



October Newsletter 2019

New Red Tractor Requirements

As of this month, there are some new Red Tractor requirements. Most of the changes apply to dairy farms. Amongst many small changes, there are a few larger ones which some of you will need to take action on:

Medicines course - it is now a requirement for dairy farms (though still a recommendation for beef farms) that at least one person responsible for giving medicines has attended some training. This is not about teaching you how to give injections which many of you have been doing your whole lives! It's more about responsible use, latest research and avoiding residues. Our next course is on the 22nd October at 12 noon. Please ring to book a place.

Johnes plan - a declaration from a BCVA accredited vet, and test results need to be made available to inspectors. This is no longer just milk buyer requirement which some of you did last year. As a minimum, this requires a 30-cow screen once a year. Bear in mind that it may take a little time to get the results of this screening test, and we may also have to do a farm visit to go through Johnes management to be able write a report and sign the required certificate

BVD eradication plan - This is now also a requirement for Red Tractor. Many of you have benefited from the BVD stamp-it-out funding and have signed up to BVD free England. If you don't have a plan in place, please get in touch so we can get you started.

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Product exports

Love or hate the EU, the odds are we'll need veterinary certification to send animal products there when we leave as we do for the rest of the world. We can now provide this service, so whether you're sending butter to Barcelona or trotters to Timbuktu, we can help you do it.

Paramphistomum - Rumen Fluke

Rumen flukes occur worldwide and have been associated with significant disease (paramphistomosis) in tropical and sub-tropical countries. It is a disease usually associated with very wet weather, but we have had a confirmed cases in the practice. Small numbers of parasites cause little or no damage, however the significance of the parasite is directly related to the number of immature parasites in the small intestine....

The lifecycle is very similar to that of liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*). They require a mammalian definitive host and a snail intermediate host. Clinical disease has been rare, but recently severe acute cases have been identified from post mortem. Flooding results in dispersal of the snails from permanent water sources to the pasture where they may be eaten along with the grass by cows.

Acute paramphistomosis is caused by massive infection with immature fluke that cause damage to the small intestine where they attach to mature causing severe enteritis. Clinical signs include dullness, dehydration, rapid weight loss, severe watery scour, anaemia and swelling under the jaw (as seen with liver fluke). Clinical signs usually develop 2-4 weeks after infection. If left untreated, severely affected animals may die from dehydration.

Risk factors are young, sick or poorly nourished animals, large larval numbers on pasture, heavily grazed areas, areas that flood in winter and grazing on waterlogged pastures.

A provisional diagnosis is usually made by history and clinical signs and is confirmed by the presence of immature fluke in fluid faeces or in small intestine at post mortem. (Presence of fluke eggs in the faeces is unlikely in acute cases as the fluke are immature). N.B. Small numbers of rumen fluke eggs in faecal samples from adult animals is not usually a cause for concern.

Control of this disease is similar to that of liver fluke, but note the differences in treatment:

- Biosecurity - Prevent introduction of rumen fluke onto your farm via faecal examination of bought In animals.
- Reduce Exposure - Restrict access to fields or parts of fields which are prone to flooding or water-logging. Fencing off drains, ponds and water-courses.
- Flukicidal Drugs - Most of the medications that kill liver fluke **DO NOT** kill rumen fluke. Oxytocanide is effective against immature rumen flukes. It should only be used in clinical cases of rumen fluke.

