



Tysul Vets Farm Newsletter July 2015

Staphylococcus Aureus Infection in Cattle (part 2) by Annwen Richards

Treatment

Early identification and treatment of infection is important.

S. Aureus can hide from the immune system and it can be difficult for antibiotics to reach the site of infection and penetrate abscesses. Also S.Aureus can produce enzymes that can breakdown penicillin type antibiotics.

Treatment during lactation often involves prolonged courses of antibiotic treatment and/or long acting antibiotic tubes. Treatment is generally more successful at drying off with the use of appropriate dry cow tubes with/without systemic antibiotics.

There are many factors associated with poor cure rates:

- Increasing age of cow
- High somatic cell count at start of treatment
- Long duration of infection prior to treatment
- High bacterial colony count on culture
- Multiple quarters infected
- Back quarters infected
- Penicillin resistant strain of S. aureus identified

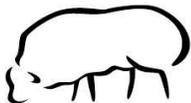
Other factors to consider are the presence of teat lesions, lameness, poor fertility and johnes's.

Sheep Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to our sheep meeting at Castell Howell Leisure centre on 24th June.

Initial feedback tells us that it was an enjoyable and informative evening and in a great location.

We have taken on board your comments and interests from the evening and will let you know of any future developments! Diolch am ddod - Thank you for coming.



(<http://castellhowellholidayleisurecentre.co.uk>)

To reduce the prevalence of Staph.aureus on farm it is important to:

- a) reduce the number of infected quarters on the farm:
 - identify infected quarters through milk testing
 - treat infected quarters promptly and using appropriate antibiotics
 - cull cows that do not respond to treatment
 - maintain a closed herd or if buying in adult cows try to find out previous somatic cell count information and test quarters of milking cows and heifers.

- b) minimise spread of infection to uninfected cows
 - milk infected cows at the end of milking (may not always be practical depending on housing and grouping system on the farm)
 - dispose of towels or wipes between each cow
 - wear gloves and disinfect them regularly during the milking routine
 - cluster dipping/spraying/flushing between each cow or at least after every infected cow
 - apply a post milk teat dip or spray within 30 seconds of the end of milking
 - effective fly treatment in particular for heifers



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 your Flock - Part Two

by Helen Phillips, MRCVS

Foot rot and digital dermatitis (scald/strip) may cause 80% of lameness in sheep but what about the remaining 20% of cases and how it is best to treat these?

Contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD)

- Thought to be caused by a similar bacteria that causes digital dermatitis (“Digi”) in cattle
- Problems start at the top of the hoof, the opposite to foot rot
- This causes under-running of the wall horn which can lead to complete shedding of the hoof
- Typically affects one toe and you may see hair loss above the affected horn
- ****Very painful, do not trim or footbath with formalin****

Treatment: Contact us for advice if you suspect CODD, so we can confirm it is the cause and recommend specific antibiotics

Toe abscesses

- Toe abscesses occur when bacteria is able to track up the white line: (where the hard wall horn joins the softer sole horn)
- Often due to damage to the white line: entry of a stone or thorn
- Swelling may be seen on the outside wall of the hoof, you can sometimes see an entry point on the underside of the foot, sometimes pus breaks through at the top of the hoof

Treatment: Careful paring of the foot to allow the pus to be released

Heel abscesses

- If there is a penetrating wound further back in the foot, particularly between the toes, an abscess can form deep in the foot which can lead to infections of the bone and joint
- Sheep have swelling above the hoof and are extremely painful

Treatment: Antibiotics injections-Penicillin antibiotics are often useful

Shelly hoof/shelly toe

- Unknown cause may be due to nutrition or may be associated with genetics
 - Poor formation of the hoof wall particularly on the outside edge of the toe, leads to a double wall formation with a cavity between
 - Can be mistaken for foot rot as it looks like hoof wall separation but with shelly hoof there is an intact wall underneath and there is no ooze or distinctive smell
 - Does not always cause lameness, only if it becomes infected or packed with soil
- Treatment:** Trim away the damaged outer wall if causing lameness



Granulomas

- These are red, often round areas of tissue which typically bleed when touched
- They happen when the tissue under the horn is exposed-this can occur from excessive trimming, overuse of formalin or after very severe foot rot

Treatment: Discuss with a vet, involves removal and pressure bandaging to prevent lots of bleeding.

Nematodirus Battus Risk

Although the NADIS Nematodirus battus forecast is good for this time of year with risk now falling for England and Wales, we at Tysul Vets have seen an outbreak on farm only last week. The first clinical sign in this case was scouring closely followed by sudden death. In some cases, lambs died before the presence of a scour.

Faecal egg counts from these lambs revealed a high Nematodirus battus count however, it is important to remember that a low count does not necessarily mean that the prevalence of N.battus is low in a flock, as acute disease is caused by developing larvae and adults before egg laying. If you are worried, it may be worth drenching with a white wormer which is effective against N.battus to reduce the risk of nematodiosis occurring in your lambs.

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