



Botulism in Cattle

Recently in the practice we have diagnosed botulism two different farms so I thought it would be good to review the risk factors for the disease so you can reduce the risk on your farms. Botulism is a severe disease caused by a toxin produced by a Clostridial bacteria from the same family as Black leg and tetanus.

It causes a progressive paralysis of the muscles is irreversible, and results in euthanasia or death. The paralysis



worsens over days and will lead to a downer animal. The classic symptom that I saw in a down bull recently was a totally "floppy" tongue. The bull had initially presented with a prolapsed rectum and had then slowly gone off its feet and

by the time I saw it was unable to stand or hold its head up off the ground.

The bacteria carrying the toxins are found primarily in bird carcasses. The classic outbreaks occur after a farm has spread chicken muck as fertilizer on the ground and there are chicken carcasses mixed in with the manure. There have been reports of massive cow outbreaks (80+ affected/killed) where infected bird carcasses have been inadvertently been mixed in the feeder wagon and fed to cows. Be careful with any dead bird carcasses, pheasants or other pest species as the botulism bug can be found in them all. In the case I dealt with no smoking gun (rotten carcass) was discovered but the animals were being fed brewers grains from a large pile where there was evidence of a lot of bird activity/droppings and the suspicion was

that there was or had been a dead bird carcass somewhere in the pile. As there is no effective test to be able to confirm the brewers grains as a risk or not it was decided to get rid of the pile, compost it and spread it on arable ground. Thankfully only one animal was affected in this case but it killed a previously healthy, fully grown bull within 24 hours so it served as a harsh reminder of the dangers of this disease

Tom Clarke



A Challenging Lump—update



You may remember last month we removed a rather unusual (in cattle) lump from a cow's spine. This turned out to

be a rare and rather nasty tumour called a 'mast cell tumour' which can spread around the body. The good news is that she has healed well and is fine and all the tumour tissue was removed from the

spine. However, to be on the safe side the advice has been not to re breed her just in case....

Mark Burnell



Velothon

Last month 9 intrepid cyclists from Synergy Farm Health CC (cycling club) took part in 140 km closed road cycle ride starting from Cardiff City Centre. The route took in some big hills including the well known

'Tumble' and the equally challenging 'Caerphilly Mountain'. The team was made up of vets, vet techs and clients and a great day was had by all. Anyone keen to

join us in any events next year then let us know!!



Cattle Lameness
ACADEMY

Training

www.cattlelamenessacademy.co.uk

Or call Rhi on 07792 726338

Dairy Professional Day

Mon 11th July

1 Day Grinder

Tue 12th July

Synergy Farm Health opens the doors to Dorset, Somerset and Devon YFC

The astute amongst you who have followed our newsletters over the last few years will likely have noticed that many of the vet team are active in the YFC of the South West. The Young Farmers has been a huge source of fun, learning and achievements for our new graduates who have moved afresh into the South West.

Within the practice we set up a series of stations showing the different strands of farm animal practice in 2016. Stations ranged from (A) time in the lab diagnosing creepy crawlies and mastitis pathogens (B) time with Pete and Ben looking at training and in particular meeting "Colin the calf" our calving simulation (C) time with Anna in the farm office looking at call prioritisation and how we communicate with our vets (D) in dispensary looking at how our deliveries work and the role of our SQPs (Suitably Qualified Persons) in working alongside our vets (E) looking at training with veterinary students and finally (F) some time with our Vet



Techs looking at how their role has developed in farm animal practice.

As well as an opportunity to grill our team members on the way round, we invited them to complete a quiz on some questions on the way around. Congratulations to Wareham and Purbeck YFC (Dorset) and Ilminster YFC (Somerset) being champions on their nights and taking home a donation for their fundraising from Synergy Farm Health.



Preparations underway

As a practice we are often asked to provide speakers, attend club meetings and talk about veterinary practice and how farm animal practice has changed since the James Herriot days but we have never shown those interested around the practice, and we have many who are interested in the logistics of how servicing such an area actually works and "what else" we are involved in as a practice.



How the farm office works



Biosecurity



Time in the lab



Training and meeting 'Colin the Cow'



Vet Tech demonstration

That was until now, and we decided as a team to open our doors on two June nights to Dorset and Somerset/East Devon YFC respectively. Clubs were invited to come as a whole club for a club night in a rare opportunity to have a whole county club night.



Safe use of Medicines

Finally, whilst answers were marked for the quiz, young farmers tucked into a hogroast (c/o Posh Pigs from Tom Bamlet, Dorchester) and sponsored by Elanco and Zoetis.

Thank you to all who came on the night and the club chairs and secretaries for your help spreading the word. We hope all had an informative evening and hopefully inspired some budding Vets and Vet Techs of the future!



Radio demonstrations

Emily Gascoigne

Bluetongue

You will have seen a recent increase in focus regarding the threat of an incursion of bluetongue virus 8 into the UK. The latest assessment from APHA indicates an 80% risk of the disease reaching the UK by September.

We are pleased to inform you that Zoetis will have vaccines available from July to help protect your herds & flocks.

Vaccination is the only sure way of protecting your animals against losses from bluetongue infection. Should a disease incursion occur, under EU legislation vaccination would be required to allow movement of animals between restriction zones, allowing free trade to continue. If animals are not vaccinated then movement is

only allowed within the same type of zone (e.g. BTV-8 restriction zone, to BTV-8 restriction zone). If moving from a restricted to a free zone, animals must be vaccinated.

A leaflet is available providing key information relating to:

- Bluetongue
- The threat to the UK
- The clinical signs
- Impact to sheep, beef and dairy industries
- How to reduce the risk
- The benefits of vaccination
- The restrictions that will be imposed in the event of an outbreak
- Zoetis product details for the **Zulvac 8 Ovis & Zulvac 8 Bovis** vaccines

Fly Control

With the warm weather comes the unwanted presence of flies such as midges, headfly and blowfly. While many of us are aware of the nuisance of flies and midges buzzing around our face or the nastier occasional bite, flies have been shown to have a direct impact on production. Whether directly disrupting grazing and reducing milk yields and growth rates or by spreading disease such as Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis ('New Forest Eye') and, the hot topics at present, Bluetongue and BVD.

Therefore as part of your herd health plan it is important to have an effective fly control policy in place and will revolve around the primary risk period, which runs from May until September but can be as early as April and as late as October depending on conditions. As with most things, a successful fly control programme requires action on multiple fronts - the animal and the environment.

Basic steps such as moving dung heaps away from animals and ensur-

ing yards and sheds are clean, mucked out and with good drainage can make a big difference to fly numbers and are the fundamentals of any fly control policy. Where problems persist additional measures ranging from environmental insecticides, traps, barriers (fly screens and netting) and even parasitic wasps can be deployed to attack the flies at source.

Following this and probably the most widely used method of control is treating the animal. Most of these products are based on compounds known as synthetic pyrethroids and come as pour-on and spot-on formulations or impregnated in ear tags and tail bands. At Synergy Farm Health we have been able to negotiate a competitive price for Spotinor, a spot on type product produced by Norbrook, which not only is licensed to prevent and treat nuisance and biting flies for up to 8 weeks but also lice and established blowfly strike. Spotinor also has the added benefits of a simple 'squeeze and pour' application, zero days milk withdrawal

The products

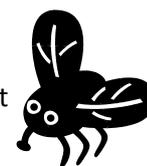
Zulvac 8 Bovis and Zulvac 8 Ovis will be available in the following vial sizes: Product is expected to be available

Zulvac 8 Bovis	100 ml	Cattle
Zulvac 8 Bovis	20 ml	Cattle
Zulvac 8 Ovis	100 ml	Sheep

from the 1st week of July however depending on demand, stocks could become limited therefore we urge you to contact us today if you are interested in placing an order.

If you have any questions or require any further details please do not hesitate to contact us.

Andy Adler



and only 17 days meat withdrawal for cattle.



2.5 Litre	£165
5 Litre (2 x 2.5L)	£315

If you would like to find out more about Spotinor or fly control in general please do not hesitate to speak to one of our vets or SQPs who would be happy to help.

Josh Swain



Prices correct 01/07/2016 (Ex VAT)

News from our Rounds

South—Clare Eames



With the referendum vote looming this month we have had something to talk about on farm other than prices and the weather. As I write this 'we' have voted to leave the EU; this is likely to affect future farmgate prices but as far as I'm aware even the suits in Brussels can't affect whether it is going to stay dry long enough to make some decent big bale silage.

Fly season is hotting up but thankfully we managed to complete shearing at home in the first week of June. Unfortunately it was on what seemed like the hottest day of the year so far and as I was designated the job of applying Clik to over 600 lambs I was the only mug that had to wear waterproof gear and gloves. On the major plus side we have not had any maggots so as uncomfortable as I was trying to avoid getting Clik all over myself it has been worth it.

At the same time as applying the Clik I was vaccinating the lambs with Ovivac P Plus which is a combined Pastuerella and Clostridial vaccine. I have seen sudden death from these diseases in lambs approximately 2 months old on two farms this month which is a timely reminder that vaccinating is an excellent preventative measure and one that all sheep farmers should consider.

I have also seen a few cases of redwater (or Babesiosis to use its formal name) in the last month or so. They have all been in cattle grazing ground that hasn't been included in the farm before so please continue to be aware of this disease in naive cattle, particularly older animals, grazing unknown areas that may have numbers of infected ticks. This warm wet weather is likely to continue the relatively high incidence of this and other tick borne diseases into the summer. If you would like any advice on redwater prevention then please get in touch.

East—Claire Rudd

I would love to say summer is in full swing down here in Purbeck, but having kick-started with some glorious weather over May Bank Holiday weekend June has been pretty wet and grey. Cattle are looking well out at grass but in line with the warmer humid weather we have seen the usual increase in insect-related conditions. I saw several New Forest Eye lesions and summer mastitis cases recently, highlighting the need for good fly control in cattle as well as blowfly strike prevention in sheep. Bluetongue virus (transmitted by midges) is also expected to hit the UK this summer. A vaccine will be available (speak to dispensary for more details) but a fly control product in cattle and sheep is also needed to prevent midges biting. Theoretically, within our practice area south Dorset would be the first to be affected via infected midges blown across from France, where the disease is currently circulating. AHPA are monitoring the situation and of course we shall keep you all informed. On a lighter note, I have persuaded the organisers of my children's annual School Fete to let me run a farm animal-themed stand on the day (complete with live sheep- what could possibly go wrong?!) promoting British livestock farming and teaching the youngsters about where our food comes from. To raise money the children will be paying to 'Guess the weight of the sheep'. Fingers crossed for no escapee sheep across the school playground!

North—Erich Leitgeb



The year is ticking by and we are already at the end of the spring calving season. This means that the likelihood of being called out to a calving has decreased! However last week I was called to a Prolapsed Uterus of a cow calving in the field. Not using a four wheel drive I had to move my kit to the farmers car and go to the cow.



Fortunately the cow was well behaved and did not get up! The field was on a hill so we used the pitch of the slope to bring the cow into the right position. The right position to replace the uterus in a down cow is the "frog position", which means the cow is straight on the tummy and the legs are straight back. In this case the head should be pointing downhill. Soon the work was done and the cow was soon up and about!



EVENTS *Visit our NEW website for further details on these events* www.synergyfarmhealth.com

Understanding Mastitis Control on your Farm — 18th July
10.30—3.30 at Evershot with Tom Clarke and Rachel Hayton

Practical Calving Workshop - Thursday 28th July 10.30 at
Evershot with Pete Siviter



Wednesday 20th July—Evershot

Join us for an evening of notifiable disease information to include quiz (with prizes!) a drink and mingling. Free to Synergy Smallholder Members, £10 to non-members.

For further information or to book your place on any of these events please contact 01935 83682 or email courses@synergyfarmhealth.com

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