

Shaped shoe can tackle lameness



Easy-to-fit shoe

Dairy Spares has launched a shoe for treating lameness in cattle – the Demotec Green Shoe. It is fast and easy to use thanks to the design being very similar to the shape of a cow's claw and its flexibility makes it easier to mould, so the shoe will fit the claw instead of the claw having to be cut to fit the shoe.

Designed by Demotec, a leading supplier of hoof treatments, the shoe is applied to the good claw, which will give the infected claw time to heal.

Other advantages over conventional shoes include a new liquid/powder bonding system using a resin with a short and effective setting time of about five minutes. Both the liquid and powder are conveniently measured and mixed within the shoe itself prior to application. There are no sharp edges on the shoe, preventing the animal from injuring itself or others. The flexibility of the shoe also allows easy removal once the healing process is complete. The shoe is also available in an extra large size.

Shoes are available in packs of 12 or 36 and cost £99 and £275 plus VAT respectively.

Husk vaccine reminder

It's never too early to think about protecting your stock against lungworm for the forthcoming season. The lungworm vaccine, Bovilis Huskvac, will be available from January and remains in production until late summer.

Vaccinating young stock enhances their lungworm immunity by allowing them to graze contaminated pasture, and is the most effective way to set them up for successive seasons.

The trend during recent years of relying on treatment rather than prevention, as part of cutbacks, has seen more cases of lungworm now being reported in adult cows, where the losses are potentially much greater – reduced milk yields, poor fertility and even death.

Producers who work closely with their vets can develop a lungworm

control programme based on risk assessment and management practices. This is likely to feature the use of a lungworm vaccine, controlled exposure to contaminated pasture and choosing an appropriate wormer.

It is also important to make sure that the vaccine is available in plenty of time before youngstock are turned out to grass.

To be effective, the second of the two doses must be given at least two weeks before turnout. This means the first dose needs to be given at least six weeks before turnout.

Your vet will automatically order the second dose (given four weeks after the first) and, later in the season, be able to inform you when the last batch of vaccine will be made, so that late calves and stragglers are not forgotten.

Batch treatment

Apparently healthy cattle that are in-contact with pen mates showing signs of pneumonia gain significantly less weight and take longer to finish than animals in completely disease-free housing.

New trial work in France involving more than 1,200 finishing cattle on 71 finishing units has confirmed that as well as treating animals with obvious signs of the disease, it will also pay to treat other cattle in close proximity to the affected stock.

In the study, apparently healthy cattle in a pen with sick animals gained 41g per day less than healthy animals in a group with no disease. These in-contact cattle also took an extra 33 days to reach finishing weight.

"This recent study confirms what other trial work has shown in the US – that pneumonia infections can quickly damage lungs, even before you see visible disease symptoms," says livestock veterinary adviser Rosemary Booth. "For example, a US trial involving 469 cattle found that 72% of the animals had evidence of lung damage at slaughter, despite only 35% being treated because they had obvious disease symptoms."

She explains that the bacteria responsible for causing pneumonia are found in the respiratory tract of healthy cattle and stress or a greater pathogen load – such as exposure to sick calves – can easily trigger disease.

Pest control catalogue



Pelgar International has published a catalogue that features the company's entire portfolio for the first time – including all its rodenticide and insecticide products.

"While our Roban and Rodex rodent baits are well known within the farming sector

our insecticide products are less so," explains UK sales and marketing manager Nic Blazkowicz.

"But products such as Stingray and Vulcan fly spray are very effective against important agricultural pests such as poultry red mite and the midges that carry the Bluetongue virus.

"The new catalogue highlights the wide range of innovative products we now manufacture and distribute from our premises in Hampshire."

Presented on a one-product-per-page basis, the booklet offers useful information on each formulation, including the active ingredient, and outlines the situations where the product should be used. There is also a page which advises on best practice for applying insecticide sprays to ensure the greatest effect on the target pest.