



Tysul Vets Farm Newsletter June 2015

Staphylococcus Aureus Infection in Cattle (part 1) by Annwen Richards

S. Aureus is a contagious bacterial infection that is a common cause of chronic mastitis in dairy cows. This infection can be difficult to detect and frustrating to treat with poor cure rates. In the case of S.Aureus infection prevention is better than cure.

Transmission and infection

S. Aureus is present on the skin, teat ends and in the milk of infected cows. This can then be spread to other cows during the milking routine by:

- The teat cup liner
- Milker's hands
- Washcloths and paper towel



S. Aureus can also be transmitted from cow to cow by flies.

The bacteria spreads into the teat canal and invades deeper into the glands, destroying milk-producing cells, whilst forming abscesses and scar tissue. In an acute infection, there may be some swelling in the udder and clots in the milk on fore stripping but once the infection becomes more chronic there may be no visible change in the milk.

Practice News:

Vet Annwen Richards completed the Race for Life in Aberystwyth on 17th May in memory of her Anti Ellen. She ran it in just 31 minutes and raised £336 for this great cause as part of Tîm Ellen. Da iawn Annwen!



Don't forget to look at our website and follow our feeds on Twitter and Facebook
www.tysulvets.co.uk

Detection

S. Aureus can be cultured in milk samples from:

- Clinical cases of mastitis before treatment
- Chronic high cell count cows (perform California Milk Test to identify infected quarter(s) first)

S. Aureus infection may be present but not detected in a single milk sample. Reasons for this include:

- Intermittent shedding of bacteria in the milk
- S. aureus can be difficult to culture
- Staph aureus hiding in the white blood cells
- Other bacteria may be present and therefore mask S. aureus infection
- The cow may be under antibiotic treatment at the time

The chance of finding S.aureus can be improved by:

- Intermittent Serial Quarterly Testing (taking 3 samples, no less than 48 hours apart, within a week)
- Use of Staph 24 culture medium
- Freezing samples to breakdown the white blood cells and release the bacteria

In next months issue treatment and control

**Halocur 490 ml special price held for June was
£78 ex vat now £68 ex vat - cash sales only**

For a limited time, we are offering **FREE** testing of the most common conditions causing scour (E. Coli, Coronavirus, Cryptosporidium and Rotavirus) using Rapid Scour Check. The tests can be carried out calf side or in the practice and provide instant results, so that treatment/prevention plans can be formulated.

Please telephone us on 01559 363318 if you are would like us to do some sampling.

Sheep Section



Lameness in sheep by Helen Phillips



No-one likes seeing lame sheep in the flock, it's a matter of pride, welfare and also economics. Lame ewes have lower

body conditions scores, rear fewer lambs and the lambs take longer to reach slaughter weight, this can be hidden costs to you.

There are many causes of lameness in sheep but 80% of all lameness is caused by foot rot and digital dermatitis (also known as Scald or Strip)

What causes foot rot and digital dermatitis?

- Originally it was thought that foot rot and digital dermatitis were caused by different bacteria but recent research shows that digital dermatitis is likely the first stage of foot rot.
- The bacteria is *Dichelobacter Nodulus*: which survives on pasture
- Some sheep who have been chronically infected are carriers, repeatedly infecting the pasture, increasing the risk to the rest of the flock
- Earlier stages of infection, often when sheep are not severely lame, shed more bacteria-these are the sheep that need to be targeted to really reduce lameness levels in the flock

What do the lesions look like?

- Digital dermatitis: Pink inflamed skin between the claws, grey scum covering the area
- Foot rot: Separation of the hoof wall, typically starting from the inside wall of each claw progressing under the sole. Distinctive smell

How should we treat sheep with foot rot and digital dermatitis?

- Currently there is a lot of research into the best protocol for treating foot rot and digital dermatitis.
- The protocol shown below was found to reduce lameness in both ewes and lambs. The treated group also had an increased gross margin of £640/100 ewes put to the tup, that's includes the cost of treatment (medicine + time)
- To trim or not to trim?
 - Trimming infected feet should be avoided as it can actually slow down healing
- Culling
 - Ewes with chronic lameness, often respond poorly to treatment-if you are treating her repeatedly, she is likely to be a chronic carrier: consider culling

Foot rot/Digital dermatitis protocol

1. Treat ewes within 3 days of noticing they are lame
2. Turn and inspect feet: Is foot rot/digital dermatitis the cause?
3. Inject with long acting tetracycline antibiotic (eg, Alamycin, engemycin)
4. Spray all 4 feet with antibiotic spray
5. Mark ewe-so you can monitor if she needs repeated treatment
6. (Separate ewe if possible)

Farm Cats

The RSPCA always need homes for outdoor feral/farm cats. They come neutered, vaccinated and chipped. If you could give a cat a home on the farm telephone Frances on 01239 810595 or see the website for more details.

www.rspca.org.uk/petsearch/cats/cardigan



OFFER: Faecal Egg Counting £10.30 ex VAT - continues this month 3 for the price of 2

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