

# Broughton Veterinary Group

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## Newsletter – May 2010

### 1. New Sheep Wormer – Zolvix

Those of you that attended our recent meeting on sheep anthelmintic resistance will have learned of the new sheep worm drench "Zolvix" launched last month by Novartis Animal Health.

**"Zolvix" is a completely new wormer and is from a new group of wormers called 4-AD (Orange Drench) group.**

(Class 1 = white drenches or BZ's such as Panacur; Class 2 = yellow drenches or levamisoles such as levacur; Class 3 = clear drench or macrocyclic lactones such as Ivermectin). As this a completely new product, there is no known resistance to this wormer. It is currently available as a sheep wormer drench only. It treats gutworms (Barbers pole worm, Small brown stomach worm, Stomach hair worm, Black scour worm, Small intestinal worm, Thin necked intestinal worm, Large bowel worm, Large mouthed bowel worm) but not tapeworms, ectoparasites (e.g. scab) or Liver Fluke. It has a 7 day meat withhold and comes in 1 litre and 2.5 litre packs. It is only available through Veterinary Practices (POM-V). Please contact us if you wish to use this product or discuss your flocks' worm control programme.

### 2. Nematodirus Battus Warning

The prolonged cold winter and late spring has led to a prediction of above average N.Battus (Sheep gutworm) incidence this year. (Lower temperatures cause late hatch of over wintered N.Battus coinciding with high number of susceptible lambs on pasture). Lambs are usually considered most at risk between 6 and 12 weeks old, although younger lambs can be at risk as soon as they start grazing. The best control method is to avoid grazing lambs on pasture used for pre-weaning lambs the previous year or ideally previous 2 years. If this is not possible, a risk assessment should be carried out based on farm and pasture history, forecasts and the age of the lambs during the risk period. Three weekly prophylactic treatments can then be given as required, to cover the period when the high risk age range and the high risk time period overlap. In spring born lambs this may result in a single treatment in low risk years, and up to three in high risk years. Using faecal egg output monitoring to time Nematodirus treatments can be risky, as severe disease may be caused by worm larvae even before eggs appear in the faeces. Nematodirus has no resistance against any of the wormers so any group of wormer can be used for treatment.

**Peak pasture infectivity was estimated in Mid April leading to the highest risk period for N.Battus this year expected to be in mid-late May. An updated forecast will be available soon on the NADIS website ([www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk)).**

### 3. New Calf Disease – Bovine Neonatal Pancytopenia (BNP) or Bleeding Calf Syndrome

Since 2008, a new disease called Bovine Neonatal Pancytopenia (BNP) has been described in calves. (Blood Sweating Calves) The majority of cases have been reported in Germany but there have also been cases in other European Countries including the UK. The disease affects new born calves up to 4 weeks old, in most cases, after colostrum intake, and is characterised by the appearance of some or all of the following clinical signs; internal bleeding, tiny red spots on mucus membranes (nose, gums, mouth), black diarrhoea, bleeding from intact skin, excessive bleeding from injection sites and ear tagging sites and spontaneous bleeding from wounds or orifices. Various investigations are underway across Europe to try identify the cause of this new disease. Thus far, we haven't seen any cases of this disease within our practice. However, it is vital that any suspect cases are reported and recorded to allow research and investigation and ultimately find the cause and a cure or prevention for this disease. Therefore, please report any suspect cases to the practice for investigation. **Currently, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) offer free Post Mortems (including carcass disposal) for any suspect cases.**