



CHESHIRE FARM VETS

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Newsletter

March/April 2024

Lambing Supplies!

Many of you will now be aware that Spectam and Spectoguard are unavailable in the UK and therefore we need to think about what other products are available on the market to aid those lambs that may have had a rough start.

At Cheshire Farm Vets we are stocking the following products to help with your 2024 lambing season.

Provita Lamb Response oral liquid suspension supplies a unique combination of beneficial bacteria, egg powder and vitamins to kick start newborn lambs. Lambs are born with a sterile gut. Provita Lamb Response should be used to aid the establishment of beneficial bacteria within the digestive tract. In young lambs prior to having a fully functioning rumen, it has been shown that there is a need for dietary supplements of vitamins, especially fat soluble and B vitamins.



Provita Energy Plus is a nutritional supplement providing an instantly available energy source to cows with ketosis. It contains energy sources that can be rapidly converted to glucose in the liver, supplying high levels of blood sugar without the harmful over production of Ketone bodies. Cobalt and B12 also counteract deficiencies which contribute to an energy deficit. Herbs stimulate appetite to encourage intake and speed up recovery.



The Udderly EZ Sheep Milker, Pygmy & Exotic #EZ004, sheep milking machine, is the safest and most effective hand-held, trigger-operated vacuum pump available. Ideal for the collection of colostrum and the milking of Ewes for extra milk to feed triplets or until you can draft a lamb onto another ewe. With the two extra silicone inserts, you have four teat sizes to accommodate all the different sizes of teats. The 8oz colostrum bottles are ideal to draw the colostrum with or you can freeze right in the bottle and start your own colostrum bank. The EZ Milker is an excellent option for the treatment of mastitis and will greatly reduce the need for buying an expensive dry milk replacer.



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

Are you going!?

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

Battling Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) in Cheshire's Cattle

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a significant concern for cattle farmers across the UK, including those in Cheshire.

This viral disease affects both dairy and beef herds, causing reproductive issues, reduced milk production, and increased susceptibility to other infections. In Cheshire, where farming is a vital part of the community, understanding and managing BVD is crucial for maintaining herd health and productivity.

BVD is highly contagious and can spread rapidly within and between herds through direct contact with infected animals, as well as through contaminated equipment and facilities. It poses a particular threat to pregnant cows, leading to abortion, stillbirths, or the birth of persistently infected (PI) calves, which serve as lifelong reservoirs of the virus.

Vaccination plays a crucial role in protecting cattle from BVD. By boosting the immune system's response to the virus, vaccines help reduce the severity of symptoms and limit its spread within herds. Regular vaccination, along with good management practices, can significantly reduce the prevalence of BVD in Cheshire's cattle population.

As veterinarians in Cheshire, it's our responsibility to support farmers in the fight against BVD. Through education, proactive testing, and effective vaccination protocols, we can help safeguard the health and welfare of cattle in our community. By working together, we can minimize the impact of BVD and ensure a thriving future for Cheshire's agricultural sector.



HELP US MAKE BVD HISTORY

THE BVD SURVEY IS BACK FOR A SEVENTH YEAR IN 2024 AFTER A TWO-YEAR GAP

A lot has changed since our first survey in 2016. The compulsory programmes in Northern Ireland and Scotland have made significant inroads. In Scotland, 92% of breeding herds are negative¹ and in Northern Ireland only 3% of herds are BVD positive². England and Wales are making progress but there is still some way to go.

The National BVD Survey provides valuable information to provide guidance for future policy and is supported by the eradication programmes and farmer groups such as RABDF and NBA.

Why not spare a few minutes to take part? Share your views with us and you'll have a chance of winning a set of **Beats Studio Wireless Earbuds**³



References: 1. BVD (BVD) Herd Survey 2023. Animal Health & Welfare NI 2024. 2. BVD (BVD) Herd Survey 2023. Animal Health & Welfare NI 2024. 3. Beats Studio Wireless Earbuds. © 2023 Beats Electronics, LLC. All rights reserved. Beats and the Beats logo are trademarks of Beats Electronics, LLC. Beats Studio Wireless Earbuds are a registered trademark of Beats Electronics, LLC.

Have you ever asked yourself...

“Is my colostrum management effective?”

The ImmunIGY Bovine IgG test is a new, novel test to assess the effectiveness of your colostrum protocols.

Calves are born without any antibodies, the key to protection from disease. They must receive enough good quality colostrum within the first few hours of life to supply them with these vital antibodies (this is called passive transfer or PT). The ImmunIGY test rapidly and reliably detects the level of antibodies present in calves up to 42 days of age. Previous tests have only been reliable up to around 7 days so this offers us a much bigger window to test. It also relies on collection of a sample using a lancet so anyone can be trained to take samples on farm. There are proven benefits to measuring the success of PT; farms that regularly monitor it are shown to have much better success rates. It is typically thought that dairy calves are most at risk of failure of PT. However, on a third of British beef suckler herds at least 20% of calves fail to receive any colostral antibodies!



Correct colostrum delivery has proven long-term impacts on production – it is not just the initial few months of a calf’s life where it is key. Calves moved into rearing units with good PT scores grew 10% faster and used 46% less anti-biotic over their lifetime. It could also be used to identify calves that are likely to need a bit more TLC.

For veterinary surgeons and animal health advisors, the ImmunIGY Bovine IgG test provides the following benefits:

- Simple to use on farm & in practice
- Direct measure of IgG- no need to rely on an estimate from total plasma proteins
- Fully quantitative, reporting IgG levels in mg/mL
- Blood sample for running the test acquired via a lancet providing an easy sampling technique
- Simple to use LFD (lateral flow device) test that delivers a rapid result
- Validated against laboratory-based methods
- Requires no special preparation (e.g. centrifugation)

For Farmers producing and/or rearing calves the routine monitoring of IgG status will identify higher risk individuals and enable management changes that will:

- Reduce the risk & incidence of neonatal disease
- Reduce time & labour treating sick calves
- Reduce antibiotic treatments
- Reduce disease related lifelong productivity impacts
- Support achievement of productivity targets

Give us a call at the surgery and speak to one of our vets if you are interested in finding out more.

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