

PRACTICE NEWS

MAY 2009

KENDAL

KIRKBY LONSDALE

ULVERSTON



Kendal Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am—7.00pm

Saturday
8.30am-12 noon

Tel:01539 722692

Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery

Monday & Thursday
8.30am-7.00pm

Tuesday
8.30am-6.00pm

Wednesday & Friday
8.30am-5.00pm

Saturday
8.30am-12 noon

Tel:015242 71221



Dairy:

As I write, most cows are now out for a nibble of grass during the day, and those that aren't are skipping around like they want to be. The lack of forage has pushed many out the door, with grass pushing the yields up on most herds. The visible concrete at the back of the pit or change to big bales for dry cows has been a factor in an **epidemic of twisted stomachs** which seems to have worked up from the south to the north of the practice (hopefully those in the west will escape its clutches). Hopefully this will subside along with the **Negative Energy Balance** associated and we will soon hear the drone of the mowers in fields—who will be first this year?!

We are able to offer a service called **Clover CellCheck** to milk-recording clients. The report is issued on receipt of milk data in a **reader friendly format** which targets **problem cell count cows** for treatment, looks at new and repeat infection rates and success of dry cow treatments. Basic **benchmarking** to this geographical area is included in anonymous **league tables**. If we regularly record InterHerd information on your farm then the reports involving specific cows can be made much more specific. **The first two reports will be offered FREE** as a taster, to see if you think it will offer a useful addition to

your business and if so, will then be charged at a modest monthly fee.

Milk fever:

An exciting development has occurred relating to milk fever prevention in the shape of **X-Zelit**® from **Vitfoss**. This is a calcium binder called **zeolite** which is to be **fed to dry cows**. It has the potential for good treatment compliance on most farms. **If there is interest in organising a meeting**, we are poised to act. If this has made your ears prick-up then please mention it to a farm vet and we will get the ball rolling.

(More at www.vitfoss.com/News/news.htm?id=46)

Parasite Forecast:



This is taken from the NADIS site (nadis.org.uk) and this is worth reading for a fuller picture. A quick summary:

Nematodirus

An early warm spring should mean a low risk this year. However, it was a dry April, so this might increase the risk a little. Lambs up to 3 months old grazing last years lamb pastures are most at risk and fortunately the best treatment is a white drench. Cocci and nematodirus occurring together can be a big problem so it is worth keeping an eye on things. As ever, the

lamb faeces can be a good guide. If you are concerned about nematodirus then a sample from the older lambs might be useful. This may show if it is present.

Fluke

A good autumn and winter for fluke last year means plenty of infected animals ready to spread eggs onto the pasture. The dry weather helps, but if you haven't already treated adult sheep and cattle, do it now. Any product will do, but you don't need to use fasinex as it is only the adult fluke we need to kill. Trodax is one good one for example, but do speak to us if you need any more information



Pour on Wormer Offer

Through XLVETS we have a great seasonal offer on Virbamec Pour on (an ivermectin) wormer. 2.5 l packs are available for order at £32.50 (=£13/l). To take up this limited offer please order your through the Kirkby Lonsdale branch by May 10th.



Summer Dry Cow Offer

Buy a herd pack (160 tubes) of Cepravin DC and get a box (20) free.