FriarsMoor
Livestock Health

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

PARASITE WRAP UP MEETING
If you are currently worming for lungworm and interested in changing your approach for the future, email to register your interest: **farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk**

GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW
You're invited!
13th & 14th August
Please join us for food & drinks at
Stand G29 / We're serving food 12-2pm

What is Mycoplasma? Is it present in your herd?
Read my article this month and get in touch with our team if you have any questions.

Lucy Hepworth,
***Vet** BVSc MRCVS*

WHAT IS MYCOPLASMA? IS IT PRESENT IN YOUR HERD?

Mycoplasma Bovis is most diagnosed in calf pneumonia. It is often suspected when cattle do not respond very well to treatment. It can also cause ear infections resulting in a head tilt, and in older animals maybe the cause of recurrent mastitis.

Cows infected with mycoplasma (usually asymptomatic carriers) will spread the bacteria across the vagina, eyes, nose and milk. This explains why snatch calving, pasteurisation of colostrum and milk replacer play a role in reducing transmission to calves.

Mycoplasma is more likely to cause pneumonia when there are concurrent pneumonia viruses.

70% of the calf immunity starts in the gut, so pneumonia is a common consequence to scour issues.

Read more overleaf...

UPCOMING COURSES

- **CALF REARING LEVEL 1**
  22/08/25
- **MILKSURE**
  01/09/25
- **FIRST AID AT WORK**
  04/09/25

Find out more
www.fmlh.co.uk/events

STAFF NEWS

Liz has been working at Friars Moor Veterinary Clinic since 2000. In 2023, she became the Business Development Manager for Friars Moor Livestock Health.

She also oversees all areas of compliance. Anyone who has worked with farm vets will realise that this is no mean feat! In her downtime, Liz spends time with family, enjoys dancing and is on a mission to see as much of the world as she can from horseback!

We would like to thank Liz for her dedication and commitment to Friars Moor, and we look forward to celebrating her 30th anniversary!

REMINDER: Find us at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show 13th & 14th August

Continued from front page

WHAT IS MYCOPLASMA? IS IT PRESENT IN YOUR HERD?

If the calf environment is not ideal – too damp, insufficient air changes, draughts, high stocking rate etc, then mycoplasma pneumonia becomes more likely.

We are undertaking surveillance this summer to encourage herds to know their status for mycoplasma. This is open to dairy and suckler herds and those rearing beef calves. The lab fees are funded by Zoetis until the end of September, so don't miss the opportunity!

Option 1 Bulk Milk Sample
Option 2 Blood samples from 5 calves treated for pneumonia (>3 weeks treated)

Historically we have only been able to vaccinate for viral pneumonia pathogens and manheimia bacteria. In the last year, there is a new mycoplasma vaccine 'Protivity' which we have used successfully on a handful of herds this year.

HOW TO IMPROVE CALF RESPONSE TO VACCINATION

We make significant investments in vaccines to confer protection to our calves. Providing we use the vaccine as per data sheet and preserve the cold chain from clinic to animal – the rest is up to the animal.

For vaccine response to be optimal, we need the immune system to have sufficient nutrition (energy, protein and minerals) and not to be overwhelmed by other concurrent disease or stress.

When a vaccine is given the immune system requires selenium, zinc and copper to formulate its antibody and white blood cell response. Calves will be born with a short supply of minerals and will then receive a supply through milk powder (whole milk to a lesser degree) or concentrate.

Even in animals fed sufficient maintenance levels, these may not be enough to meet the increased demand that occurs at vaccination especially in times of stress.

Multimin is a prescription trace element product containing copper, selenium, zinc and manganese. It is being used in the Ireland, New Zealand and increasingly the UK at the same time as vaccination to:

- Promote a faster response
- Increase antibody level
- Reduce disease

Multimin can be injected subcutaneously at the same time as the first vaccination in a course. It can be incorporated into the vaccine protocols for autumn born calves. Beef animals coming off grass this autumn may run into deficiencies due to tight grazing this summer and may benefit from an injection alongside the pneumonia vaccine ahead of housing.

For more information speak to our vets.

A I COURSE

10, 11 & 12 September

- DAY 1 **Theory & PM Specimens - West Stour**
- DAY 2 **Practical - Longmoor Farm**
- DAY 3 **Practical - Longmoor Farm**

Contact the office to reserve your place.

01258 472314

farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk

friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk/events

Register today!