

SOUTH MOOR VETS

FARM NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022



WINTER WARMER!

The world cup should be heating up nicely by the time this hits your doormat.

Given the blazing hot, dry weather we had here earlier this year, you might've been forgiven for thinking you were out in Qatar. The warm weather has only just broken and so even up to a week or so ago I've been seeing flies around on farm.

The less visible bugs have been enjoying the warm weather too -worms, for instance. We've been seeing really high worm burdens this autumn, so take care if you're putting lambs out onto pasture that's had other sheep on it this year - worm burdens might be higher than you'd expect.



ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY

Keep your eyes peeled for the full launch of DEFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AWHP), coming soon! This initiative will be investing public money to into farms to reward higher animal health and welfare, so make sure that you get your share.

The first step will be an "Animal Health and Welfare Review", where you can get a funding for vet visits to provide advice on both the health and welfare of their animals and on farm biosecurity. This review could include bespoke advice, diagnostic testing and advice on treatment plans, and can then unlock other funding to maintain and enhance health and welfare on farm.

Farmers will be able to apply for capital grants, and for financial support

to tackle endemic diseases and conditions (such as BVD in cattle, lameness in sheep, etc), building on the initial advice given in the review. More details are coming out soon so watch this space!

Less than a month til
Christmas!



Best wishes to all our
farmers for a very
**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!**

RED TRACTOR MEDICINE COURSE



We are running
another "Best Practice
in the Use of
Medicines" training
course,

14th December

1.30pm at our
Ivybridge practice

-Please call to book!

TACKLING FOOTROT

More than 3% of ewes may be lame at any one time in the national flock, with some flocks struggling with much higher levels. Infectious causes, primarily Footrot and CODD (Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis) are the most common, and are costly - Footrot alone costs from £3.60 to £14 per ewe per year.

'Footvax' - Footrot vaccine is now classed as a category one, highest priority vaccine for sheep, (along with vaccines for Clostridial diseases, Pasteurella and infectious abortion). This means it ought to be used in all flocks unless the farmer and vet agree there is an appropriate justification not to. Footvax needs to be used as a regular long term preventative vaccine to achieve a real lameness reduction and will work best with the rest of the Five Point Plan (Quarantine, Treat, Avoid, Vaccinate, Cull), rather than as a reactive tool when lameness levels are high. Footvax use may reduce lameness in the flock by up to 70%, and help to reduce CODD where co-infection occurs. It can cut treatment and labour costs and reduce culling rates, as well as boosting flock welfare and productivity.

ARE YOU READY FOR LAMBING?



Join our hands-on practical training course,
18th January, 1-3pm
-See enclosed flier!
Please call to book

FLUKEY BUSINESS

Now's a good time to think about fluke treatment. There are lots of products out there that can kill fluke, but they don't all do the same thing so it's really important to pick the right one for your system.

Do I need to treat for fluke? If you've had fluke damage picked up on abattoir reports, you definitely do. If you've never had evidence of fluke, you don't have grazing land with wet/marshy areas and you haven't bought stock in, you may not have any fluke to treat.

Do I need to treat immature or adult liver fluke? If you're treating finishing stock, or any sheep, it's a good idea to kill off the immature flukes that damage the liver (also called "acute" fluke). To do that you need to use a product containing Triclabendazole (eg "Fasinex"). If you're treating adult cows, you

can use one of the many products that kill adult (or "chronic") fluke.

So when should I treat? Stock usually pick up fluke off the pasture in the summer/autumn. Triclabendazole kills flukes that were picked up 2 weeks ago, so the best time to treat with that is 2 weeks after exposure, eg 2 weeks after housing in the winter. The adult fluke don't kill flukes until they're 8-10 weeks old, so they are best to use at the end of winter/ at turnout.

(Of course, the long milk withhold period of most fluke treatments means that they can only be used at drying off.)

Do I need a wormer as well as a fluke treatment?

There are a few combined treatments available, but make sure both the wormer and the flukicide are the right ones for you. You don't want to use either when they're not needed because it will speed up resistance on your farm.