

SOUTH MOOR FARM

Newsletter



Happy Easter everyone! Hope you had a chance to sit down and tuck into some delicious British lamb over the Easter weekend!

We're officially into Spring and with any luck the sun will get his hat on and things will start to dry out a bit now. And talking of Spring -the season of renewal and rebirth- there will be some exciting big changes happening at South Moor Farm Vets over the next few months -stay tuned to the farm newsletter to find out about new services and great medicines deals which we're working hard to bring to our clients.

FOLLOW US!

LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE!



southmoorfarmvets



Lungworm

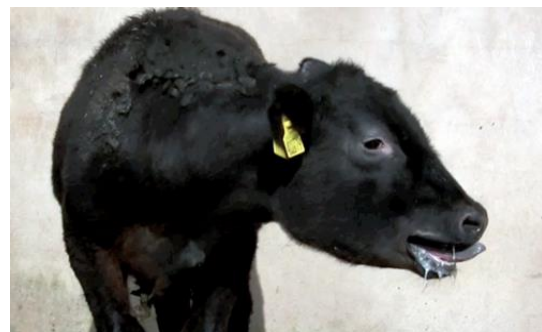
What is lungworm? Dictyocaulus viviparus, more commonly known as lungworm, or "husk", causes respiratory infection in cattle. Outbreaks are unpredictable, however they are most commonly seen in the late summer and early autumn. Disease typically affects young cattle during their first grazing season.

Low level exposure to lungworm larvae allows the animal to develop an immunity to re-infection. This means that older animals are generally lower risk for the disease. Young cattle are at the greatest risk due to lack of immunity – this is what makes vaccination so important.

It is important to stay vigilant for the signs of lungworm in grazing cattle:

- Frequent coughing (especially in late summer/autumn)
- Mouth breathing/difficulty breathing
- Weight loss
- Increased respiratory rate
- Air hunger positions with head and neck outstretched
- Fever (if a secondary bacterial infection occurs)

Severe lungworm outbreaks in growing cattle can average £50-100 per head and although it's less common in adults it can cost £3 per cow per day in lost milk production.



Preventing lungworm:

- Vaccinating can be very effective (2 doses, 4 weeks apart to animals over 8 weeks old, finishing 2 weeks before turnout -i.e. now!)
- Use clean pastures such as silage aftermaths for the highest risk animals at the times of highest lungworm risk
- There are obviously loads of other causes of coughing too; faecal egg counting is really valuable to prevent unnecessary use of wormers.

Ask your South Moor vet for more info, or check out

<https://www.cattleparasites.org.uk>

Bull Fertility Test Special Offer!



For Spring-calving herds, the bulls will be going into work shortly.

Are you sure you can rely on yours? Avoid any unpleasant surprises later by checking your bull is fertile now with a thorough Breeding Soundness Examination. If you book this April, we'll discount the normal fee by 25%.



Grass Stagers (Hypomagnesaemia)

Stagers, grass tetany, hypomagnesaemia or just a “mag” are all names for the same thing – low blood magnesium, resulting in weakness, collapse, thrashing limbs, seizure-like activity and sometimes death of adult cattle. While the national average incidence for grass stagers is only 1%, the seriousness and urgency of the condition make it something we should be thinking about as Spring (and hopefully, eventually, Spring weather!) gets under way.

Typically, animals most at risk are adult beef cattle, 3-4 weeks post calving, grazing lush Spring grass without mineral supplementation. However dairy animals are also at risk if not supplemented correctly.

Other risk factors include:

- High milk production
- Potassium-or ammonia-based fertilisers

Hypomagnesaemia is a true blue-light veterinary emergency -if you see the symptoms, treatment is required as

soon as possible to prevent rapid deterioration and possible death. Treatment is straightforward – injectable magnesium given subcutaneously. (Pure magnesium must never be given intravenously as it will cause a cardiac arrest). It’s often a “tip-of-the-iceberg” issue, and your vet may want to take a blood sample to confirm the disease so that changes can be made to prevent others in the group succumbing.

Supplementation is a key part of prevention, however magnesium has a horrible bitter taste and cows will avoid mineral mixes that contain too much or are poorly mixed. There are boluses, mineralised feed or buckets available, or supplementation via water troughs is an easy and cost-effective method. Supplementation must be kept up regularly throughout the risk period. Get in touch with us for more information on prevention and control.



Name: The sun.

Description: Large, yellow. Prefers the daytime.

Last seen: November 2023.

All joking aside, the weather has been brutal, and has made life hell for some of our farmers. Don’t forget, if you’re having a tough time there is a lot of help and support out there, including FCN and RABI. If things are bleak, pick up the phone and talk to someone.

The Farming Community Network

03000 111 999

www.fcn.org.uk

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

0800 1884444

www.rabi.org.uk

HAPPY RETIREMENT SIMON & HELEN!

Simon and Helen are stepping back from running the show at South Moor, after a combined total of 68 years of service at the practice! They will be very missed by colleagues and clients alike, (although they won’t be disappearing altogether!) and we’d all like to wish them a fantastic time as they move towards retirement!

