



Practice News

Loss of an old friend – It was with real sadness we said goodbye



to Sam in July after he suffered damage to his neck. He had been a part of the team at King's Lynn from

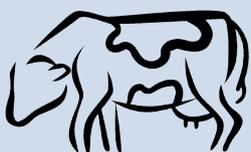
the start and he will be sorely missed.

We had an excellent meeting last month with the Beef Discussion Group where Peter Orpin, from Park Vets and myhealthyherd came and spoke with a good interactive audience about Health Planning. Particularly how it was a huge benefit, and importantly individual to the farm, yielding significant financial and production gains and very different from the old concept of the Herd Health Plan tome that was more often used as a door-stop than read!



We are pleased to announce that Dave Pinnegar will be resident

here in Norfolk imminently so in addition to booking him for foot trimming as we currently offer, we will be able to extend our AI service and mobility scoring service and also undertake freeze branding and bolusing.



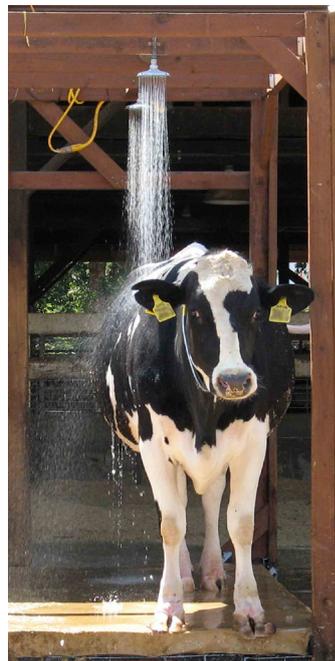
NORFOLK FARM VETS

Summer Sizzler

It may not feel much like it some days, but this is summer! Heat stress will reduce milk yields, growth rates and make some infectious diseases more likely. A full coated sheep is uncomfortable at greater than 10 degrees, a dairy cow at anything above 25 degrees. Above these temperatures, cattle may use up to a fifth of their energy just cooling down. Additionally they will eat less to avoid firing up the rumen 'boiler'. This will obviously have a direct effect on milk yield.

High yielding milking cows produce about 50% more heat energy than a dry cow, and so these are the animals most at risk of production loss, and heat stress. Cows or sheep suffering heat stress will drool, pant, become lethargic and bow their heads. They may also stay in tightly packed groups, making the problem even worse.

You can help reduce the impact of heat stress through improved ventilation. This may include setting up water mists, forcing good airflow through fans and protecting from direct sunlight through sunshades. However, it may not be necessary to make such capital investments. Considering opening up existing



ventilation through actions such as removal of foliage from around housing, removal of Yorkshire boarding from air inlets, and improving air outflow through ridge modification may all help to provide enough of a change. Some excellent 'Blue Peter' style solutions have been seen in action, utilising just a volume washer hose set up to spray a fine mist into the air near areas of high cow flow.

Modifying the times of feeding cows, such that they are able to eat the majority of their diet overnight, may also be helpful, as may altering the composition of the diet to reduce the amount of long fibre which requires considerable heat to digest. However, please don't make any changes without discussing the possible ramifications with the vets who can offer expert independent advice on both feeding and housing modifications that may be necessary.

Summer Sheep Management - Part 1

Summer sheep management focuses on fly strike prevention, internal parasite control and preparing the ewes for breeding. Blowfly is the main external parasite affecting sheep in the summer and it is most likely to occur in wet and warm weather. If left untreated, fly strike can seriously impair the ewes' productivity or even be fatal. Watch out for foot stamping, vigorous shaking, rubbing of the tail and breech especially after heavy rain as these can all be signs. Discuss prevention and treatment options with your vet. Next month we will look at issues causing weight loss and scour including internal parasites.

Colostrum Management in Youngstock

Feeding adequate, good quality, clean colostrum ASAP after birth is arguably the most significant effect you can have on the life of a cow. 'Passive transfer' is the absorption of maternal antibodies in colostrum to protect the calf against farm-specific diseases. This reduces the risk of morbidity and mortality, improves weight gain, reduces the age at first calving and improves 1st and 2nd lactation milk production.

Studies have shown that at least 35% of all calf deaths in the first 3 weeks of life are due to failure of passive transfer. Passive transfer success depends on the '5 Q's'.

1. **Quality:** 1/3 of colostrum produced by British cows is of substandard quality. It will be highest immediately after calving. Antibody levels drop by 3.7% every hour after calving so the time of the first milking is the most important factor in determining colostrum quality.
2. **Quantity:** Each calf should receive 10% of bodyweight in colostrum or about 4 litres. 35% of calves will fail to ingest enough colostrum if just left with the cow.
3. **Quickly:** Optimal absorption occurs within 4 hours of birth, so this is the period in which the calf should receive the 4 litres of colostrum.
4. **SQueaky clean:** Antibodies can pass through the gut wall, but so can bacteria. If a calf is fed dirty colostrum they are at risk of developing septicaemia. Bacteria also compete with antibodies reducing the number absorbed.
5. **Quantify:** A quick and cheap blood sample taken from calves under a week of age will check for the success of passive transfer. This will identify if the colostrum management is effective or not.

Please speak to one of our vets about optimising colostrum management on your farm.



Vital 90

We mentioned Vital 90 (a product of Eli Lilly) last month. We hope to use this initiative to work more closely with you, looking at your high risk cows during this vital period from late lactation and drying off to hitting peak yields. Especially at these difficult times, you need to ensure absolute efficiency from all of your dairy cows.

We believe that this begins with your late lactation cows. It is here that they are set up for next time. Please ask us for more details about carrying out a healthy start check with you.



Source: Eli Lilly



The Birds are Here!

To fly well and present a challenging, sporting target, pheasants, partridges and ducks must be in tip top health and condition. As every keeper worth his salt knows, the key to that is preparation before they even arrive on site.

Many shoots order medicated feed and additives at this time of year in anticipation of the arrival of their poults. As dictated by law, the premises will need to be inspected by a vet in order for these prescriptions to be processed and the prescription must state for which disease the medicine is prescribed. One medicated feed does not treat all diseases! For many, this can seem like an arduous affair; a drain on precious time and money. But take this opportunity to discuss prior problems, listen carefully to the advice of your vet and the expense could pay dividends.

In the first instance, attention should be drawn to the position and quality of the release pens – striking the correct balance between light and cover is tricky but essential. Next consider where your birds are coming from, the distance travelled and whether they may benefit from a 'boost' in the shape of some supplements on arrival. Will they have to cope with a sudden switch in feed? Have you considered hygiene between pens? Or worming? With so many questions up your sleeve, don't let your vet get away with a 'quick ten minutes'!

Westpoint - King's Lynn

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