



FLY CONTROL - MARCH 2024

As we head into Spring we can all start to be more optimistic - the days will get longer, it will get warmer, the fields will get drier and Scotland will win the 6 Nations (maybe not all of these are true.) However, one thing that is inevitable are flies. Although it seems early now is a good time to think about fly control.

Flies can be split into 3 different types:

©championanimalhealth.us



- **Nuisance flies** - commonly seen around the eyes of cattle, udders and around wounds. They breed in faeces and rotten vegetation and as their name implies these flies annoy cattle, causing irritation. They are responsible for transmitting diseases such as Summer Mastitis and New Forest eye

- **Biting flies** - such as midges, breed in faeces or around damp areas. These cause severe irritation and can be responsible for transmitting blood borne virus such as Schmallenberg or Blue tongue
- **Myiasis flies** - the larvae of these flies, maggots, feed on tissue causing flystrike. Although primarily an issue in sheep, in recent years we have seen cases of flystrike in cattle.

Losses:

Flies are well documented for causing losses through disease, reduced feed intake and in turn yield/daily liveweight gain and also compromise welfare. Diseases such as Summer Mastitis and Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (New Forest Eye) both require treatment and can be frustrating cases to resolve.

Blood borne viruses such as Schmallenberg can cause fever, reduced milk yield, inappetence and diarrhoea in adult cattle, however is most commonly associated with abortion or foetal abnormalities during pregnancy. We have unfortunately seen an increase in suspicious Schmallenberg cases this year so far - likely down to a mild autumn and winter. There is also concern that with increased temperatures the risk of Bluetongue will also spread to the Southwest as cases are currently being recorded in Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk.

MEETINGS COMING UP...

DAIRY HEIFER REARING

Whitelands Farm,
Kington Langley,
Chippenham. SN15 5PD
Wednesday March 13th,
11am - 2pm
Food and drink provided



BEEF AND SHEEP MEDICINE HANDLING COURSE:

11AM - 12PM

@ The Practice, 18th April

£75 + VAT



If you are interested in either of the above please contact the office on 01666 823035



Farmers weekly

Fly Control

Environmental - when tackling flies, addressing the environment is an easy place to start. Adult flies only account for 15%, therefore addressing the remaining 85% is essential to fly management. Focus on the type of environment flies favour: areas in sheds where the muck scraper can't reach, calf hutches, corners of buildings, manure heaps etc. There is also evidence showing increased dung beetle populations help reduce the fly population, so trying to protect soil health and reduce unnecessary wormer usage!

Fly tag - fly tags containing synthetic pyrethroids (most commonly cypermethrin) are effective for the whole fly season. For fly tags to be effective they need to be placed before fly burdens are high (i.e. at start of the fly season) and the entire herd tagged.

Pour on - pour on products containing synthetic pyrethroids (such as deltamethrin and permethrin) have been the mainstay of fly protection for many years, with products usually lasting 4-8 weeks. This means these products often need re-applying throughout the season. If you require fly treatment, please contact Bridget in dispensary for the best price!

Friendly flies - "friendly flies" are parasitic wasps which target nuisance flies by eating the larvae before they develop into adult flies, reducing the overall fly population. They are placed from March to November in high-risk locations (as mentioned above). There is a lag period in the first season so fly cover may still be needed. Our Vet Techs have offered this service for the past few years and are getting busier year on year! If you would like further information, please contact us.

Fly Bucket Traps - these bucket traps are for outdoor use only and can be used in pasture areas to reduce adult fly populations. The buckets are filled with a bait and 5 litres of water, then placed 1.5m above ground level in exposed sunlight (needed to activate the bait). The bucket are best placed at the start of the season as soon as the first flies arrive with the bait needing to be replaced every 60 days thereafter.

Others - with the recent drive to reduce synthetic products, some farms are opting for more "natural" methods of fly prevention. A lot of products now contain garlic - however to my knowledge there are no papers with conclusive evidence of efficacy.

Like many things there is no singular best option for fly control, however adopting a multimodal plan is a more practical approach. **Targeting both the adult fly population** (with pour on products, tags and/or fly bucket traps) as well as the **maggot/ larvae stage** (with friendly flies and/or environmental changes) will keep you, your cattle and your vet happy.

Interesting case

Tom has recently been dealing with a case with calves being born deformed with short bent legs. Initially bloods were taken for Schmallenberg however these came back as negative.

The cows were fed 100% grass silage (initially containing a high level of red clover) on housing (corresponding to when they were 4 to 5 months pregnant) with no extra minerals. This led to a presumed diagnosis of manganese deficiency.

Manganese deficiency in the pregnant female is often difficult to diagnose, as the cow does not show any visual signs. However, the calf can be born with ataxia (unsteadiness) or skeletal malformations. Cows fed a diet of primarily silage are at risk, will red clover leys of higher risk still.

If you are unsure of your silage quality, it is recommended to avoid feeding more than 75% of the cows dry matter intake from silage. Bulking out the diet with low quality forages such as straw can help reduce the risk. If you have any concerns seek nutritional advice or give us a call.



All the best, Keir



Pasture and Profit in Protected Landscapes

Join FREE farmer-led events on this programme now running across the Cotswolds, Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes.

Events will focus on how to get more feed from your pasture with fewer inputs and lower costs, whilst building soil health and supporting biodiversity on your farm. As part of the programme you will receive a free year's trial of Pasture for Life membership and you have the option to apply to access one-to-one mentoring to help you develop your farm business.

For more info (or scan the QR code)
<https://www.pastureforlife.org/webinars/pastureandprofit/what-is-the-pasture-and-profit-in-protected-landscapes-programme/>

Sign up for 12th March -
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/845730993367?aff=odds&creator>
Sign up for 20th March -
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/845737161617?aff=odds&creator>

Upcoming farm walks to try out before you sign up

12th March: Winter grazing and outwintering @ D'Oyley's Farm, Stadhampton

20th March: Direct selling workshop @ Whittington Lodge Farm



FOR SALE - Details are as follows: price on application, will be reasonable!
rocollingborn@hotmail.com - 01666 510261

BRINKWORTH BUSTER VG87 82% Friesian born 19/08/21

3 Generations Excellent, 6 VG & EX on female side
Sire: Barncluth Arrival EX91
Dam: Brinkworth Beulah VG87 in herd
03 7293 278 5.28 3.58
Grand dam: Brinkworth Bo EX91 (5)
05 8188 305 5.25% 3.36% 7 lactations
High milk quality, longevity, plus production for 5 generations
Easy calving – calves get up and suck 10 & 11 lactation cows in stack
Very good looking bull, super for Friesians or outcross
AI: £8 a straw from UK Sires, bull also available for sale

BRINKWORTH PRIDE born 26/9/22 2 generations EX

Black bull 23% Friesian
Sire: Brinkworth Reynard 77% Friesian
Dam: Brinkworth Pretty EX95 (6) KCBB LP50 SP
In 8th lactation 04 9064 305 4.37 3.32
Grand dam: Brinkworth Penny EX93 (4) LP80 SP
08 10399 305 4.15 3.32 PI 139

This bull will give you longevity, good milk quality and production with excellent conformation

BRINKWORTH NAUTILUS 2ND POLLED BULL born 01/10/22 3 generations EX

Sire Dynamic P A2A2
Dam Brinkworth Nebo EX 91 (3) LP50 SP in 6th lactation
04 10757 305 4.19 3.3
Grand dam: Brinkworth Nibbler EX91
06 10080 305 5.34 3.3 PI 149
Grand dam Brinkworth Nosegay EX 93 (5)
06 10139 305 4.27 3.3
Nautilus 2nd is polled and will give you longevity, good milk quality and production with excellent conformation