

**January Newsletter***Blwyddyn Newydd Dda*

<p><b>Free Flea Treatment for new Puppies &amp; Kittens</b></p> <p>While stocks last we are able to offer puppies and kittens free flea treatment within their puppy or kitten packs at their primary vaccination.</p>	<p><b>National Rabbit Week</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b></p> <p>During this week we will be offering FREE RABBIT HEALTH CHECKS. We will carry out a clinical examination of your rabbit and discuss husbandry, feeding, vaccinations, worming etc! There will be free food samples, rabbit care guides and feeding plans. Please telephone the Office for an appointment.</p>
<p><b>New Arrival</b></p> <p>Congratulations to Nicola and Rich on the arrival of a baby boy over the festive season.</p>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>We would like to welcome our new Veterinary Nurse, Caroline.</p>
<p><b>Planning for the 'P' system</b></p> <p>Organising pre-lambing boosters of Heptavac-P Plus and getting replacement breeding stock on the 'P' system takes on another dimension this year for flocks as they need to plan for bluetongue vaccinations as well.</p> <p>However, working out the best strategy with your vet now, ensures that timings will be accurate. Plus, the correct quantities of vaccines can be ordered.</p> <p>Any producers thinking about cutting back on pasteurella and clostridial vaccines this year to save cash should remember that a 5 to 1 return on vaccinating with Heptavac-P Plus has been calculated.</p> <p>It is proven to control pasteurella pneumonia and the seven major clostridial diseases. The P system involves two doses given 4 -6 weeks apart to replacement breeding stock before they join the flock.</p> <p>Boosters 4-6 weeks before lambing will maintain the ewe's immunity and have the added benefit that this also raises antibody levels in her colostrum, so that protection is passed on to lambs.</p> <p>Immunity won't be passed on if lambs don't drink at least 50ml/kg bodyweight of colostrum within six hours of birth. Once the lambs have grown past the initial early days, the protective effects wear off and lambs should also be vaccinated at around three weeks of age.</p> <p>Please ring the Office now to discuss the timing of your vaccinations.</p>	<p><b>Plan ahead to combat pneumonia</b></p> <p>Pneumonia can strike even the best run cattle units at this time of year, so it is important to have a strategy in place should animals succumb to the threat.</p> <p>Fast and effective treatment is the key to minimising the losses caused by calf pneumonia as failure to tackle the problem early results in permanent lung damage and significant reductions in an animal's potential performance and profitability.</p> <p><b>Batch treatment to protect in-contact cattle</b></p> <p>It is because pneumonia is so infectious and can quickly spread amongst calves that many progressive units around the world now find it beneficial, in certain situations, to protect at-risk cattle with a pre-emptive antibiotic treatment. This may be cattle showing no clinical signs of pneumonia that are sharing accommodation with clinically affected cattle, or incomers to a farm where disease has been a problem previously.</p> <p>Giving antibiotic to apparently healthy calves that are in-contact with visibly sick pen mates prevents pneumonia from spreading. Pneumonia can cause damage to the lungs before any clinical signs are evident.</p> <p>The bacteria responsible for causing pneumonia are found in the respiratory tract of healthy cattle and stress or a greater pathogen load – such as exposure to sick calves – can easily trigger disease. Pneumonia bacteria numbers can double every 30 minutes and in 24 hours, one bacterium can multiply to billions. Batch treatment kills the bacteria before they have time to multiply, release toxins and cause permanent lung damage.</p> <p>Please ring the Vets to discuss any problems so that we can decide upon the best course of action for your farm.</p>