

Rainsbrook Veterinary Group



LA Newsletter

This newsletter is to keep you up to date on relevant news and offers.

Medicine News:

Please find listed below latest changes to availability and usability of medicines:

Ketol 80% oral solution (MSD Animal Health)—This has now been discontinued and no longer available

Noroclox DC 500mg (Norbrook)—minimum dry cow period has changed to 35 days from 28 days. Milk withdrawal has changed from 96 hours to 108 hours. Meat withhold remains the same.

Multivitamin injection (Norbrook) - now indicated in HORSES ONLY. Not to be used in food producing species.

Contact details: If you have an email address, please send it to Linda Peake (Head of Reception and Large Animal Co-ordinator) on Imp@rainsbrook.com. This can potentially speed up the process of exchanging documentation and information between ourselves and you.

Lameness in Sheep & Foot Trimming (Presentation and practical work):

On the 7th March we are holding the above training session at The Green Man Meeting Room (114 Daventry Road, Dunchurch) from 10am and then at Lodge Farm, Woolscott, Rugby. Training will be provided by our veterinary surgeon Andy Craig. The cost of the day is £25, and this includes lunch and a pair of foot trimmers. Space is limited to 15 attendees, so please contact Linda Peake as soon as you can to book your place: Imp@rainsbrook.com or 01788 542221.

MEDICAL SERIES: Johne's Disease.....

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**RAINSBROOK
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Johne's disease is a chronic disease that, after a period of scouring and weight loss, ultimately results in the animal's death. It causes huge economic loss to the national cattle industry and yet its presence goes unrecognised in many herds.

Johne's disease is caused by a bacterium, *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (or MAP for short). Cattle can become infected with MAP at any age although infection within the first few weeks or months of life is most common. Calves can even become infected before they are born.

Following infection, bacterial multiplication is slow so that clinical signs of disease are usually only seen once the animal has reached between three and six years of age. However, it is still possible for animals as young as 18 months to show signs of clinical disease.

Signs of Johne's disease

A clinical case will affect older animals (>3 yrs of age), and often occur after stress (possibly calving etc). For each clinical case there could be another 10-25 infected animals (tip of the iceberg).

Classic signs of a clinical case:

- scouring
- weight loss

animal may remain bright and eating

In most cases, the affected animal can remain bright, although this animal may or may not have periods of remission and appear to recover from these episodes. Despite these episodes of remission and recovery the disease is irreversible.

Tip of the iceberg.



Stage 4. Advanced clinical disease	1
Stage 3. Early clinical disease.	1 - 2
Stage 2. Sub-clinical disease. Shedders.	4 - 8
Stage 1. Silent infection. Calves, youngstock.	10 - 14
- TOTAL	15 - 25

Problems of a sub-clinical case (the animal that looks normal but has subtle problems)

- Reduced milk production
- Problems with fertility in bulls and cows

Calves may show poorer than expected growth rates

Ultimately the affected animal will eventually develop oedema ('bottle-jaw') become emaciated, and death will follow.

Transmission

- 5% - before birth, in uterus if the cow is a clinical case
- **80% - new born calf (0-4 weeks), via colostrums/milk, cows faeces, calf to calf**
- 10% - young heifer
- 5% - older heifers and cows

Diagnosis

In a herd there will be 3 groups of animals:

- Non-infected = no risk
- Infected but non-shedding = no risk yet!!!
- Infectious= animals are shedding (spreading) the disease = RISK
 - Low shedders
 - High shedders - colostrums and milk are high risk
 - Supper shedders - colostrums and milk are high risk

The tests we can use are Blood sampling and Faecal cultures. However we must bear in mind both these tests are **NOT** 100%. So repeat testing will increase the chance of picking up infected animals.

Herd Health Planning

In order to minimise the losses caused by Johne's disease it is important to define a herd's disease status and then to take appropriate action:

- Either 1) Test and Cull infected animals
or 2) Test and manage
- Hygiene & biosecurity

It is not enough to just test animals and take appropriate action, Hygiene & biosecurity play a very important role as well. You will need both these strategies to control this disease

1) Test and Cull

- Annual blood test – all adults > 2 yrs old
- Cull all positives
Cull all daughters

2) Test and manage

This uses a traffic light system

- Green = currently non infectious
- Amber = medium / high risk
- Red = very high risk

This system will require more regular testing, 2-4 times a year

AND

Biosecurity and hygiene

- Calving area – snatch calving at birth for dairy units
- Clean calving pens
- Individual calving pens/hutches
- Young stock separate from bulls
- Colostrums – only feed cows' colostrums
- Do not mix colostrums and feed to multiple calves
- Slurry and manure on grazing
- Contamination of feeds
- Possibility of sheep and wildlife transmission

Buy from clean herds – no history of disease and negative tests on at least 3 occasions

For more information or to talk about Johne's then feel free to contact us.



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