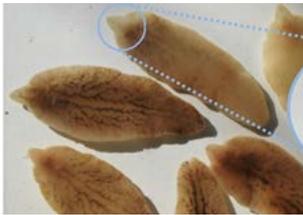


# FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

## Get clued up and make sure your housing treatments aren't a fluke!



With housing now either upon us, or just around the corner it will only be a matter of time before you're reaching for those winter housing treatments.

However, when considering flukicides for cows, immediate

treatment isn't always better. Although combination products can be convenient, if used straight at housing they can leave a significant amount of fluke untreated and so using a separate wormer and flukicide at different times can give you much better results.

Cattle pick up fluke when grazing, making pasture management important for reducing the risk of picking up infestations. However, on some farms, access to fluke-risk ground is somewhat unavoidable and routine treatments are required.

Flukicides treat various levels of the fluke lifecycle and understanding this is important to their timing. Triclabendazole (Endofluke) kills the largest number of immature fluke and is often seen as a "wonder product" for this reason. However, by relying on and overusing triclabendazole for cow treatments this could mean that eventually resistance will develop, and it stops being effective on your farm. Other products such as Nitroxylin (Trodax) and Closantel (Flukiver) only kill fluke from 8 weeks onwards, but if you delay their use for 8 weeks after housing then it will still completely clear out the entirety of fluke within the cow and be just as effective! As you will see from the table below each flukicide product needs to be administered at different times after housing so why not speak to one of our vets to discuss your own farm's housing treatments to make sure you get the best response from the products you buy!!

Active Ingredient	Administration Route	Age of Fluke (weeks)												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Triclabendazole	Oral													
Closantel	s/c Injection or Pour-On													
Nitroxylin	s/c Injection													
Oxyclozanide	Oral													
Albendazole	Oral													

## Covid-19 Update

In the uncertain times we are facing over the winter we would like to reassure our clients that we are continuing to operate a full and comprehensive service for all.

We request that all on-farm visits are carried out under the current social distancing guidelines. If you are unable to maintain distance from members of our team, which can be difficult for some procedures, we expect both client and vet to wear a face covering for the duration of the visit but especially if social distancing guidelines cannot be adhered to and the visit is for a duration longer than 15 minutes. This applies even if the visit is taking place outside (e.g. TB tests) unless you are medically exempt.

It is essential that if you, or anyone in your household, is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive, that you inform us either in advance of your visit to rearrange or when the vet has arrived on farm before the visit has commenced. Knowing as much information as possible will allow us to make an assessment of the risk and carry out our duties safely for all visit types including TB testing.

## Pregnancy Diagnosis (PD) in suckler herds



As housing approaches, now is a good time to have your suckler herd PD tested. Knowing your pregnancy status aids in management of your herd, including removal of barren cattle, especially with straw being a high value commodity. Here are

*Contd. overleaf*

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**Clinical Vets:** Dominic Alexander • Will Allman • Mike Bellamy • Andrew Cooke • Joel Galloway • Nick Gibbon • James Hipperson • Louise Lafin  
Hannah Mitchell • Matthew Pugh • Caroline Rank • Harry Walby • Charlotte Watkins

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

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Pam Strange • Victoria Tully • Millie Whitlock

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a few tips when deciding when is the best time to have your cattle scanned.

At Belmont, we always use scanners when we are performing PDs which allows us to give a positive diagnosis from 30 days. Therefore, we recommend scanning the cattle roughly 40 days after the bull has been removed. This then will tell whether an animal is empty and help to age the calves for identification of late calvers.

Some people like to scan their herd 2 months after the bull has been put in. This will identify that the bull is working and help group the early calvers. The earlier the PDs are performed, the more accurate at dating and increases the chances of finding twins. After 3 months, the calves are too big to clearly identify two calves at the same time.

At Belmont we charge by the time taken to scan the cattle, not on the number. To reduce costs, please have the cattle prepared before the vet arrives.

*If you wish to book in your PD session, please call one of our offices to arrange a visit.*

## Biosecurity

**Biosecurity is a word that has often been associated with disinfectant-soaked straw and endless welly and tyre washing. In reality, it is a simple management system to reduce the risk of infectious diseases being introduced into, and spreading through a herd, thereby saving time and money.**

Talk to your vet about establishing your own herd biosecurity protocols so that losses can be contained. Many biosecurity recommendations are common sense. We all know that thorough and effective cleaning and disinfection will minimise the spread of disease between animals but other basic biosecurity operating procedures can include protocols for:

**Manure handling**

**Sanitation**

**Pen/hutch use and disinfection**

**Feed storage management**

**New animals to a herd or animals returning from shows**

**Wildlife Biosecurity.**

A basic quarantine, testing and treatment/vaccination regime need not be expensive. **The key areas to address are:**

**Knowledge and records** - Know the health status of the purchased animals; know the disease and how to prevent it. Keep records of visitors and feed supplies.

**Quarantine for 3 weeks and vaccinate where appropriate.**

**Good stock fencing** is essential also, a 3m wide double fence should prevent spread of disease from neighboring stock via nose to nose contact.

## What we do in a month

**With the practice growing and more clients arriving, we thought it would be good to show you what we do in a month. Obviously, there are seasonal procedures such as lambings and calvings in spring but here is a taste of what has happened in October.**

Procedure	Number Done
TB Tests	169
Animals TB tested	10862
Reactors	62
Calvings	15
Caesareans	8
Cattle scanned (Dairy)	2056
Cattle scanned (Beef)	1008
Faecal Egg Counts	42
Farm Day Visits	422
Farm Out of Hour Visits	36
Health and Antibiotic Reviews	22

## Recent medicine changes

**As we are sure everyone has noticed, there have been quite a few changes in the drugs that we are using.**

There are two main reasons for these changes:

One is within our control and is based around us getting better deals with the manufacturers, allowing us to keep the sale price of our medicines as low as possible.

The other factor which has been the main reason for changing recently is that there have been a huge number of manufacturing issues which we often only get short notice about. This creates a huge amount of work for us to find suitable alternatives and often we need to import drugs from Europe. How this will change next year is currently anyone's guess!

In future, when you are dispensed an alternative drug, you will also be provided with a leaflet explaining what the new drug is replacing and any changes to dose rates and withdrawal periods.

**As always, if you have questions on drug changes then feel free to speak to any of our vets.**

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