

August 2012

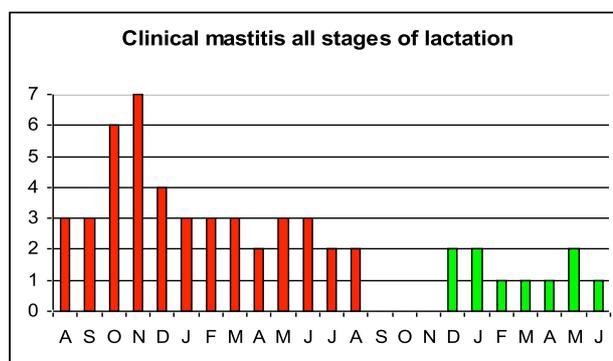
The Benefits of Using a Teat Sealant

The five point plan has reduced the incidence of contagious mastitis. Environmental mastitis caused by E Coli and Streptococcus uberis, now accounts for up to 65% of mastitis diagnosed on farm.

In a large proportion of cases, environmental bacteria infect the udder during the dry period but don't cause mastitis until the following lactation.

Use of the teat sealant Orbeseal alongside your normal dry cow antibiotic tube at drying off - so called dual tubing - has been shown to have the following benefits:

- 20% improvement in incidence of new infections at calving.
- 30% improvement in clinical mastitis between drying off and 60 days in milk.
- 20% improvement in somatic cell count at 6-8 days in milk.



The graph above illustrates a dramatic reduction in clinical mastitis on one 300 cow high yielding, low somatic cell count herd, following the introduction of dual tubing in September.

We recommend that all cows should be routinely dual tubed. To encourage uptake of this practice we have substantially reduced the cost of the 120 tube size tub of Orbeseal.

Correct Infusion Technique for Orbeseal:

- After infusing an antibiotic tube clean and disinfect the teat end again with surgical spirit.
- Pinch the top of the teat and infuse the sealant only filling the teat-see picture.
- When the syringe is almost emptied withdraw and deposit a small amount in the streak canal.
- If teats are small infuse as normal but discard any extra over and above that needed to fill the teat.
- After removal of the syringe – **DO NOT MASSAGE THE UDDER** - this is essential.
- Apply teat dip as normal.

Sheep Abortion Vaccines

If you have experienced high barren rates and/or abortion problems in your flock and have had toxoplasmosis or enzootic abortion detected, now is the time to vaccinate your ewes to protect them against future lamb losses.

Vaccination is the only practical way to avoid these diseases in future years.

Toxovax will protect the ewe against Toxoplasmosis for at least two lambing seasons and can be given up until three weeks before tupping.

Enzootic abortion vaccines protect ewes for a minimum of three years and can be given to ewe lambs intended for breeding, from five months of age. Ewes should be vaccinated at least four weeks before tupping. Vaccination of ewe lambs and replacement stock is recommended as soon as possible to reduce potential exposure risks from latent carriers in the breeding flock.

Toxovax and Enzootic Abortion vaccine can be used at the same time.

We have a discounted price when both vaccines are used at the same time.

Farmers For Action Protests

The Glenthorne Veterinary Group fully support the recent protests about the shameful down pricing of milk.

A lot of our vets have been involved in recent activity both at the recent Uttoxeter march and at the Foston dairy.

If you look carefully John Kirk, Gill and Hannah can be spotted in the photograph of the Uttoxeter rally on the front page of the July 27th edition of the Farmers Guardian!

Teaser Rams

Now is the time to prepare a teaser ram which will produce a much more compact lambing period.

The ewe flock is isolated for one month from the sight, smell and sound of rams. After this period a teaser ram is put with the flock for a period of 12 days. One teaser ram per 50 ewes is required. The teaser ram is then removed and replaced with normal rams.

When teaser rams are used a higher ram:ewe ratio of 1 per 25-30 is needed.

Teasers can be vasectomised either on farm or at the surgery.

