

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:

The current workload is continuing on the high side, although a sudden bout of warm, dry weather will soon put a stop to that for a few days! We are still encouraging our clients to keep up to date with regular fertility visits, as this is a time of year when a chunk of cows can be missed and the days to conception unwittingly creeps up. Now that cows have settled down onto their grass based diet, it is OK to forge on and get them served.

A note on heat stress: This can occur in dairy cows when the ambient temperature is at or above 21C and can have marked effects on the cow. The most noticeable effect is milk drop, where 5L or more can be wiped off a cow as her food intake drops and she expends metabolic energy to dissipate heat. Offering the option of sun-shelter for higher producing cows is a good idea. Siting of water troughs is particularly important, as cows often get very lazy when it comes to going out of their way for a drink. The best sites seem to be directly on the main path the cows take through the field, or at entrance or exit points, but not so they can block the way. Siting a trough at the bottom of a hill when that is not on a field transit route usually means that the trough hardly ever gets used, as she doesn't want to walk back up the hill after!



Beef:

With calving time in full swing, or in the latter stages for many, keep an eye out for some seasonal calf health problems. Lungworm season may soon be upon us, and this may first be noticed as a persistent cough after very moderate activity. Also bear in mind that virus pneumonia can affect calves out at grass too- investigate any unexplained deaths promptly as carcasses can break down quickly after death in warm weather. Also keep a lookout for poisonous plants. Water dropwort, oleander, elder saplings, foxglove shoots and woody nightshade were all found to cause death in cattle in this practice only last year and can often be found by an inquisitive calf that can get to places that cows' mouths can't. Early symptoms are generally vague with no specific one standing out. These symptoms would be malaise, ill-thrift, dehydration and often scour.



Sheep:

Now is probably the time, and next month, when most Bluetongue vaccine will be injected into sheep, at shearing time. Thoughts also turn to control of abortion, for next lambing time. Within this practice we have a very healthy uptake of vaccines against Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasma abortion. When contemplating starting a vaccination programme it can be a daunting prospect, usually trying to balance cost with maximum protection. As vets, our main priority is in

maximum protection. This year, lamb, cast ewe, tup prices are bolstering confidence so it may be a good time to address the abortion issue if you have been putting it off in the past. See the special article overleaf on "Production of healthy store lambs".



Herd and Flock Health Planning:

A reminder from last month that if you have not registered with North West Development Agency for Health Planning, we recommend that you do so soon. There is some Government money available, but as with all Government money there are hoops to jump through. As far as we can see this is how it will work:

1. Register with NWDA (www.nwda.co.uk)
2. You should then get a call from an agricultural advisor who will co-ordinate a visit with Iain to prepare a health plan and to identify any particular health issues.
3. Once this is done, you **MAY** be eligible for a cash grant towards equipment. Cost - £160. What you get - A full day of health-planning from ourselves (Iain) and an advisor. Also £250 worth of free lab work. The free lab work itself makes this a worthwhile exercise. The health plan prepared will be acceptable for all farm assurance schemes, so get registering!

