy to do and hinge around comparing the level of worms before

and after you drench the lambs, to ensure that they are being killed as we hope! All you have to do is to take a sample prior to drenching and drop it into us, and then collect another faecal sample from the same group either 7 days later (yellow drenches) or 14 days later (clear and white drenches). From this we will be able to tell you if you have a resistance problem to the product and therefore if you should be using it now and for next season! Its easy to do and will prevent you wasting money on ineffective products!

Waste Disposal

Getting rid of the waste we produce is becoming more complicated and the appropriate disposal of medicines bottles and sharps are no different.

In the past we have been able to dispose of client's clinical waste using the waste disposal service which we have in place at Belmont Farm and Equine, however, due to changes in licensing this is no longer possible.

The health and safety executive require anyone administering pharmaceuticals to have the ability to safely and immediately dispose of needles, syringes and bottles and with farm assurance audits now requiring evidence of appropriate disposal of clinical waste it is essential that you have a farm policy in place.



Greener Options Ltd offer a simple pharmaceutical waste disposal solution.

They supply the bin, you fill it and they collect it, all for a fixed fee and the paperwork provided meets the required farm assurance standards. They currently have an introductory offer where you receive a 50 litre bottle bin and a 7 litre sharps container for just £60 + VAT.

To sign up please call: 01299 250221 or email: info@greeneroptions.co.uk.

For those producing more pharmaceutical waste there are pay monthly plans available through **Steri-cycle (03332 404400) or PHS (02920 809098)** which can be tailored to suit your requirements.

HEREFORD: 01432 351471 • BROMYARD: 01885 488440 • LEDBURY: 01531 806129

Clinical Vets: Dominic Alexander • Will Allman • Mike Bellamy • Andrew Cooke • Nick Gibbon • Hannah Mitchell • Alex O'Malley
Matthew Pugh • Caroline Rank • Amelia Stevens • Harry Walby • Charlotte Watkins

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz • Petre Balanescu • Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean • Tudor Patcas • Diego Sainz Garcia • Javier Sisamon • Krasimir (Kris) Stefanov

Support staff: Michelle Harris • Sybil Legge • Laura Langford • Alice Mainwaring • Ros O'Sullivan • Sophie Powell • Emma Savage • Andrea Smith
Pam Strange • Harriet Turner • Millie Whitlock

It's that time of year again! Are your ewes protected against Infectious Abortion?

Reducing lamb losses is the key to improving profitability of your flock and NOW is the time to act.

70% of diagnosed abortions in UK flocks are due to Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasma. Both Enzootic abortion and toxoplasmosis are preventable by vaccination.

Whole flock long-acting oxytetracycline injection (alamycin LA) is an emergency measure that may reduce the number of abortions ONLY if enzootic abortion is the cause, such treatment cannot reverse placental damage with the result that lambs are born weak and suffer increased mortality. Antibiotic use in agriculture is coming under intense scrutiny and whole group injection can't be justified, vaccination must be adopted.

A single case of abortion in a flock can cost more than £85
The cost of vaccination is considerably less;

| Vaccine | Prevents | Cost | Booster | Cost/Ewe/Year |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| Toxovax* | Toxoplasma | £4.50 | 2 years | £2.25/year |
| Cevac Chylamydia* | Enzootic abortion | £2.14 | 3-4 years | 71p/year |

**Cevac Chylamydia should be administered 4 weeks prior to tupping.*

**Toxovax should be administered 3 weeks prior to tupping.*

Due to the manufacturing period for Toxovax, pre-planning is essential. You can expect to wait up to two weeks for Toxovax to be available for collection.

Both vaccinations are available in pack sizes of 20 and 50 doses.

For further information or to place your order please contact our office.



Belmont Farm and Equine Vets are pleased to announce...

**Our Ledbury Office is Opening on:
Monday the 23rd of September 2019**

Newmarket House, Market Street, Ledbury, HR8 2AQ

Tel: 01531 806129

WTBAS – TB Advisory Service



TBAS
TB ADVISORY SERVICE

Some of you may have received a leaflet about TBAS from our TB testers or through the post.

The TB Advisory Service offers one-to-one on-farm advice visits aimed at providing bespoke recommendations to prevent TB incursions in

herds that are currently clear, or to discuss trading options and measures to prevent repeated reinfection for farms currently under restrictions. This project is entirely funded by DEFRA and the EU through the Rural Development Programme for England. We are now halfway through the project due to end in 2020.

Any farmer wishing to take advantage of the service should contact TBAS on 01306 779410 or email info@tbas.org.uk.

You will need to provide the following information; Name and Address, Contact details, CPH, UK Herd number and SBI number, number and type of cattle and business size. When contacting TBAS you will need to inform them that you are a client of Belmont Farm & Equine Vets Ltd.

What does a visit entail?

At each visit an advisor will ask about your farm set up and concerns that you have regarding TB and issues that you may face in the future. We will then have a walk around the farm buildings and fields to better understand the current TB situation and make suggestions on how to improve your current TB risk. After the visit each farm will receive a bespoke report outlining these recommendations of practical steps to implement on farm.

TBAS will then provide a follow up phone call or email for feedback and see how you're getting on with the recommendations made.

We have 4 vets that are trained TBAS advisors meaning we can provide this service in house with a familiar face. It is entirely funded by the RDPE. Remember the advisor is there to help and not judge, we will only make suggestions, there is no penalty if they are not implemented.

An alternative to advice visits is to contact TBAS requesting telephone advice. Following the phone call a summary of the advice given will be sent by email or through the post. For more information visit tbas.org.uk or give us a ring.

Out of hours

A reminder that if there is ever any difficulty in reaching the vet on call out of hours, we have a permanent answering service, Kernow, who will take your call and then go on to contact the relevant vet.

They can be reached on 01432 381440.

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