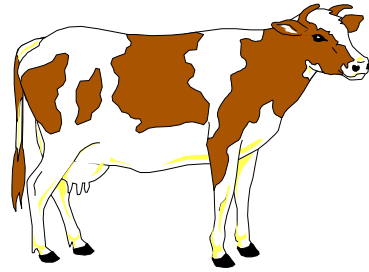


# WOOD VETERINARY GROUP

## November Newsletter



November 2009

### **MILKING – GLOVES OR NO GLOVES?**

Current recommendations are that all milkers should wear gloves. Gloves do not, of course, have any magical properties in mastitis control. They simply allow you to disinfect your hands following handling a mastitic or high cell count cow. Hence failure to rinse your hands regularly means that gloves have been of limited value.

Although this advice is widespread, it has not been until recently that the information has been tested experimentally. A recent Dutch study (Riekerinketal et al) devised a method of counting total bacteria on hands. They then tested milkers under varying conditions and found that:

- Milkers who foremilked had higher bacterial counts on their hands than milkers who did not foremilk
- Milkers who foremilked with gloves had lower bacterial counts than milkers who foremilked with bare hands
- Regular disinfection of bare hands during milking reduced bacterial loads
- Wearing gloves and regular disinfection during milking gave the lowest bacterial count.

So, proof at last – wearing gloves and regular disinfection of those gloves reduces mastitis ... (well actually, no – this only proves that wearing gloves and disinfecting reduces the bacterial load on hands!).

### **RAPIDLY GROWING ANIMALS NEED MINERALS!**

We see an increasing number of farms using “straights” as a supplement for beef cattle. There is no problem with this, but do remember that many products need supplementing with minerals and vitamins. A recent report in our veterinary magazine referred to rapidly growing bulls on a diet of straw, oats, rape and soya. Some went lame; others went off their legs completely and on post-mortem were found to have multiple fractures. There was no mineral or vitamin supplementation being given and the ration being fed was totally devoid of vitamin D.

### **PNEUMONIA VACCINATION IN CALVES**

Details were given in the last Newsletter; we can supply further copies if you have lost yours. November and December are usually the worst months for pneumonia, partly because calves are at a susceptible age (2-4 months old) when they are losing colostral immunity, and partly because this is the time of the year when we get those still, foggy days which are so bad for pneumonia. Make sure

your animals are vaccinated.

	<b>BARE HANDS</b>		<b>GLOVED HANDS</b>	
	Foremilking	No foremilking	Foremilking	No foremilking
Bacterial load on hands	447,000	178,000	62,000	52,000
% reduction by disinfecting	85%		98%	

If you need an early vaccine for very young calves, then the intra-nasal Rispoval RS is fine. If you need cover against Pasteurella then the two-dose Bovipast RSP (which at the moment is in stock with no supply problems) is probably best, two doses 4 weeks apart, immunity 2 weeks after the second dose.

### **LAMBING PACKS**

It seems strange talking about lambing in November, but by mid December many of you will have started. You need to get a few supplies in ready:

- Calcium, ideally Calciject 6 (Blue top) which has calcium and glucose, ideal if you are not sure if she has Twin Lamb disease or hypocalcaemia
- Long and short-acting penicillin (Duphaphen Forte and Norocillin)
- Oxytocin
- Finadyne or Metacam
- Oxytetrin LA for any ewes that abort. Toxoplasma and Enzootic abortion are the two major causes of ewes slipping their lambs and oxytet has a good effect against Enzootic Abortion.

I think it was last month's Newsletter where we reported that anti-inflammatories such as Finadyne and Metacam had a definite beneficial effect on cases of Twin Lamb disease. Both are anti-inflammatory and pain-killers so you would expect them to give some benefit. Ewes which have had a bad lambing or mastitis would also benefit.

In fact if you find that ewes start to abort in late pregnancy and you are not getting mummified lambs, then it's probably worth injecting all remaining ewes with oxytet anyway. Ideally submit a lamb and placenta for post-mortem and testing for the wide range of causes of abortion.

- Ewes producing mummified lambs are more likely to be Toxoplasma (spread from cat faeces).

- Enzootic abortion is the other major cause of abortion.

### **ZACTRAN – A NEW DRUG FOR PNEUMONIA**

Some of you have seen Zactran advertised in farming journals. Its 15-day action does make it very attractive, as it's the longest-acting antibiotic on the market so far. However it is not effective against Mycoplasma bovis, which remains one of the major causes of pneumonia in calves. At this stage we intend to stay with products such as Resflor, Micotil and Draxxin, which are effective against Mycoplasma.

### **NEW ACCOUNTS PACKAGE**

In the middle of November we intend to change our accounting system for a totally new accounts package. This is the result of several years of looking for our 'ideal' to replace the original practice system. Training sessions have been running since September, so we hope we've got it right. Getting it up and running will be a huge amount of work for the staff and we hope it goes well. Please be patient if things take a little longer than usual in the initial stages and as always, we will appreciate it if you phone or fax your drug orders in advance.

### **ASH BEDDING**

Ash bedding is now widely used within the practice. It was Tim who first tried it, and then with some promotion from within, it's become widely used throughout the country – so much so that supplies may run short this winter! Because of our promotional efforts we have been assured that supplies to our clients will not be affected. I have made what I think is a fairly comprehensive list of users, but it would help us if you were to please phone, fax or email Wendy or Catherine to confirm that you are a user. I can then make sure that you are registered as a priority supply.

### **DIY AI**

The next DIY AI course starts on Monday 30 November. Please let Catherine know if you are interested.