

Milk Sure Course

Tuesday 20th November, 1–3.30pm at Kendal Surgery.

The MilkSure initiative is something you may or may not have heard of yet. It has been initiated by Dairy UK and developed in conjunction with BCVA (the British Cattle Veterinary Association), with the aim to ensure that the production of milk is free of veterinary medicine residues.

MilkSure is an accredited training course for British dairy farmers and their employees, delivered by us to you. The course is split into 3 parts: part 1 - technical issues, including why tank failures occur, the different tests available to check for residue levels, how residue levels are set (which can be carried out in the office or round the kitchen table), part 2 - practical issues (this section must be done on farm) and part 3, which is the on-line test, to check understanding after completing parts 1 and 2. Don't worry about the test as this can be done with the vet present to help you along.

BVD Stamp it out - Lunch and Learn

Did you know the BVD status of your herd? RDPE Government funding available for testing your herd.

Come to one of our meetings; Find out what is involved, sign up and get the first cluster meeting ticked off all in one go – whilst getting a bite to eat as well.

Mon 5th November 12.30 – 2pm Whittington Village Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Mon 22nd Nov 12.30 – 2pm Kendal Surgery, Natland Road, Kendal.

Please ring the surgery to book your lunch! To sign up you will need your CPH and SBI Number, please bring it with you to the meeting.

Dairy Mastering Medicines Course:

(Dairy version) Thursday 6th December 1-3.30pm, Kendal, £35.00

This course is in line with the new Red Tractor standards aiming to increase trainees understanding about different types of medicine used and how these relate to common diseases relevant to their farm. To book your place please call 01539 722692 or 015242 71221.

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Saturday 8.30am-12noon
Tel:01539 722692

Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery
Monday & Thursday 8.30am-7.00pm
Tuesday 8.30am-6.00pm
Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12 noon
Tel:015242 71221

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FARM SERVICES

PRACTICE NEWS

KENDAL ○ KIRKBY LONSDALE ○ ULVERSTON

November 2018



A few episodes of cold rain and even some sleet seem to flurry the true start of autumn, and many cattle are inside by now. With that have come a few bouts of pneumonia in all ages of cattle from newborn calves to adult dairy cattle. To help us diagnose the underlying cause and target any need for vaccines and certain antibiotics which need to be used, we are

using a new modern test more and more. The test uses a lung wash taken from the animal via a tube inserted through the skin over the windpipe and then into the windpipe (trachea) itself. Saline is then flushed through the tube directly into the lung, and then as much fluid as is available is sucked back through the tube. The sample is then sent to the lab which uses a PCR test (this looks for DNA from the bugs which are major causes of pneumonia), and informs us on the best course of action for this particular outbreak. The answer is usually different for every farm and this leads us to be able to put in place the most efficient treatment plan for you.

Also on the pneumonia front, over the last few years, we have done many environmental assessments of livestock housing. The environmental conditions in a shed has direct relevance to the risk of animals succumbing to pneumonia. The environmental conditions also then contribute to the spread of pneumonia from animal to animal in a shed. This visit would typically include measuring inlet and outlet area, once the siting of these has been determined, usually with a smoke bomb. Folks usually find these quite useful, especially in convoluted old buildings, as the ventilation often doesn't go quite the way that is expected!

Richard Knight

TB Testing

We are extremely busy with TB testing at the moment, therefore we would appreciate 2 weeks notice for any pre-movement tests required.

Bovine Respiratory Disease

As we approach housing, bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is at the forefront of many of our minds. The vast majority of outbreaks of respiratory disease occur just after housing in the autumn or early winter. BRD is usually a combination of various infectious agents, including viruses and bacteria.

Viruses	Bacteria
IBR BRSV PI3 BVDV	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> <i>Manheimia haemolytica</i> <i>Histophilus somni</i> <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i>

BRD costs the UK cattle industry around £80 million annually; on an individual animal basis it can cost anywhere from £30 for a mild case to over £500 should the animal die. These costs result not just from treatment costs or loss of stock but also from the weight lost during illness, poor growth rates and increased feed costs after illness due to long term lung damage. The best prevention of BRD is through a combination of good management, good building design, appropriate ventilation, and strategic vaccination against the pathogens present on the farm.

Investigating pneumonia outbreaks

In order to know which vaccine is the best one for an individual farm we need to identify the causative virus and or bacteria. Samples can be taken from live animals using a technique called a trans-tracheal bronchoalveolar lavage, which involves introducing a long catheter through the neck and down into the lung (this can be done in young calves through to adult cattle). This sounds a bit drastic but it is actually a relatively straightforward technique; a little sedation can be used if necessary and it usually takes about 20 minutes if the animal is well restrained. If an animal does die due to pneumonia, post mortems are also very valuable and we should make the most of this animal's misfortune! Once these samples from the lungs are obtained we can detect DNA of any viruses or bacteria that are present using a PCR test. Being able to detect DNA means the pathogens do not need to be alive, as is the case with culture, and so even animals that have been treated can be sampled and provide useful information.

If you are seeing pneumonia cases this autumn please get in touch with the farm team to help you diagnose the cause on your farm!

Bethany Collins

Sheep News



Grass is still growing surprisingly well for late October- (last weeks grass growth 12/10/18 on AHDB's forage for Knowledge farms was about 50kg DM/ha in Cumbria and Lancashire) and there seems to have been a lot of compensatory growth after the summer drought. Great news for farms with lambs still to finish but watch out for problems with gut worms which tend to peak in late autumn.

AHDB have produced a feed budget planner to help with balancing feed stocks and requirements available at <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/returns/tools/feed-budget-planner/>

Condition scoring ewes as they go to the ram and also at scanning time will provide important information about the ewes requirements whilst forage analysis allows more accurate allocation of feed pre lambing.

Lots of our dairy clients are getting involved in the National Johnes Management Plan thanks to pressure from their milk buyers. One of the risk factors for herds becoming infected with Johnes disease is co grazing with sheep but what does Johnes disease look like in sheep?

Johnes disease is a bacterial infection by a bacteria closely related to the TB. Chronically, infected ewes pass lots of bacteria in their faeces. Lambs are most susceptible to infection which they get most by suckling dirty teats/wool. The signs of infection are vague and usually only appear in older sheep (3yrs+) . Affected sheep are bright and alert but thin with poor fleeces despite adequate feeding. Unlike cattle sheep rarely scour but because their immune systems are compromised, they can become infected with gutworms and have high worm egg counts which will cause scouring.

Diagnosis can be difficult as blood tests can be negative even in some affected sheep. In many cases Johnes can be strongly suspected at post mortem. Early culling of inexplicably thin sheep with good teeth and adequate feed is advisable.

Finally , for anyone interested in genetics and the future of the sheep industry as the Texel society see it – the Texel conference in Penrith on Saturday 17th November should be worth a visit! Book your place via the Texel website and let me know if you want a lift!

Judith Lee