

# FARM News



MAY 2019

## Calf Rearing Pointers

- Good colostrum management is crucial to protect calves from disease and ensure their survival. There are a number of factors which affect whether calves ingest sufficient colostrum, and how well this is absorbed
- Providing higher levels of milk or milk replacer results in better growth rates, greater long term productivity and improved health and welfare
- Consistency and good hygiene in milk feeding are critical in successful calf rearing
- Calves less than four weeks of age should be fed milk twice daily. The long term economic costs from reduced productivity as a result of inadequate early feeding far outweigh any short term benefits in feed or labour costs of once daily milk feeding.
- Provision of clean, dry creep feed and clean, palatable water are key to maintaining good growth rates.



volac 

## Managing Scouring Calves

Calf scour (diarrhoea) is the most common disease of young calves, and can have serious financial and welfare implications in both dairy and suckler herds. It is estimated that 50% of calf mortality in dairy herds is caused by acute diarrhoea in the pre-weaning period. Scour develops after the lining of the intestines have been damaged by infectious agents including viruses, bacteria and parasites. As a consequence, the calf loses fluid and electrolytes (body salts) via watery faeces. This loss of water and salts creates dehydration and an alteration of the acid-base balance of the bodily fluids. Inflammation of the intestinal lining impairs the calf's ability to digest nutrients, creating weight loss and the potential for hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). It is important to treat cases quickly, as if severe, death can occur.

### **The most common causes of scour include:**

**Viral** – Rotavirus, Coronavirus

**Bacterial** – E.Coli, Salmonella, Clostridial perfringens Type C

**Parasites** - Cryptosporidia, Coccidia

Scours can often be caused by more than one of these infectious agents acting together.

**We do an in house scour test in the practice –  
Please call the office for more information.**



## Sudden Death in Lambs



It's that time of the year again when unfortunately we always see a few flocks experiencing cases of sudden death in young lambs.

There are a number of diseases that can present in this way including worms, coccidiosis and clostridial diseases.

Post-mortem examination is the quickest & most effective way to reach a diagnosis if you are experiencing losses and will allow you to target your treatment at the exact cause of the problem.

Please call in to discuss dosing/vaccinations with one of our vets.



## Holiday checklist for pets



- **Routine Vaccination up to date**
- **Worming, flea and tick cover**
- **Kennel cough vaccination 3 weeks prior to going into kennels**
- **Microchip contact details up to date (Collar&tag)**
- **Pet passport up to date if traveling abroad.**
- **Travel sickness/ anxiety/ therapy if needed.**
- **Pets details and relevant animal history.**
- **Adequate supply of medication.**

## **STARTVAC MASTITIS VACCINE**

Startvac covers two different strains Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus

Startvac is now available it will be ordered in specifically for each farm. Please ring the office to discuss your requirements.



  
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