

# Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues



## Hannah Fletcher

Midshire Farm  
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\* The warmer autumn has caused cattle to be housed

later than usual and, so far, fewer cases of pneumonia have been seen.

Many farms are using vaccines prior to housing and weaning as a routine preventative measure to reduce overall drug costs, deaths, and liveweight losses associated with the disease.

Liver fluke is still catching out some cattle farmers who have never experienced the problem before. Abattoir reports confirming damaged livers highlight the need to use fluke control on these farms.

Treatments containing triclabendazole will kill all stages of the parasite. However, many combination worm and fluke

products or injectable treatments do not kill the early stages. So if an alternative flukicide is used, additional treatment will be required prior to spring turnout to kill any remaining fluke.

## Matthew Berriman

Rosevean Veterinary  
Practice  
Cornwall

\* Many herds are just at the start of their mating period.

Heat detection is a vital part of getting these cows back in-calf as quickly as possible. The higher the submission rate, the more cows will get pregnant during the mating period. Submission rates of more than 80% are achievable.

Regular observation of cows, correct use of heat detection aids, staff training on recognition of bulling behaviour, and milk progesterone

testing are all things that will help increase submission rates.

Using a synchronisation programme can also help by ensuring that a group of cows has a submission rate of 100%. This increases the pregnancy rate in these cows, compared with natural heat detection.

Many herds find the cost of the programme is more than justified by the increased number of pregnancies and reduction in calving interval it achieves.

## Richard Davies

Fenton Veterinary  
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\* Hardly a day goes by without an article about antimicrobial

resistance in the veterinary or farming press. While it may be thought of as a problem in human medicine or intensive farming, we all have a role to play.

Cattle and sheep farmers have been largely unaffected, but now is a prudent time to have a proactive approach to antimicrobial use.

The two main points to consider are which antibiotics are used and whether they are used for treatment



## Review your antimicrobial use.

or prevention.

The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture alliance make a valid point that we should not routinely use antibiotics for prevention of diseases, if that disease challenge can be controlled by better husbandry and management.

Have a word with your vet about which antibiotics to use as a first line of treatment, and how changes of husbandry, management or housing could reduce the amount used on your farm.

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A regional monthly round-up of key veterinary issues from members of the XL Vets group.  
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