Hafren Veterinary Group Large Animal Newsletter October 2019

Welcome to the October 2019 edition of our newsletter, bringing you seasonal and topical information and updates.

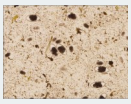
PRACTICE NEWS

Congratulations to Meg Willis who has just graduated as an RVN, she has been with us for 3 years now and her results are well deserved. A big well done to her!

We have 4 new vets that have joined us. Georgina and Emma are starting in our Knighton branch this summer whilst Carwyn and Becky are starting in Newtown. All four are great fun and really keen to get stuck into work at Hafren Vets.

Buying in sheep or resistant worms?

With Autumn being a busy time of year for sheep farmers in buying replacement ewes and tups it's vital to follow a few short steps, to ensure you do not buy in resistant worms. This could seriously result in some drenches no longer working on your farm forever, and there is no way of telling which sheep may be carrying these resistant worms. Drenching sheep, putting them straight on to clean pasture increases the risk of drench resistance developing. Quarantine treatments The point of quarantine worm treatments is to minimise the chance that you will introduce resistant worms on to the farm. Quarantine should be applied to all sheep and goats. There are 3 steps to follow:
1. Concrete yard All sheep (ewes and rams) on arrival for 48 hours. Why should I yard sheep? Any worm eggs already in the faeces when the sheep are treated will escape exposure to the drench. Yarding makes sure these are not dropped on to pasture and gives you time to have a good look for other problems e.g. CODD, CLA or orf.
2. Treat Advice now recommends that purchased sheep are drenched with monepantel (known as Zolvix, the "orange" drench) immediately followed by moxidectin (known as Cydectin, the "clear drench". Use injectable Cydectin if sheep scab is considered to be a risk. Why should I use more than one product? To guard against importing anthelmintic resistance, you need to make sure that all worms in the sheep are killed. Just using one product would leave the risk that worms resistant to that group were allowed to survive. It is worth the investment, so you can still be sheep farming in years to come.
3. Turn out to contaminated pasture Turn out on to pasture that has grazed sheep this season and keep isolated for at least 3 weeks. Why turn quarantined animals on to pasture that has carried sheep? You need to make sure that should any worms survive treatment, they don't go on to reproduce alone and populate a clean pasture. Incoming sheep need to pick up the worm population present on your farm as soon as possible. Remember it is your flock you are trying to protect, not the incoming sheep.



Clostridia in sheep

SHEEP Sheep are extremely susceptible to death from Clostridial disease and may farms do not vaccinate, or have stopped an effective vaccination programme. This is a very risky approach, as if an outbreak occurs, then there is no effective treatment and losses can be huge. Just because your farm has never had a problem before, doesn't mean it can't happen to you!! Common clostridial diseases in sheep include – tetanus, botulism, pulpy kidney, lamb dysentery, braxy, bighead in rams, strike, and blacks disease. The only way to prevent these diseases is by a vaccination protocol. The vaccine is cheap and effective. Examples of the vaccine would include Bravoxin, Heptavac or Covexin. • All breeding sheep and cattle on the farm should be vaccinated with an initial course of 2 injections, 4-6 weeks apart. • They should be boostered annually, approximately 4-6 weeks before lambing or calving so that the lambs and calves are protected by the antibodies in the colostrum. This will protect them for up to 12 weeks; especially important in the prevention of lamb dysentery which can be devastating in lambing time, and will protect the stock against Tetanus when castrating or dehorning at a young age. • After 3 months of age, they then can start a full vaccination programme, with 2 initial injections, 4-6 weeks apart. Just preventing the loss of 2 ewes from strike could almost pay for the vaccination of all the rest of the flock!