



CHESHIRE FARM VETS

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Newsletter

February/March 2024

Vaccine Time!

Please contact us if you have not already done so to order your seasonal vaccines.

- **Heptavac-P** – 25 dose bottles available with larger sizes due at the end of Spring.
- **Bravoxin 10** – 100ml and 50ml bottles available. Cattle require a 2ml dose. Sheep require 1ml dose.
- **Scabigard** – 50 dose bottles. Please let us know if you require an applicator for this.



Changing Disinfectants

We have recently been informed that **FAM30** is no longer classed as an approved disinfectant for TB control purposes.

This change is important for us at Cheshire Farm Vets when carrying out routine TB testing but is also of note to farms who are currently within a TB breakdown.

We will now be required to use the widely available, approved alternative 'Virophor 2.8%' to disinfect on all premises but especially those under restrictions.


Meet the Team: Angelica

Angelica Mazzone PhD MRCVS

After graduating from Bologna University in 2017, Angelica completed a PhD in parasitology. She practised as a farm vet in Northern Italy and after learning the ropes moved to Yorkshire in February 2022. Angelica has a special interest in infectious disease control, herd and flock health management and nutrition, and successfully ran a 'parasite clinic' in York, offering diagnostics and tailored parasite control strategies. Her passion for regenerative farming recently brought her to co-author a handbook for farmers, vets and techs on this topic.



In her spare time, Angelica can be found in the countryside, either riding a horse or foraging for mushrooms and berries. A keen cook, Angelica loves recreating her granny's Italian recipes and planning her travels around the world.



Saturday 27th April 2024
North West Auctions, J36,
Rural Auction Centre

Are you going!?

Beef breeders, farmers, and businesses involved in the industry are expected to gather from all over the UK at this flagship event to celebrate the best of beef cattle breeding, and to share ideas and innovations that will help take Britain's world class beef industry forward into the future. Beef Expo's highly competitive show classes will once again showcase some of the UK's best bloodlines, and a panel of leading experts will address the most important issues facing the industry in an information-packed Seminar Programme.

We will be there with our breeding expert colleagues from Castle Farm Vets. Come and find us if you are going along.

Clostridial Diseases of Sheep – Dragos Ghetu MRCVS

The 2024 lambing season is already well underway for some of our farmers; this means the start of sleepless nights, difficult lambing's, caring for and feeding orphaned/pet lambs, lots of cleaning and numerous other jobs.

Unfortunately this exciting time of year also poses some real challenges to both our adult and new-born animals. Despite the best cleaning efforts, the environments that our new lambs are being born into still have the potential to harbour some very harmful bacteria. Clostridia and Pasteurella are 2 such organisms, both with the ability to cause flock-wide disease and often death.

Clostridia are gram positive, anaerobic bacteria that live in the soil. These bacteria release spores which are ingested by livestock, reactivate in the target organ of the animal and produce toxins causing a huge range of diseases. Although not contagious (i.e. direct transmission via contact from an infected animal to a non-infected animal), they are highly infectious (i.e. once the infective agent enters the body it has great potential to cause disease).

The table below details the most important types of Clostridia, the diseases they can cause and the animals most at risk:

AGENT	DISEASE	RISK GROUP
<i>C. perfringens Type B</i>	Lamb dysentery, Haemorrhagic enteritis	Young lambs
<i>C. septicum</i>	Braxy, Malignant oedema	Old lambs, Adult Sheep
<i>C. perfringens Type C</i>	Struck, Necrotic enteritis	Adult Sheep
<i>C. novyi Type B</i>	Black Disease	Adult Sheep
<i>C. perfringens Type D</i>	Pulpy kidney	All ages
<i>C. tetani</i>	Tetanus	All ages
<i>C. chauvoei</i>	Blackleg	All ages

Pasteurella is a gram negative, anaerobic bacteria which lives in the upper airway and the lungs. An important pathogen causing pneumonia and septicaemia in all ages of livestock. The most common strains found in sheep are: Mannheimia haemolytica, Bibersteinia trehalosi and Pasteurella multocida. Stress of any kind can trigger pneumonia in lambs, this could be something as simple as over-crowding, a sudden weather change or concurrent disease. We often find that store and fat lambs are at the highest risk.

Treating both of these conditions is often very difficult, due to the nature of the pathogen. The most common first indicator of disease is unfortunately sudden death. By the time we do see some clinical signs developing, it is often case that the damage done to the body by this point is quite significant and irreversible.

Prevention is therefore better than treatment!

Although vaccinating the whole flock comes with a cost, high lamb mortality will result in significant financial losses. This means, year on year, many farmers vaccinate their ewes against Clostridia and Pasteurella 4-6 weeks prior to lambing, ensuring that their new lambs can gain some temporary immunity via the ewe's colostrum. Once this maternally derived immunity wanes in the lambs, they themselves can be vaccinated with 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart to provide longer term immunity.

Although this article focuses more on sheep it is worth noting that Clostridial diseases can also have disastrous effects on cattle and their offspring and it is therefore worth considering these vaccines on dairy/beef farms.

Currently on the market there are a number of different vaccines available, each covering a slightly different combination of the Clostridial strains and Pasteurella:

	Struck	Pulpy Kidney	Braxy	Blackleg	Black Disease	Bacterial Red Water	Tetanus	Lamb Dysentery	Malignant Oedema	Enterotoxemia	Pasteurella
<i>Ovovac-P Plus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
<i>Heptovac-P Plus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
<i>Bravoxin 10</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Ovipast Plus</i>											✓
<i>Lambivac</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓			

Two of the most popular vaccines on the market are Heptovac P Plus which can be given to lambs from 3 weeks old and Bravoxin which can be given to lambs and calves from 2 weeks of age (See the Bravoxin article for more information on this particular vaccine).

The choice of vaccine is an individual one and is purely based on what suits you and your farm best. The vets here at Cheshire Farm Vets are always more than happy to discuss all the options with anyone with queries.

Information on Bravoxin 10 For Use against Clostridial Diseases in Cattle– Erica Jones BVSC MRCVS

Bravoxin, is a sub-cutaneous injection protecting against 10 Clostridial species. Livestock can be vaccinated from 2 weeks of age and require a 2 dose primary course (doses 4-6 weeks apart), after which an annual booster is sufficient.

Giving the annual booster between 8-2 weeks prior to calving will ensure immunity from fully vaccinated dams is passed down, via the colostrum, to their offspring, protecting them for up to 12 weeks.

We stock Bravoxin in 50ml and 100ml bottles, with cattle requiring a 2ml dose. Please contact us in the office with any further questions or to place an order.