

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



Lungworm Risk

What is lungworm or husk? *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, a parasite affecting cattle. **How does lungworm cause disease?** Cattle are infected by ingesting larvae from pasture. The larvae then migrate from the gut to the lungs, causing **tissue damage and inflammation**. Mature adult worms live in the large airways and produce larvated eggs. Eggs are coughed up, swallowed and deposited in faeces to contaminate the pasture.

When? Outbreaks can be severe and unpredictable but are often associated with wetter summers and following periods of rainfall. Risk levels peak from July through to October.

Which animals? Traditionally, husk was a disease seen in calves during the second half of their first grazing season. Older animals exposed to lungworm usually develop resistance to re-infection.

WARNING: Lack of exposure e.g. grazing very clean pasture and/or over-treatment e.g. use of long-term worming boluses in young cattle may prevent immunity from developing in their first season. This can result in clinical disease occurring in older cattle.

How is lungworm spread? Lungworm larvae on pastures are killed off in dry summers and cold winters. Pastures are usually re-contaminated the following season by infected carrier animals, such as second season grazers or adults with low-level infection and no clinical signs.

What are the signs? Lungworm should be considered in any coughing cattle with access to pasture. Loss of condition, fast and/or laboured breathing and reduced milk yield are also observed. Sudden deaths may occur, especially in the case of reinfection syndrome.

Reinfection syndrome is when adult cattle, who have low immunity due to low exposure to lungworm in recent years, are suddenly exposed to large numbers of larvae on pasture.

How can I spot a lungworm problem in my herd? Through the summer and autumn, periodically round up your herd and get them running! The physical exertion will cause any animals with compromised lung function to cough. This may indicate the need for further diagnostics and/or treatment.

How is lungworm diagnosed? Via detection of larvated eggs in faecal samples using the Baermann technique at an external lab.

How is lungworm treated? The benzimidazoles (white drenches) and macrocyclic lactones (clear drenches) are effective against all stages of *D. viviparus*. Talk to us about when to treat, as advice may vary according to your system. Additionally, enquire with us about Huskvac, a vaccination against lungworm which may be suitable for some systems.



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ITS SHOW SEASON!

On Sunday 30th June Cross Counties Vets sponsored and attended the Blaston Show in Leicestershire providing official veterinary cover for the livestock at the event. With nine members of our team on the stand during the day it was a great opportunity to have a catch up with lots of our wonderful clients, some of whom did very well in the Livestock Showing, leaving the show with some beautiful red rosettes!



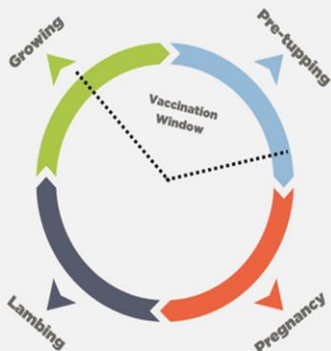
NSA Malvern

VetPartners is going to National Sheep Association's Annual Sheep Event in Malvern!

If you are going for a day out, be sure to pop along to the VetPartners stand to talk all things sheep!

Ovine Abortion: Who?

Vaccination against some causes of ovine abortion.



DETECT&PROTECT

Toxovax is now available to order.

Remember:

- Toxovax has a very short shelf life and needs using within a few days of collection.
- Ewe lambs can be vaccinated with Toxovax from 5 months of age, and older ewes in the 4 months prior to tupping.
- Toxovax should be given no less than 3 weeks prior to tupping.
- We often see shortages later in the season so place your order as soon as you

Unfortunately, we have been made aware of **shortages of Enzovax and Cevac**, which are likely to affect the whole of this year's breeding season. There is an **alternative vaccine, Inmeva**, but it has a different vaccine schedule to the other Enzootic abortion vaccines.

Inmeva needs two doses, to be given 5 weeks before tupping, with the second dose 3 weeks later. It requires a booster each year before the breeding season.

Please call the office to speak to a vet if you have any questions.

A Month of Meetings!



On 23rd June a Beef Health Club meeting was held at the Pytchley Inn, West Haddon. Olivia from Agrimin spoke about trace element deficiencies in cattle.

On the 19th June, Katherine Breaker from Elanco gave a thought-provoking on-farm talk about the different aspects involved in managing the transition period, she highlighted the fact that the 60 days prior to calving and the 30 days post calving are a critical period. Good management during this 90-day period can be critical to the health and production of the cow throughout her lactation. Mel Julian and Lauren Eaton facilitated a practical focussed around rumen fill scoring and body condition scoring to follow. The meeting was well attended, despite the glorious weather and inevitable temptation to go silaging. To book in your FREE Healthy Start consultation and to engage with the Vital 90 concept, or if you missed the meeting and require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

On 4th June a Smallholder meeting on Natural vs Chemical Fly Control was held at the practice to discuss the practical use of repellents and how parasitic wasps can be used strategically to reduce environmental fly burden.

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