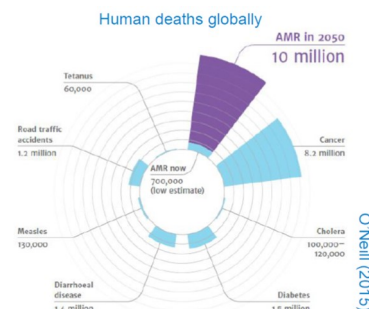


With the clocks going back and darker evenings, it is definitely feeling that Winter is approaching. At our recent Hampshire Women's Discussion group we were looking at antibiotic reduction on farm, comparing figures for usage in our health plans. In 2015 there were 700,000 deaths in humans from antibiotic resistance and if we (both human and animal sectors) keep using antibiotics in the way that we do then by 2050 this will rise to 10 million, more than deaths attributed to cancer. These statistics made us

really think about all of the ways we could reduce our usage on farm when looking at different sectors such as young stock and mastitis. On another note we are running a **First Aid Course** on Monday 27th Jan & Monday 3rd Feb. If you are interested please contact the office for more details.

Claire



Calf Health (Maarten)

I have just come back from the annual congress of the British Cattle Veterinary Association. It is 3 days crammed full with the latest research and thinking on the issues that we face in our day to day work presented by national and international experts.

Several sessions were focussing on calf health with one in particular on mortality rates and how to reduce them as 25% of on-farm deaths are in animals less than 3 months of age (!). The highest risk for this are those animals that are born in November and December with dairy bull calves most at risk followed by dairy heifers followed by beef calves. Cleanliness of containers and feeding equipment used for colostrum is important as coliform bacteria will bind antibodies and make them unavailable for the calf. Bacterial counts are much reduced when hot water and hypochlorite is used compared to just water of parlour wash. Also reducing the time that colostrum in buckets (with lids) sits in the ambient environment before feeding vs putting the colostrum in the fridge (24-48 hours max storage at 4 degrees) helps to reduce deterioration of those antibodies.

Apart from various scour pathogens, like Cryptosporidium, rumen drinking is a major cause of mortality in calves. It was concluded that the biggest wins in a calf health programme were:

- Have a scour and pneumonia plan in place
- Look at the environmental temperature in the 1st month of life
- Colostrum collection and cleaning protocol

As the highest risk months are coming up this is the best time to sit down with one of us to see what can be done to improve the life of calves on your farm.

Bloat in Cattle (Anna)

Recently, I have seen a few cases of bloat occurring in cattle, so I thought I would include a little reminder about it. Bloat is an accumulation of gasses within the rumen, either in the form of a foam in frothy bloat or as gas in free-gas bloat. The mortality in pasture grazed cattle has been recorded as high as 20%. Frothy bloat occurs when normal fermentation gases are unable to escape so produce a stable foam, the continued gas production and coalescence of gas bubbles leads to increased ruminal pressure and size. Free-gas bloat occurs when physical obstruction of eructation of gas is prevented. Bloat can also be secondary to ruminal atony which most commonly occurs in cases of grain overload which significantly reduces the pH (acidosis) causing a decrease in rumen activity. Acidosis typically occurs when diets are changed suddenly to high concentrate or large amounts of fermentable carbohydrates are suddenly consumed. Bloat is characterized by a large distended left side of the flank with can progress to distension of the entire abdomen. If allowed to continue bloating can cause increased pressure on the chest causing difficulty breathing, leading to collapse and death. In a group of affected cattle signs can range from mild to severe. Treatment requires fast release of the pressure caused by the gas build up. In cases of free-gas bloat this can often be done by passing a stomach tube to release the gas. For frothy bloat passing of a stomach tube may reduce some of the pressure, then drench with an anti-foaming agent such as vegetable oil or liquid paraffin. In severe cases or where no improvement is seen a trocar may be required to release the pressure. As with most conditions' prevention is better than treatment. Most cases of bloat can be avoided by ensuring that dietary changes occur gradually and that excessive feeding of grain is avoided. If you have any questions please discuss with your vet.

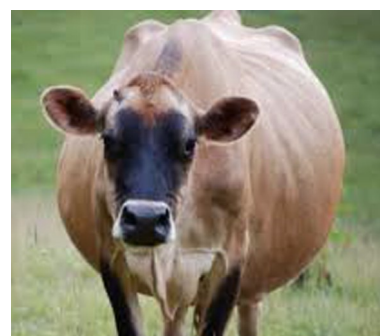


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Leon Schmidt

As a practice we are extremely saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Leon Schmidt. Until recently Leon was part of the furniture at Cowdray Estate before moving to Tuppers. Personally I have extremely fond memories of our conversations about most things other than cows! Running, children & rugby featuring heavily. Being Welsh myself, he would have had plenty to say after the Wales Vs South Africa game! Our thoughts go out to his wife, boys, family and friends at this time.

Claire

NSA Sheep meeting (Sarah)

Following a very successful Sheep Health, Wealth and Production conference held in November 2017 and organised by NSA South East Region, the event will return once again this year on **Wednesday 20th November** at Guildford Veterinary School, Surrey (GU2 7AL) at 12.30 – for a 1.30pm start until 7pm.



Attendees can expect to hear from an impressive line-up of leading sheep industry experts discussing the latest topics influencing sheep health and production. There will be updates on sheep scab from the Moredun institute, best use of vaccine advice from vet Kat Baxter-Smith and lots more on many other important topics.

The venue holds a limited number of people so members are encouraged to book their place – visit www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events to download a booking form, tickets are £18/ person or £33/person if you want to attend the after conference supper and social. I look forward to seeing some familiar faces there.

Upcoming Beef Meeting (Anna)

Most of you are probably already aware of key performance indicators (KPI) commonly used in the beef, but are we making the most of the information gathered from them and utilizing it to adapt and improve on-farm management. On Wednesday 13th November Maarten, Sarah and Anna will be holding a meeting aimed to give you a whistle stop tour through the main beef KPIs, their importance and relevance to you. They will each focus on a different specific area relating to a KPI which could be used to influence the performance of your farms. There will be an opportunity for a Q&A section of the meeting so please come with some questions for us!

We would also love your input on ideas for topics for future meetings that you would like us to run.

When: **Wednesday 13th November 12.45-2.30pm**

Where: The Cricketers Inn Duncton, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0LB

A light lunch will be provided, the meeting is £20 per farm attending.

If you are interested please RSVP by ringing the practice on 01798 343538 or via email: info@livestockvets.co.uk

BVD Stamp it out Update (Anna)

As I am sure you will all have seen we have been engaging with the BVD Stamp it out scheme over the last year. I wanted to give you all an update on the scheme so far. Across the country 4187 farmers have enrolled on the scheme with a large proportion of these sharing the results to BVD Free England- an online sharing platform which allows interested parties to access the BVD status of a farm. There has been slightly more involvement across the dairy section (59%). Of the 3380 farms who have undertaken testing only 225 holdings are reported to have had no signs of BVD, indicating that there BVD could be more extensive than previously thought. Of course as the project is on going these figures may change once all the results are collated. It is great to see the uptake across the country so far although the Schemes initial target was to have 50% of the breeding cattle in the UK enrolled. This means there is still funding available on the scheme until autumn 2020 so if you are interested in joining please contact one of us. Across the livestock partnership farms we have had 34 farms join the scheme. For those who joined the scheme already, but haven't completed the farm visits I will be contacting you shortly to arrange these.

