



# CLEVEDALE FARM NEWSLETTER

June 2013

## "Eprizero"

"Eprinex" used to be the only wormer available with zero milk withdrawal but now there is another product on the market containing the same drug "eprinomectin". "Eprizero" is cheaper than "Eprinex", is also a pour-on and is used at the same dose rate. Our prices are competitive: **1 litre £85 2.5 litres £175 5 litres £310 Herd pack (8.75 litres) £590 (all ex VAT)**

We are already starting to see evidence of lungworm activity and "Eprizero" should be the drug of choice to treat lactating dairy cows.

## Faecal egg counts

*Lungworm can be unpredictable and eggs cannot always be detected in faeces. Gut worms, however, usually follow typical patterns – increasing in numbers from late spring and the worm burden can be readily measured by counting the number of worm eggs in faecal samples. In recent years we have started to recognise resistance to wormers and the aim should be to use them sensibly. To this end more and more farmers are submitting samples to our lab to see whether worming is indeed necessary – there have been many instances where we have recommended holding back from worming due to low numbers of eggs which can be a money and labour saver; there are also many*

*occasions when analysis has identified coccidiosis as the cause of a scour problem and not worms which was the perceived issue – this obviously stops unnecessary drug use but also contributes towards improved animal health and productivity.*

*Ideally five or more samples of faeces will be submitted to our lab from a group of animals, eg ewes, lambs, calves; we mix the faeces and carry out an egg count on a "composite" sample which is usually reported the same day. We would encourage anyone thinking of worming their stock for gut worms to check whether it is necessary by carrying out a faecal egg count with us before dosing – we might save you money!*

## **Preparing for winter**

Coccidiosis has become an increasing problem in recent years. One of the issues with dealing with this disease is the persistency of the coccidia eggs, known as "oocysts". We know they can last for at least a couple of years on pasture and normal disinfectants don't seem to touch them. While you're mucking out calf houses or lambing sheds this summer, you might want to consider using one of the disinfectants active against oocysts – we have had some success at reducing the burden in buildings using a product called "*Bi-oo-cyst*"; at a normal dilution rate of 1:100 the product is good as an every-day disinfectant, but increased to 1:30 it has activity against oocysts, one of only a small number of products with this licensed claim. Please contact the office if you'd like to try enhancing your mucking out this summer.

## **Schmallenberg Vaccine**

You may now be aware there is a vaccine available to help protect against the effects of Schmallenberg virus (SBV). Sheep need one dose under the skin and cattle need two doses into the muscle 4 weeks apart. Protection against infection is said to occur 2-3 weeks after the course of injection/s. As this is a very new vaccine, there is not enough data to prove it is safe to use in pregnant animals so for the time being it is not recommended to use in pregnant animals; this reduces its usefulness for the time being in some beef and dairy herds. As it is thought the major risk period to sheep is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> months of pregnancy and the disease is spread by midges, the vaccine will benefit early lambing, pedigree flocks particularly. However, as we are rapidly approaching tupping time for these flocks it is imperative you act quickly if you would like to vaccinate – please speak to one of us at the surgery to discuss any questions you may have. The vaccine is sold in 10-dose and 50-dose packs and costs £3.50 per dose.

## **And finally.....our new vet Rosie**

*By the time some of you open your invoice and read this we will have welcomed a new vet to our team! Rosie joins us mid-July and although she will be treating all species, she has a particular interest in cattle. Originally a local lass from Marske, Rosie has recently qualified from Liverpool Vet School but hits the ground running having already spent a lot of time at Clevedale and other farm practices.*

*Clevedale Veterinary Practice*

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