

NEWSLETTER February 2012 No 68



Update on **Schmallenberg Virus**—as most of you will have read in the farming press we have another midge borne virus to contend with in the UK and we know even less about this one at this stage than we did about Bluetongue! What we do know is that in Northern Europe (Netherlands & France) it has caused morbidity of 20-70% in cattle, and both still-births and congenital deformities have been reported in calves born to infected cattle. It is known to affect cattle, sheep and goats. In the UK it has now been diagnosed in Norfolk, Suffolk and East Sussex and has only affected sheep where no illness has been seen in adult ewes but birth defects in lambs born. Presently we have no antibody test only a PCR test available to detect the virus and there is presently no plan by DEFRA (at the time this is being written) for there to be routine surveillance as it is not a notifiable disease in the UK although it is in the Netherlands and in a specific area in Northern France. There is no vaccine available world wide. If you see animals born with congenital deformities please report them to the practice so we may monitor how much of an issue it presently is in our region.

NADIS EEDA PROJECT

We are entering the last 6 months of the NADIS EEDA training project that has allowed us to offer free training in areas from lameness to calf disease, game bird diseases, safe injection technique courses and many other practical courses over the past 3 years. Should you feel there is any area where a little bit of help and knowledge at a 1:1 level over the kitchen table could help increase your productivity from pneumonia vaccination policies to nutrition across the farmed species; cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and game birds then just speak to one of the vets who will arrange a time to come and have a chat. For details on the remaining workshops and seminars we are offering see the training newsletter included.

RDPE Money...

Did you knowthat the second round of the **Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme** will be in late April/May 2012 and they are presently offering grants of 40% towards cattle and sheep handling systems. If you are interested please see the link below or speak to Molly who will put you in touch with someone in the RDPE.

<http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/farm-and-forestry-improvement-scheme>

The next round of funding for large capital projects with **RDPE** money starts in 2014. This round 2008-2013 facilitated substantial investment to improve the abattoir and meat cutting facilities in the Eastern Region, for example with the new Lamberts abattoir and numerous cutting rooms. So funding of which large scale capital projects would be useful to the farming community in future.? These investments cannot be in things that are used in standard farming practice i.e. Housing facilities on individual farms but are capital projects that remove pinch points in the farming sector and benefit many. Another example would be reservoirs—where the building of a reservoir improves production possibilities for many in the area.

The **Norfolk Coast Partnership** have just finished a long-term project looking at grazing patterns and areas along the North and East Coast of Norfolk and have identified many sites that they feel would benefit from grazing. In many cases this is 'poor' land and has suffered from poor fencing, however, they are working hard to remedy this situation and would be interested to hear from anybody looking for grazing to graze these areas. Their website is norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk.

The **Norfolk Coast Partnership** also produce the Norfolk Coast Guardian a publication promoting local produce and where it can be sourced for local and holiday makers alike and have an active map on their website showing where producers of local produce can be found. Again anyone interested go onto their website—if having difficulties please give Molly a buzz at the practice.

A few titbits from the Dairy Co Mastitis and the Environment Conference...

- *It is amazing how many people around the country keep their calves next to the collecting yard (luckily not here) why on earth would you do that as cows are an amazing source of disease for the calves, hence you are asking for trouble.*
- *Research has shown that 85% of cows are infected with Coliform mastitis during the dry period but only 14% get actual disease—why? Because at this time the cow is not usually under stress and hence she has the ability to fight disease herself and cure the infection. Also 99% of cows that go into the dry period with E.Coli are cured during the dry period irrespective of the antibiotic tube used.*
- *On a similar note 85%+ are cured of Strep Uberis irrespective of the tube used. The problem comes in the 2 weeks pre calving where the environment has a huge impact and often the tubes have 'run out' of efficacy.*
- *There are 3 phases of the dry period that allow the cow to fight infection and get ready for another lactation. These cannot be completed in less than 4 weeks and research has shown that dry periods of at least 6 weeks are the most effective.*
- *It was reported that Valiant is an excellent teat dip if you are not using it above concrete, which it corrodes and causes more problems as it makes milk difficult to evaluate on stripping and the parlour difficult to clean down effectively.*
- *Obvious but often forgotten is that the exit to the parlour is an excellent source of infection—are your cows stepping into faeces which is being jetted up open teat ends?*
- *According to Roger Blowey the footbath should be positioned one parlour side in length away from the parlour, be wide enough for 1 or 2 cows be flat bottomed (no central ridge) and cows should walk through it after every milking.*
- *Please remember formalin should not be used where there are open sores—it is a welfare issue! Try sticking your finger with a cut on it in formal saline it hurts!*
- *The over-riding message from the meeting was that it is our use and structure of our housing that causes the majority of the mastitis we see—often changing buildings does not require huge capital expense just a few strategic moves.*
- *The full notes from this meeting (which run to numerous pages but are definitely worth a read) will be available to Dairy Club members at the next meeting, however, should anyone else be interested just let Molly know and she will organise a copy for you.*

For Sale/Wanted

AI Flask - Does any one have an AI Flask? If so, please contact Tash Moore on 07900491679

Selection of Beef Shorthorn Bulls

High Health Accredited and EBVs, visitors welcome, contact Nick or Andrew at Glenariff Pedigree Livestock 01485 601282 or 01553 672440

For sale

Red Poll heifers & breeding bulls. Please contact Tony Barratt on 07545394821

Goats—2x Proven adult male goats. Call Mrs. Parker on: 01263 710245

Ewes—Draft breeding ewes for sale. Please contact Lorraine Logan on 07884036510 or thrift-sheep@hotmail.co.uk

Grazing wanted for sheep— please contact Mr Fletcher, also looking for sheep work please call 07977040358

Full size cast iron bath - free of charge and will happily deliver within reason. Please call John Bray either at the office or 01485 600986

People/Equipment

Farm Hand—Looking for cattle or sheep work, please contact Lewis Grant on 01508 531789

Stockman—Self employed stockman (Beef, Dairy and Sheep) Trained in DIY AI & qualified foot trimmer (Dutch Method) available from March onwards, all positions considered, no accommodation needed, Norfolk area only - Lee Oakes 01553 672440

Molecatcher—for hire. Tracey Palmer: 01485 600717.

Pauline Buxton—Sheep dog training: 07979500879.

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact the office on 01485 609031.