



# Newsletter

DECEMBER 2008



## FLUKE WARNING

As we had anticipated we have seen many outbreaks of liverfluke infection following the very wet snail-friendly summer.

The biggest problem has been acute fluke in sheep (especially lambs), which results in rapid death due to young fluke eating their way through the liver. Choice of treatment is critical as many flukicides will not kill the immature fluke:



- Only Triclabendazole kills most fluke under 3 weeks old.
- Treatment has NO long acting effect so if sheep are returned to infected pasture it must be repeated every three weeks until the first significant frosty weather.
- Get us to carry out a post mortem on any dead sheep.

## OCDS CLOSURE

- \* From 1st January 2009 only cattle over 48 months old need to be BSE tested.
- \* The free R.P.A service is ending so you have to foot the bill for disposal of fallen stock: under 48 months go to Knackers or hunt kennels; over 48 months to approved BSE sampling sites.

## LAME COWS

- ♦ Remember that the majority of lameness in hind feet of cattle results from cows spending too much time standing up.
- ♦ For every extra hour a cow lies down it will give a little more milk.
- ♦ Lameness should be given painkillers such as METACAM.



## NEOSPORA & JOHNE'S DISEASE

Control of these two emerging diseases IS possible but first you have to quantify the extent of the infection in your herd by blood or milk testing. NML testing for Johne's is currently available; for Neospora it is coming soon. Bulk milk testing for Johne's will give you a 'glimpse' of whether the disease is in your cows or not.

We strongly recommend you do this so you can prevent these insidious diseases slowly spreading through the herd.



## PREGSURE

As mentioned last month we are changing our BVD vaccine from Bovidec to Pregsure, made by Pfizer.



 **We would like to wish all our clients a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.**