



Farm News

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SARA (Subacute Rumenal Acidosis) in Dairy Cows

'SARA' is a common and often-overlooked problem in milking cows. Incorrect feeding of diets that are high in rapidly fermentable carbohydrates and low in fibre can lead to periods of abnormally low PH in the rumen (below 5.8)

Cows suffering from SARA show variable feed intake and intermittent scour. They tend to swish their tails making their rear-end very dirty. Regurgitated cud-balls is another feature. Over time cows become 'stary-coated' and lose condition.

SARA can also leave a defect in the integrity of the hoof resulting in laminitis and subsequent sole ulcers.

It can ALSO (!) lead to inflammation of the rumen wall allowing bacteria to enter the circulation and causing liver and lung abscesses. Nosebleeds in cattle are usually a result of this 'embolic' spread of infection.

So you really want to avoid this problem in your cows!

SARA can be prevented by adhering to some basic rules. Correct transition feeding of pre-calvers will prepare the rumen for the lactation ration by providing a healthy rumen microbe population. Fermentable carbohydrate in the lactation ration should be balanced by long fibre of 5cms in length to promote saliva production and rumentation. Saliva contains bicarbonate which buffers acid in the rumen. Sodium bicarbonate in the ration will help, but does not provide as much as saliva. Supplementing the diet with microbials such as yeasts help promote a healthy rumen micro flora.

Send a Cow

Now that's a Christmas Jersey! Gloria the cow models a festive knitted sweater to help fight poverty in Africa. Gloria's garment features chickens, cows and vegetables—the gifts the charity hopes people will buy to help the families. The charity helps several countries for more info please look at their website—www.sendacow.org



Events

Date January 20th

Info First Aid for farm animals—please contact us for more details

Date February 12-13

Info Mastitis (Milking Hygiene)

Date February 24th

Info Lambing

Book your place on meetings and courses at least 10 days in advance at any of our receptions

Suggestions? Let us know!

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Kexxtone Boluses

Avoid Ketosis in your cows by using Kexxtone boluses. Kexxtone boluses are administered 3-4 weeks before calving. They alter the balance of rumen bugs in favour of those that utilise the food most efficiently, reducing the need for cows to mobilise their own body fat.

The active ingredient is 'MONENSIN', which has been used extensively in the USA as a growth promoter, a treatment for coccidiosis and to prevent bloat. It is also used in other species in the UK to control coccidiosis.

It has got to be a good idea to give your 'at risk' cows a Kexxtone bolus to prevent Ketosis and subsequent problems such as DA's.

This would include:

- ◇ Cows carrying twins (picked up by your vet at scanning!)
- ◇ Overfat dry cows (more than condition score 4)
- ◇ Cows dry for more than two months
- ◇ Cows that have had Ketosis or DA's in previous lactations
- ◇ Cows that are losing weight in the dry period

Studies have shown that cows at risk of developing Ketosis gave, on average, 1.2kg extra milk per day from day 8 to day 135 compared to untreated cows.

Kexxtone boluses are given 3-4 weeks before calving.

IBR

We are continuing to see outbreaks of IBR in herds which have not previously encountered this potentially fatal infection. It is a highly contagious disease that can affect cattle of all ages. It is caused by Bovine Herpes virus 1 and typically results in inflammation of the upper airway. It also often causes a high temperature and milk drop and possibly abortion in dairy cows.

Respiratory disease in young calves can be caused by a number of different viruses and bacteria, but in older cattle IBR is the usual culprit.

When we have made a diagnosis of IBR, vaccination can stop an outbreak dead in its tracks. A single intranasal dose of Bovilis IBR gives protection in about 4 days. The same dose given intramuscularly protects in about 14 days.

Don't hesitate to vaccinate. The cost of the vaccine is a fraction of the cost of the disease itself.

BOVILIS IBR needs to be boosted every six months. It is important not to let this lapse in herds which have had cases of IBR because being a Herpes Virus, the disease can 'reactivate' in latently infected cattle.

Change of Computer Program

We will be changing our bespoke computer program early in January 2015.

Our conversion date will be Monday 5th January 2015, all work carried out or drugs booked/taken prior to this date will be included within your December 2014 Statement.

Please be patient with our staff while they adjust to our new computer program.

We apologise for any inconvenience this will cause any of our clients.



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