Regardless of the cause, the profuse often watery diarrhoea that we all recognise as calf scour results in the calf losing water along with vital salts and other nutrients. The calf quickly becomes dehydrated and sick because of the build-up of acid in the body and, if these abnormalities are not corrected, they may result in the death of the calf.

Oral rehydration solutions have been available for many years and have proved to be life-saving in both human and animal medicine. By containing salts such as sodium, as well as energy in the form of glucose, they allow water to be absorbed more rapidly. Rehydration solutions may also contain neutralising buffers like bicarbonate to correct the build-up of acid. Traditional oral rehydration solutions in calves cannot be fed at the same time as milk because the bicarbonate which they contain interferes with milk clotting in the calf’s stomach, resulting in milk passing too quickly into the gut, potentially making the scour worse. Milk provides the very high levels of energy and proteins which are needed to help recovery, so milk feeding should not be ceased and a rehydration solution which can be mixed with milk is preferable.

Diakur Plus is a unique oral rehydration solution which contains a combination of three different neutralising buffers which rapidly correct the high acid levels but do not interfere with the formation of the milk clot in the calf’s stomach. As a result Diakur Plus can be mixed with water, milk or milk replacer providing a flexible solution and the calf can be rehydrated while still receiving the nutrition from milk to maintain growth rates.

Another added benefit of Diakur Plus is that it contains patented citrus fibres that have been shown to bind and remove pathogens such as E.coli from the intestine. Talk to your vet about Diakur Plus and your calf scour management protocol today.

DairyCo funding available

There is a limited amount of funding available for the next month or two to access a DairyCo Mastitis or Healthy Feet plan for your herd. We have a couple of vets trained to deliver these plans on farm. Past experience has shown that this level of comprehensive investigation and action planning has a huge impact on disease levels in the herd. In the first instance speak to Darrell or Jonny if you would like to know more about a Healthy Feet plan or if you want to know more about the mastitis plan speak to Simon or Gethin.
TB update
The announcement on the outcome of the tendering process has delayed so the uncertainty continues! However we do know that TB continues to be a real problem in the region. Recently published figures show that 1205 cattle were slaughtered for TB in the first 9 months of 2014 compared to 691 in the whole of 2013. There have been 128 new herd breakdowns in the first 9 months of 2014 compared to 146 in all of 2013 and 118 in 2012.
Defra have also introduced whole herd testing at 6 monthly intervals for herds in the edge area in Cheshire to replace the previous regime of radial testing. This will further increase the workload for cattle farmers and vets as yet again we increase the testing measures in our cattle population with no real progress in dealing with other sources of infection.

Team update
We are delighted to welcome some new staff members (and one not so new) to the farm team. In the office at Hartford we have been joined by Emily and Kate who are getting to grips with all the systems and processes that go on there. On the vet side we have two new TB testing vets called David and Jose to increase testing capacity as we face the ever increasing demands of TB in the region. Jonny Duncan has returned from his 5 month visit to New Zealand and Australia with a great tan, welcome back Jonny! Sadly we are also saying goodbye to Suze from the Hartford office as she is off to pursue a career as a paramedic with the West Mids Ambulance service. Becky from Manor Court is also moving on as she returns to her roots in Cumbria to further her career in her home practice. We will miss both of you and want to wish you well for your future careers.

New NSAID on the market
We have a new product to introduce which we are now able to supply. Allevinix is Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drug or NSAID; these are the group of drugs used to reduce the signs of inflammation such as pyrexia, swelling, pain and toxaemia. The active ingredient is Flunixin which has been around for some time in a number of products.
Allevinix has a few characteristics which make it particularly appealing for both beef and dairy farmers, these include:

- Licenced for intra-muscular and intra-venous routes of administration
- 24 hour withdrawal period for milk
- 10 day withdrawal for meat and offal
- Available in 100ml plastic bottles
- Convenient dose rate 2ml per 50kg

There is increasing evidence of the benefits of using NSAIDs as part of the treatment of infectious diseases with better DLWG in beef cattle, reduced mortality, improved milk sales and of course the improved animal welfare. For more information speak to your vet.

Emergency First Aid on Farm
Recognised and approved workshop covering all aspects of Emergency First Aid on your farm.
Our experienced tutors will teach you to deal with common farm accidents such as amputations, crush injuries, bleeding, loss of consciousness and hypothermia. These courses are designed specifically for the agricultural industry and run by one of the leading UK agricultural training providers, established for 25 years.
This one day course can take place on your farm and we can accommodate up to 12 people. Our instructor for this course has worked in the dairy industry since 1972 so, not only will he bring a wealth of experience, he will also understand that you still have a farm to run and will make allowances for this on the day. Just £395 for up to 12 attendees 9.30am – 3.00pm
Add our Safe Handling of Cattle’ module for just £100 extra.
Call the office on 01565 723036 to arrange a date to suit you.

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