



Larkmead Veterinary Group

Farm Animal Newsletter

August 2006

Sheep Abortion Vaccine

Now is the time to think about vaccinating ewe lambs and gimmers against the infectious abortion diseases. There are 2 abortion agents for which vaccines are available in the UK:

1) Chlamydophilia (Enzootic Abortion of Ewes)

There are three Enzootic abortion vaccines on sale. Enzovax and Cevac are modified live vaccines, whilst Mydiavac is a killed vaccine. Although the latter has the advantage that it can be used during pregnancy, we recommend the live vaccines, given before tupping, as the better option. This year we have been able to negotiate a special price on **Cevac**, which makes it cheaper than the 2 alternatives. A single dose will give at least 3 years protection (effectively lifetime). Ewe lambs over 5 months, or purchased gimmers, should be vaccinated at least 4 weeks before mating. Our cost of Cevac this season is £2.75/ewe.



2) Toxoplasmosis

There is only one Toxoplasma vaccine, which is **Toxovax**. A single dose given at least 3 weeks before mating gives lifelong protection. Toxoplasma is the second most common cause of abortion in sheep and the vaccine is very effective. Those farmers that have used Toxovax over the last 10 years have reported benefits in stronger and livelier lambs born, and are convinced that it is a worthwhile expenditure. The cost this year is £2.00/ewe.

XLVets

Larkmead has recently joined XLVets, which is an association of 32 progressive farm animal practices, scattered across the UK. The member practices are all committed to providing the increasingly sophisticated advice required by the modern farmer in the 21st century. Each practice remains completely independent, but collaborates with the others in the group to identify best practice and best prices on a range of veterinary goods and services.

We hope that this will keep Larkmead at the forefront of advances in pig, cattle and sheep practice in the UK and that the benefits of this will be reflected in the quality of service that we provide. The group produces a quarterly newsletter, which is enclosed, and also contributes joint articles to the farming press and media.

Meeting at Coopers Court Farm

About 60 people attended the Hog Roast last Thursday at Coopers Court Farm, courtesy of Miss B. Messenger, Velcourt and H and C Pearce. There were presentations from Robbie Taylor on nutrition, and Claerwen on the improvements to yield and fertility that have been made in the herd over the last 12 months. All in all this was a very successful meeting.

Larkmead Veterinary Group ~ Ilges Lane ~ Cholsey ~ Oxon ~ OX10 9PA
Tel 01491 651479 Fax 01491 652072 E-mail info@larkmead.co.uk

Quality Service Providing Peace of Mind from a Caring Team

Tylan in-feed Medication

Tylan in-feed premix is made by Elanco in 2 strengths: G250 (250g/kg) for feed mills and G50 (50g/kg) for home mixers.

A few months ago Tylan G50 became unavailable and, as a temporary measure, Elanco supplied a diluted form of G250 packed in 2kg bags, which they called Vetpac.

We have now been informed by Elanco that G50 is back in production and so Vetpac will not be available once the current stocks are used up.

The bad news is (you've guessed it), that Tylan G50 will be back at an increased price (£8.75 /kg instead of £7.50/kg).



Micotil

You may have read in the farming press that following the deaths of two farmers in the USA after accidental injection of Micotil, the EU have decided to restrict the administration of this medicine to veterinary surgeons only. This is despite the fact that there have been no adverse events reported in the UK since its introduction some 20 years ago. Although the UK has argued strongly for the last 6 months to retain the ability to dispense this medicine to farmers, the EU has finally ruled against us and legislation to make Micotil administration “vet-only” became effective on 31st July. Because our insurance will now be invalidated if we dispense Micotil to farmers, we are forced to follow this ruling. Any Micotil that you may have on farm should, strictly speaking, now be injected by a vet. Please be aware that accidental self-injection could have fatal consequences, so extreme caution must be exercised with this product.

Antipodean swop

Tom Clarke: As you will know, Tom is getting married this coming Saturday (12th August), at Wareham in Dorset. He and Laura are then taking a 2-3 year honeymoon, starting with a year in South America, before moving on to New Zealand in July 2007. Tom has been a wonderful vet for Larkmead and we are all very sad to see him go. We wish him all the very best for his travels and hope to see him again when he eventually returns to the UK.



In exchange we welcome **Graeme McPherson**, who will join us at the end of August as Tom's replacement on the cattle side. Graham hails originally from Australia, but having now finished his world travelling is looking to settle down in England with his wife Sarah and baby Toby. For many of you this will be renewing an old acquaintanceship, for Graeme worked for both Larkmead and Hall Place, between 1999-2002. We look forward to welcoming him back again.

