



SUMMER UPDATE

# FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



## INTRODUCING UBROSEAL® BLUE

The benefits of internal teat sealants for cows at drying off are well established – reduced risk of new infections during the dry period results in fewer cases of mastitis in early lactation. For some time now, mastitis experts have recommended teat sealants for every cow, every dry period.

Until now, all teat sealants in the UK have been white in colour. Whilst this is what we're all used to, it does have some disadvantages in that white teat sealant doesn't stand out easily in milk and can be confused with mastitis clots. Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health have recently launched Ubroseal® Blue. This update to classic Ubroseal®, from white to easier to see blue, can help farmers to be confident of best practice when it comes to teat sealant administration and removal. Blue teat sealants have been popular for some time in other countries such as the USA. Ubroseal® Blue (similar to the colour of Blu-tac) is clearly visible in milk. This makes it easier to be sure that all teat sealant has been removed when stripping out before milking, and easier to differentiate traces of teat sealant from mastitis clots. The blue colour also helps to highlight if traces are getting through to the milk filters – if you're seeing traces of sealant regularly in the milk filters it's worth reviewing administration and removal protocols - your vet can help with this.



**OPENING HOURS**  
**MON - FRI**  
**8.15 AM - 5.30 PM**

## TAURADOR – CATTLE WORMER OF THE MONTH

This product kills a range of internal parasites, but most importantly it is effective against the gutworms *Ostertagia ostertagi*, *Cooperia oncophora* and lungworm, *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, with persistent action against these parasites for 35 days, 28 days and 42 days respectively.

Doramectin, the active ingredient in Taurador, is an anthelmintic belonging to the macrocyclic lactones (3-ML) group, along with ivermectins, but this one has a longer action than ivermectin, so the dosing intervals can be increased to 8 weeks. Remember, that it is not good practice to use the same product every time, so please discuss your worming plans with us, to avoid resistance problems in the future.

## RAM VASECTOMIES

A vasectomised (teaser) ram can be used to bring your ewes into season before your tups go out. Not only does this enhance fertility it can also be a great way of tightening your lambing period. The ewe flock is isolated for at least one month from sight, smell and hearing of rams or wethers, after which a vasectomised ram is put with the flock for a period of 12 days. The ram is then removed and replaced by normal rams. Provided the ewes were on the point of cycling, this results in a close compacted lambing, usually in two peak periods some six to eight days apart. Once a ram is vasectomised he should not be used for at least 8 weeks as he may still be fertile, so if you want a ram to be vasectomised for use this year, we should be operating on him in the very near future. Vasectomies can be performed on farm or at the practice and cost of £82.79 + VAT for the first one and £70.65 for additional ones done at the same time. We will be holding a ram vasectomy day on Monday 21st June, when we will be lining up a couple of vets to provide this service, but if you can't make this day, please contact us for an alternative appointment.



**For more advice on this  
and other issues call us on  
01873 840167**

## FREE SELEKT PUMP CLINIC

For those of you who own the grey and blue cattle fluid pumps, there will be a pump clinic on Wednesday 7th July. If you have any issues with your pump, or just want it serviced, please drop it off with us before then, or ring us to book a time to come in on the day. We are very grateful to Nimrod, the company who supply the Selekt products, for providing us with this excellent service.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
PRE ORDER YOUR DRUGS  
VIA TELEPHONE BEFORE  
COLLECTION**

## CHANGES TO TB RULES BROUGHT IN DURING COVID -19.

As the Covid-19 situation improves, APHA are making changes to some of the rules around TB testing.

1. The plan is to resume referrals to the paying agencies for overdue TB skin tests from 1 July 2021. In England and Scotland, this will apply to all skin tests already overdue on this date and tests that subsequently become overdue. In Wales, APHA will be writing to cattle keepers, who have previously received an overdue test letter, with a new date for test completion, as was indicated in the letter. For herd tests this will be two months after the date on the letter and for individual animal tests this will be one month. The keeper will be referred to the Rural Payments Wales (RPW), if the test has not been completed by the new date. From now on, normal overdue procedures will apply, with any test newly becoming overdue after the 1st July being referred to the RPW.
2. In England and Wales, no additional time will be allowed to complete SI tests with windows ending on or after 1 July 2021.
3. Calves under 180 days old cannot be exempted from surveillance, or control (breakdown tests) skin tests where TT1 of the final (or only) part of the test is on or after 1 August 2021. Skin tests will need to include all eligible animals, including calves under 180 days old in order to be considered complete. Any incomplete test that becomes overdue will be subject to normal overdue testing procedures, including referral to paying agencies.
4. In Wales, the requirement for pregnancy diagnosis certificate to support valuations of in calf reactor cows will recommence from 1st July 2021.

## MEETINGS

We are now permitted to start face to face meetings again, and have both Nadis and Mastering Medicines meetings planned for the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out for the subjects and dates on our Facebook page and website.



## JOKE

Three male farmers in their 60's were stood discussing their lives over the gate - one said 'I'm still a once a night man', the second said 'well I'm twice a night man', the third said 'My wife will tell you that I'm a five times a night man' - they all agreed 'We really shouldn't drink so much tea before we go to bed!'

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