

Friars Moor Veterinary Clinic

November 2009 Newsletter



Important Changes On TB Testing

Every 12 months Defra reviews the parish testing intervals for routine TB testing of cattle throughout England. As the TB situation in the south west is continuing to deteriorate year on year, **major changes** have now been made in order to try to bring the disease under better control. From the 1st January 2010:

- 1) **All cattle herds** in the south west (including Dorset, Somerset & Wiltshire) will be required to have **routine herd TB tests every 12 months** – therefore all our clients who up until now have been lucky enough to be in 24 and 48 month TB testing parishes will unfortunately now have to be tested every 12 months. At these routine tests **all cattle over 6 weeks of age** will have to be tested.
- 2) Currently **IRs** (inconclusive reactors) have 3 chances to pass the skin test, but from January they will only have **2 chances** - if at this second test the animal remains an IR then it will be deemed a reactor and removed from the farm. Where reactors are found Defra has set itself a target of a maximum of **10 days** in which to remove them from the farm.
- 3) Lastly, from January, Defra will **no longer be using the blood test** (Gamma Interferon test) on farms in the south west. This is because the blood test is only used in 48 month testing parishes with confirmed TB breakdowns, or on 2nd time IRs in 12/24 month testing parishes – from January neither of these situations will apply to farms in the south west region.
- 4) For the few farmers who are currently in 48 month testing parishes, all movements of stock off your holding will require a **pre-movement TB test**. This includes moving youngstock to grass at turnout if the premises to be grazed are not part of your 'home' farm. If you have 2 or more holdings where you are the **sole occupant**, then you can apply through us for a **Sole Occupancy Licence** – if granted by Defra then you can move stock between the linked holdings without pre-movement testing. However, a movement of purchased/bought in stock onto one of your premises creates a movement standstill on all linked holdings.
- 5) Obviously all this extra testing is going to place a large burden on both farmers and vets. Defra have told us they will continue to have a **zero tolerance policy on overdue herd tests** and will restrict cattle movements if a test is not completed on time – with this in mind please can you phone the surgery at least **3-4 weeks in advance** to book your tests in, so that we can hopefully match the dates you are proposing. **Better still phone us as soon as you receive your notification of a test from Defra and book your test a month or two in advance.**

As regards pre-movement tests, again please book these in with us ideally at least 2 weeks in advance. The more notice we get the more likely we will be able to match your dates. We do our best to try to fit in last minute tests but with the amount of extra testing expected in the New Year, even trying to fit in a 10 animal pre-movement test at short notice may well be extremely difficult.

- 6) For those farmers who until now have been in **24** or **48** month testing parishes, and whose stock is normally tested in January, February or March, then your next test is likely to be the **first 3 months of 2010** – this is obviously very short notice especially if you were not expecting a test until early in 2011 or 2012. We suggest you **phone your local Animal Health office now** to confirm your testing window, and then contact us to arrange testing dates.

Liver Fluke - Another Bad Year Forecast!

Following the wet summers and autumns in 2007 and 2008 we have seen many more flocks and herds with liver fluke infestations, and have received reports from abattoirs where greater numbers of livers have been condemned in both cattle and sheep. The forecast for this autumn and winter is for a further increase in fluke problems in livestock, so please be more **vigilant** for cattle or sheep which may not be performing as well as expected.

Cattle in general are a lot more resilient than sheep, the main symptoms being weight loss/lack of weight gain, and poor production. Lambs also show poor weight gains which may be thought to be due to worms, yet are poorly responsive to worm drenching. As regards ewes, problems can be very **serious in pregnant or early lactation ewes** – last year one flock suffered a large Twin Lamb disease problem despite good feeding, while another flock lost a lot of ewes to sudden death in the first couple of weeks after lambing – in both cases liver fluke was confirmed to be the major underlying factor causing severe anaemia and ruptured livers.

In the last 3 years we have found liver fluke in flocks and herds where traditionally it has never been seen before, so if you are even slightly concerned you may have a problem (or want peace of mind that liver fluke isn't in your animals) then please speak to one of the vets to decide on how best to proceed. We can do tests on dung, blood and milk samples to try to confirm/exclude the disease in your animals.

If you are planning to treat your stock for liver fluke please speak to one of the vets first to ensure you are using the **right product** at the **right time of the year**. In both cattle and sheep there are several different treatment options available but some products are **only effective against adult liver fluke** while others are also effective against **varying ages of immature fluke**. From time to time we come across liver fluke in a group of animals despite recent treatment – for example treating cattle with Ivomec Super (which only kills adult liver fluke) at housing in the autumn will be ineffective as most of the fluke burden will still be **immature**.

Finally there are increasing reports in the UK of liver fluke **resistance to Fasinex/Combinex/Tribex/Triclafas/Fasimec Duo** in both cattle and sheep so it maybe better to use another treatment option. If you have any queries please ring us.

Attached are some details and competitive prices of wormers and flukicides which you may be considering using on your stock in the coming months. Please phone your orders in.

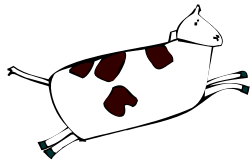
New!! - Pour On For Liver Fluke In Cattle

No doubt many of you have seen the adverts in the farming press for **CLOSAMECTIN POUR-ON** – the first pour-on flukicide licensed in the UK for cattle. Until now cattle have had to be treated for fluke with either a drench or injection, both of which are inconvenient compared to a pour-on.

Closamectin Pour-On contains two ingredients – the flukicide closantel which kills both **adult and immature liver fluke down to 7 week old stages**, and the anthelmintic ivermectin which most of you are aware is a broad spectrum wormer (stomach and lungworm), as well as being effective against mites and lice. It is **not** licensed in milking cows but can be used in dry cows or dairy heifers at least 60 days prior to calving. The meat with holding period is 28 days.

The dose is **1ml per 10 kg** which means a 60 ml dose for an average adult cow will cost about **£4.80 + VAT** when buying a 5 litre pack.





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**Flukicides & Wormers For Cattle
Prices for Autumn 2009**

Flukicide Options & Prices

Closamectin Pour On

Dose: 1ml Per 10 Kg

2.5 Litres = £199 + VAT

5 Litres = £399 + VAT (80p per 100 kg body weight)

Kills **adult liver fluke** and **immature stages down to 7 weeks old**; also a broad spectrum wormer and kills mites and lice (ivermectin).

Not for use in milking cattle – can use in dry cows at least 60 days before calving.
Meat withhold 28 days.

Closamectin Injection

Dose: 2 ml per 50 kg under skin

2 x 500ml = £167 + VAT (67p per 100 kg body weight)

Kills **adult liver fluke** and **immature stages down to 7 weeks old**; also a broad spectrum wormer and kills flies and lice (ivermectin).

Not for use in milking cattle – can use in dry cows at least 60 days before calving.
Meat withhold 35 days.

Virbamec Super Injection (equivalent of Ivomec Super)

Dose: 1ml per 50 kg under skin

500ml = £120 + VAT

1 Litres = £250 + VAT (50p per 100 kg body weight)

Kills **adult liver fluke only (NOT immature stages)**; also a broad spectrum wormer and kills flies and lice (ivermectin).

Not for use in milking cattle – can use in dry cows at least 60 days before calving.
Meat withhold 80 days.

Trodax Injection

Dose: 1.5ml per 50 kg under skin

250ml = £35 + VAT

2 x 500ml = £116 + VAT (35p per 100 kg body weight)

Kills **adult liver fluke** and **immature stages down to 6 weeks old.**

Not a broad spectrum wormer.

Not for use in milking cattle – can use in dry cows at least 30 days before calving.
Meat withhold 60 days.

Fasinex 10% (Drench)

Dose: 6ml per 50 kg by drench

2.2 Litre = £67 + VAT (37p per 100 kg body weight)

Kills **adult liver fluke** and **immature stages down to 2 weeks old.**

No activity against worms at all.

Not for use in milking cattle – can use in dry cows at least 7 days before calving.
Meat withhold 56 days.

Worming Options & Prices

Eprinex Pour On

5ml per 50 kg body weight

- **1 Litre = £82 + VAT**
- **2.5 Litre = £183 + VAT**
- **5 Litre = £330 + VAT**

Virbamec Pour On (Equivalent to Ivomec)

5ml per 50 kg body weight

- **1 Litre = £20 + VAT**
- **2.5 Litre = £38 + VAT**
- **5 Litre = £65 + VAT**

**Prices quoted are for full packs. No further discount can be given.
Please ring by 4pm for next day delivery.**