

Lungworm on the Rise

The Autumn this year has proven to be the worst I have known for lungworm. There have been a number of beef herds that have lost animals – including suckler calves – to lungworm and a few grazing dairy herds that have had cows with clinical lungworm. Lungworm is traditionally a late summer/autumn problem but it is unusual to see it in suckled calves because the cows eat most of the grazed forage and as a result, most of the lungworm larvae. This year, the environmental conditions – a relatively wet and mild summer - has clearly favoured lungworm development and propagation.



Fortunately, cattle are able to develop an effective immunity to lungworm after exposure. That is the basis of Huskvac, the widely used lungworm vaccine. However, the immunity is not long lasting without regular exposure. So even in herds where Huskvac is used in heifers, it is possible for cows to get clinical lungworm if they happen to calve at a time of year when they don't get to go out to grass.

The tell-tale sign is coughing in grazing cattle – particularly grazing youngstock. A typical presentation would be multiple animals coughing after exercise such as running up for food. In late summer/autumn, this is a very strong indicator that Lungworm is a problem and it would certainly be worth collecting some faeces for sampling or just drenching on suspicion.

In severe lungworm cases, there is risk of the condition of the animal deteriorating after drenching with the



commonly used drenches as the worms die in the airways and cause severe inflammation. However, Levamisol based oral wormers are less inclined to cause this inflammation and so are a preferred wormer when animals are obviously sick.

As always, the Synergy Team has a wealth of good information on the subject so if you are concerned about how to manage lungworm on your farm, give us a call.

Graeme M^cPherson
Veterinary Surgeon



© Beef Magazine

Beef Services – a constantly evolving process

As the year comes to a close and life returns somewhat back to normal, #teambeef have been having a think about how we can ensure our beef newsletter is as useful to our clients as possible. As a result we have decided to restructure it slightly. Rather than writing newsletters based on the present season, we have decided to provide you with quarterly communications aimed to pre-empt problems and to provide a more advanced, proactive reminder for things to consider as you approach certain times of year.

The new format is to use our quarterly communication to help you to think ahead and pre-empt problems well in advance, thus hopefully reducing issues throughout the year.

We will also, of course, continue to tell you about what we have been up to on our rounds, discuss interesting cases and inform you of any relevant seasonal promotions from dispensary.

As a team we are very keen to hear back from clients as to how we can continue to improve our beef services, whether on the suckler side, or beef rearing side. Within the practice we have a breadth of experience and enthusiasm across your sector so do please get in touch if you have any comments.



Our beef suckler health advisory package is proving a popular and cost-effective way for suckler farmers to be more proactive when it comes to herd health and management, as well as to keep track of their progress. If you would like to find out more, please contact me: louise@synergyfarmhealth.com.

We know that sometimes, despite best intentions, plans made during annual health planning vet visits can get forgotten during busy times. Our main aim with this

Beef News Winter 2021

- Beef Services
- Genomics Pilot study
- News from the Rounds
- Beef Meeting
- Using On-Farm Data Part 2
- Seasonal Dispensary Offers and Medicines Update
- Lungworm on the Rise

As part of improving our beef services we will also be hosting beef focussed meetings throughout the year. These will take the form of traditional meetings held in regional offices or pubs, as well as farm walks. Please keep a look out for advertisements and we look forward to welcoming you to these events.

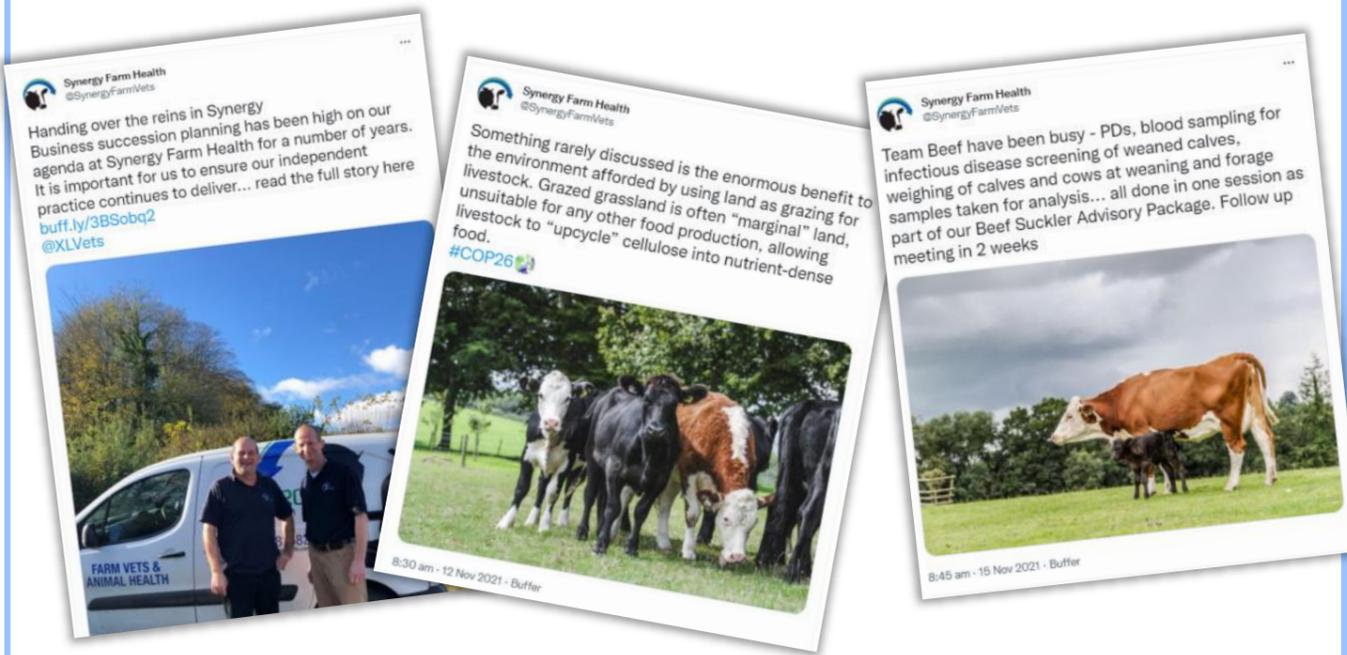
Equally, if you would be keen to host a farm walk please do let me know.

Louise Silk
Veterinary Surgeon



#synergytweets!

Follow us on Social Media: [f](https://www.facebook.com/SynergyFarmHealth) [i](https://www.instagram.com/SynergyFarmHealth) [@SynergyFarmHealth](https://www.tiktok.com/@SynergyFarmHealth) [@SynergyFarmVets](https://www.twitter.com/SynergyFarmVets)



Genomics Pilot Study

We are delighted that, following our article in the last newsletter, several suckler herds have taken up the opportunity to have a look at some genomic profiling of their animals and how it might be used in both commercial cross bred and pedigree herds.

Genomics is an ever-evolving science, but one which the dairy industry has been using for many years now to move their herds forwards. As a vet, I relish the opportunity to start the discussion with our beef herds as to the direction they want their herds to move – be it improved calving ease, or higher calf growth rates, etc..



© BoviNews

We hope to present the lessons learnt from these genomics pilot studies at a meeting later in the year so do look out for this.

Genomics may feel out of reach at this stage for your herd but can I encourage you to perhaps simply start having the conversation with your vet about what criteria you are looking for when selecting future breeding stock.

Vet Tech Reminder

Preparing your herd for winter – do you have any cows with long toes? Overgrown hooves can result in changes to the way the cow walks and unusual forces on the feet. This will increase the likelihood of foot problems over winter.

Our vet tech team have all the kit to trim cows feet quickly and efficiently, thus reducing the risk of foot problems. Lameness is a drain on time and resources and preventative trimming has been proved to be extremely cost effective.

Please do contact the office for more information, if you have a group of cows that could do with a bit of attention.

News from the Rounds

This is a busy time for a vet who spends a large amount of her time doing beef work. Coming up in the next few weeks I will be:

Doing LOTS of PDs of spring calving cows knowing who is in calf (or not) around weaning time enables you to make choices on who to cull, reducing wasted cost of feeding and/or housing empty cows over winter. If you need your cows PD'd please book them in now!



Monday: a busy day of beef pds in the East and a great opportunity to body condition score the whole breeding herd before winter.

Screening weaned youngstock to assess infectious disease status of herds. This can help you to know if vaccination is required for calves pre-housing or for cows pre-breeding. Ask your vet to take bloods as they TB test if carrying out pre-movement TB testing of stores prior to sale, or from weaned calves at your PD session.

Even if you sell your stores, these animals provide the perfect sentinels to indicate whether certain infectious diseases (which may affect fertility of the cows) are circulating in your herd.

Analysing forage reports and looking ahead to planning winter and pre-calving rations – ask your feed provider or your vet to analyse a sample of your winter forage. The energy and protein content of forage can vary dramatically year on year and even between cuts.

Body condition scoring cows pre-housing allows cows to be split into different management groups over winter to enable appropriate differential feeding to take place as necessary. Getting body condition and nutrition right pre-calving has so many knock-on effects for herd



Aren't I lucky to have a view like this at work!

productivity. You can do yourself or perhaps get our vet techs to give you a hand.

Reviewing youngstock growth and performance over the summer is key to progression of herd productivity – measuring performance enables you to make changes and achieve the consequential gains.

Carrying out herd health plan reviews – if yours is due in the coming months please do get in touch.

Louise Silk
Veterinary Surgeon



Making use of on-farm information– part 2

You can't manage what you don't measure!

Last quarter we looked at ways to assess breeding animal performance, using readily available information. Now we focus on youngstock performance.

As before, much of the information you need will already be somewhere on farm and a few minutes reviewing it can be very encouraging, as well as highlighting areas for improvement.

You will see that several targets below involve "adjusted 200-day weights". The entire calf crop is often weaned at the same time and this results in a range of ages. To be consistent, use this calculation to ensure you are comparing individuals or groups fairly:

$$\frac{\text{weight at weaning} - \text{birth weight}}{\text{age at weaning (days)}} \times 200d$$

Don't use this if calves are younger than 160d or older than 250d it becomes too inaccurate. Clearly, these targets need accurate weights and if you don't have a weigh plate I would encourage you to investigate! Many designs will fit in your existing crush, or **the Synergy Vet Tech team can bring their own to you.**

Data	Target	Relevance/importance	Comments
Daily live weight gain – (pre-weaning)	>1kg per day	Can be affected by calf health, success of diet and milk yield of cows.	Low weight gains should prompt investigation into infectious disease e.g. pneumonia, parasites or perhaps creep feeding or cow nutrition.
Average age and weight at weaning	Variable	Deciding on cut-offs (e.g. 350kg or 200d) allows you to assess individual animals performance.	Do you wean earlier to protect thin cows or later to prevent fat cows? Would calves benefit from less competition at grass?
Calves weaned per 100 cows and heifers put to bull	>94%	Reveals true efficiency of herd by including barren/aborted/stillborn animals as well as post-birth calf mortality figures.	A low figure here will indicate an inefficient herd. Was this down to problems with fertility or with calf mortality later? Is it time to have a closer look?
Cow efficiency (using adjusted 200d weights)	>50%	Identifies most and least productive animals on farm to inform breeding (or culling) decisions.	Influenced by calf growth rate AND mature cow weight - a larger cow may not produce a larger calf than a smaller cow, but she costs more in feed for the same result.
Calf mortality to weaning	<3%	More calves alive = better herd productivity	Does this link to assisted calvings, calving management, disease or cow BCS in your herd?

If you would be interested in discussing this type of herd analysis with us, please get in touch – Team Beef would be happy to help!

Reminder: XL Vets is still looking for farmers to join our countrywide beef benchmarking program.

This will involve contributing production data and discussion groups.

If you would like to be involved please speak to a member of #teambeef.

Tom Warboys
Veterinary Surgeon



Productivity - Identifying losses and making simple gains

Beef Suckler Pre-Christmas Social and Discussion Group Meeting

Tuesday 30th November 7pm

The Wheatsheaf Pub, Lower Woodford, Salisbury, SP4 6NQ

Evening meal and refreshments provided

To RSVP please call Reception on 01935 83682 to book your place, numbers are limited!



Seasonal Dispensary Offers



ENOVEX POUR ON
2.5L £32



EPRIZERO
1L £74
2.5L £135
5L £186



CLOSAMECTIN POUR ON
1L £126
2.5L £210



**** NEW PRODUCT ****
SOLANTEL POUR ON
1L £105
2.5L £195
5L £365



BRAVOXIN 10
50ML £18.50
100ML £28.50



FASINEX 24%
0.8L £80
2.2L £162
5L £295

*Prices correct on printing 18/11/21. Offers end 31/12/21. All prices ex VAT. For a full list of promotions, please call Dispensary on 01935 83682.

Medicines Update



Opticlox/Orbenin Eye Ointment

There is a current manufacturing problem with both **Opticlox** and **Orbenin Eye Ointment**. Please speak to our dispensary team about an alternative product at this time.