

May 2011 Newsletter

Nematodirus in lambs

It is worth keeping this parasite at the back of your mind as the risk is currently average (www.nadis.org.uk) especially where lambs are grazing pastures which have been grazed by pre-weaned lambs during the last two years.

When we have a wet period following this recent dry weather there will be a hatch of *Nematodirus* eggs. This will increase the risk to lambs and a preventative dose of BZ (White) drench may be required. It is worth noting that faecal egg counting cannot be relied on because *Nematodirus* often causes disease before eggs are present in the faeces.

Please feel free to contact the Office to discuss this as part of your continued flock health plan.

Scabivax Forte

As you may already be aware we have no Scabivax available for this year. It is unlikely we will get any for this season.

Being a virus there is no specific treatment for Orf but antibiotic sprays/injections will reduce secondary bacterial infection.

Undoubtedly many trade products will carry claims for treatment and prevention but are very unlikely to be effective. So be aware!

Be Aware – Fly Strike in Rabbits

This occurs when flies lay their eggs on your rabbit's fur or skin. The larvae, commonly referred to as maggots, then hatch out and cause severe wounds by burrowing deep into the soft tissues. Keeping the cage, run and rabbit as clean as possible is important, but sometimes infestations still occur. "*Rearguard*" can be used to prevent infestation for up to 10 weeks by applying it to the skin/fur along the spine.

Please contact the Office to discuss any questions you may have.

Faecal Egg Counting

Following on from last year we are continuing to offer in-house faecal egg counting for sheep, cattle, horses and goats.

Sheep and Goats

- Roundworms can cause significant production losses and even death
- Resistance to all the drenches available (except Zolvix) has been found in our Practice
- For the best part of half a century worms have been controlled very well with regular treatments but now selection pressure is increasing the levels of resistance

Faecal Egg Counting (FEC) lambs at 4 week intervals from 4 to 6 weeks of age allows both us and you to build a picture of the worms on your holding. This means that treatments can be targeted and only performed when necessary. FEC following treatments (at set time) will show the effectiveness of treatment and whether there is any resistance present.

Horses

- Most owners worm horses frequently based upon advertising and/or cost preventing significant worm burden from developing
- There are many different strategies and problems can occur:
- Resistance to worm drugs is widespread (especially Benzimidazole)
- The onset of resistance must be delayed by using drugs responsibly and sparingly
- Targeted strategic dosing by using faecal egg counts (FECs), and targeting certain animals. Tapeworm treatments can be targeted using a blood test (Tapeworm eggs are not seen in FECs).

Have you considered a FEC to find out if your horse(s) has a significant worm burden?

Factsheets and further information is available from the Office or www.steffanvets.com