

ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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JUNE | 2021

INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone, hope you are all going well and have been catching the falls of rain that have been blowing their way across the region.

Winter certainly made its mark early this year and is playing a big part of the below information.

GRASS TETANY

As was discussed throughout the pre-season, we know that cereals are deficient in minerals, with particular focus on magnesium. With this knowledge embedded into our brains, we have become very proactive with offering loose licks or blocks.

With the drier April and May, we haven't been given the chance to graze these crops, which has forced us to continue to utilise the pasture paddocks. Even with the summer rain, these paddocks now have short feed.

The quick arrival of winter, delivering a few days of heavy frosts has also added to the grass tetany risk further decreasing the pasture quality, and causing a greater decline in the magnesium content in the plant.

Typically, people comment on the demeanor of their stock, as affected stock can become quite aggressive/excited. Along with this, we can see twitchy behaviours, nervousness, bellowing, and staggering.

However, more often than not, we unfortunately find dead stock. Here we will see froth from the mouth/nose, and marks on the ground where the beast has been thrashing.

As per usual, the best option is prevention, and this can be made easier by being aware of the condition of our paddocks, the status of our stock, and the weather conditions (even though they are hard to predict at the best of times!).

For example:

- Pasture paddock that is on its last legs, may have little clover left allowing the grass to become the dominant species (Still short)
- Pregnant stock (older breeders especially)
- Frosty weather

There are also times, where the stock are deficient, but don't seem to showing signs, but once put under pressure through mustering, processing, and/or trucking, stock can suddenly show symptoms. So again, be conscious of what sort of environment your stock are in and be in front of the problem.

We are looking for supplements rich in magnesium, such as Calsomag + Rumensin for a loose lick option or a block such as Beefmaster.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

I'd say for the past two weeks, we have begun introducing stock onto crops, and over that time, there have been some photosynthesis reports coming through.

So, as more of us begin to introduce stock, we need to remember to have our ducks in a row and be prepared **before** day one.

You may have notice photosynthesis over summer when the hairy panic is out, but for anyone that is unsure, we typically notice differences around the

- Face
- Ears and
- Nose

There tends to be swelling in those areas, and in some cases, there can be skin damage, like the burnt ears in the photo below.



To reduce the effects of photosynthesis occurring

- Plain hay and,
- Calsomag + rumensin

can be a great help.

The hay to help reduce gorging after a heavy frost, or prolonged overcast period.

The Calsomag + rumensin to allow the rumen to digest feed efficiently and effectively.

If stock do become affected, we recommend removing the affected stock, feeding them plain hay, offering shade, and even putting ketol in their water to perk them up and encourage them to eat.

VACCINE SAFETY

To finish off today, I will change tact...

We have recently had a producer inject themselves with Campyvax, which perhaps in the back of our minds we realise isn't a good thing but are uncertain what it really means.

Campyvax, just like Gudair (and Piliguard, Vibrovax, Bovilis MH & MH/IBR, Silirium, Roratvac and Bovilis S), is an oil-based vaccine. This oil is used to create a more significant immune response in our stock. In humans, it is a large irritant.

The below is an example of a Gudair accidental injection, showing the severe reaction our bodies do have to this type of vaccine.



The consequence can be more severe if a finger or tendon sheath is involved, due to the sensitive nature of that area.

So please, when vaccinating your stock

- Take Care
- Slow Down and where possible,
- Use a safe applicator to reduce the need to use our opposite hand

And you if do accidentally inject yourself,

- Read the label
- Seek medical advice, and
- Always take the box with you so there is no confusion what has been used

As always, if you would like to discuss any of the above in more detail or have other issues you'd like to discuss, do not hesitate to contact myself or your preferred person in your branch.

Thanks,
Soph

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