

# ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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SEPT | 2020

### INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone!

Goodness me, hasn't Spring started with a bang. For anyone like me, who suffers from hay fever, I think we're in for a long one!

Hopefully between the lamb marking and spraying, you have some time to read through the below and get prepared for the next seasonal changes and management decisions.

### FLY SEASON

2020 has been many things, but for the flies it has probably been the perfect year. The warm/wet weather is providing them with the "up and go" they need to be active early, and the forecast for Spring will allow them to be active for an extended period.

In Henty I believe our last fly blown sheep was in May, so we should probably be budgeting for a similar timeline this season.

Below are a few things we can do to help reduce the pressure on our stock:

1. Control scours as we introduce stock onto pastures
2. Ensure we are using a fly product after mulesing
3. Cleaning up dags or dirty bums where ewes are still lambing
4. If not shearing or crutching in the next few weeks, use an appropriate fly product for protection

We need to remain in front of the issue, which for us means getting these jobs done **BEFORE** harvest.

We have a range of protection periods, depending on when crutching and/or shearing is scheduled in, so please do not hesitate to get in touch, or ask when you're next in store.

For the cattle producers out there, unfortunately you and your stock are not exempt to the fly pressure, with Pink Eye sure to show up this season.

Again, we need to be proactive, ensuring we are vaccinating with Piliguard 3-6 weeks before the season kicks in. Piliguard protects against the three main strains of Pink Eye. Coupling this with a pour on, such as Easy Dose, will reduce the fly pressure around the beast.

*NB: Piliguard can be used in cattle as young as two weeks old.*

To further help, ADE may also be a good option to strengthen the eye membrane.

Vitamin A in particular, assists normal visual function and maintenance of the tissue/mucous. Using this at marking, or weaning is an appropriate time to boost the immune system.

### **BLOAT**

Bloat has already reared its head a few times this year, and as the weather continues to warm, and we experience spring storms, our pastures will continue to challenge us.

Spring has arrived in a hurry, so if we haven't already, now it is time to put our provisions in place again.

Calsomag plus Rumensin, is a great control option for bloat keeping the rumen stable and allowing the bugs to continue to digest under the pressure of our lush feed. It is also an excellent preventative for grass tetany, by providing adequate magnesium to our stock.

Bloat Liquids and Bloat Blocks are also available, so depending on your infrastructure products such as these can be a useful tool.

I find it beneficial to also provide fibre throughout the entire bloat period, as it will assist the rumen in remaining 'regular' and help to diffuse the build-up of gas.

The pastures may be getting a little heartier, which will work in our favour, but please still be vigilant with your stock, as they are still talking a wet Spring.

### **PULPY KIDNEY**

For anyone introducing stock onto pastures, or perhaps finishing off lambs and/or calves from earlier in the piece, have a think about when you last renewed your Pulpy Kidney protection.

You are covered for three months when conditions are kept the same. However, under similar seasonal conditions, we have seen MONTHLY renewals be necessary, so everyone please stay vigilant.

Even with all our feed being seemingly similar, there are subtle changes that can catch us out.

Changes in the feed from a sunny day to an overcast day or removing stock for an extended period as we shear for example, can be all the change the stock need to be affected by pulpy kidney.

Please have a think and consider how long between top ups it will be once harvest is over. It is better to be safe than sorry with pulpy kidney, so certainly consider giving a booster PRIOR to harvest.

That's it from me for now – I hope everyone is feeling confident for what is coming and are looking forward to recording some seriously positive results.

As always, if you have any queries about the above or anything else you are seeing, do not hesitate to contact myself or your preferred person in your branch to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Soph

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