

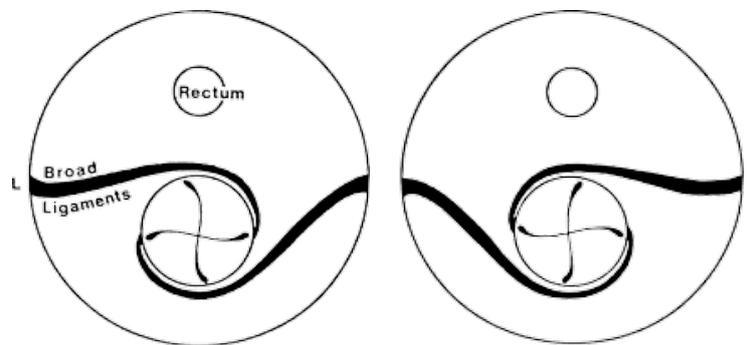
Understanding Uterine Torsions in Cattle

- Anna Hewison

In the last month I have seen 5 uterine torsions which has prompted me to do some research. A recent study found that up to 22% of dystocia's attended by vets were torsions, and the overall incidence of torsions in UK Holstein Friesians is 0.24% (Lyons et al., 2012). Twisting normally occurs during 1st stage or early 2nd stage labour when the pregnant horn rotates over the non-pregnant horn, most commonly in an anti-clockwise direction. The twist can vary between 90 degrees and 360 degrees. A definitive cause is unknown; however, it has been found that cows are at greater risk than heifers and twins are less of a risk (Aubry et al., 2008). At full term the uterus lies on the abdominal floor and is relatively unstable. When a cow lies down or stands up the uterus becomes suspended by the cervix in the abdominal cavity. It is thought that the combination of increased calf movements during 1st stage labour and a sudden slip, fall or knock by another cow could cause the unstable uterus to twist. Other potential influences are a small non-pregnant horn, decreased amounts of foetal fluid, reduced rumen volume and a large calf.

One of the greatest influences on success is whether the calf is alive or dead as it is easier to correct a torsion with a live calf. Quickly spotting cows with a uterine torsion will have a better chance of a successful outcome as a twisted uterus has its blood flow interrupted so it becomes fragile. Cows will generally be uncomfortable and shifting but will not always start pushing or show any membranes at the vulva. When examining the cow, you generally find that your arm is pushed to the left or right hand side and the calf can be hard to reach or upside down.

There are several methods to correct a torsion – manual untwisting, rolling the cow, detorsion rod and c-section. It is important to remember that after untwisting a torsion the cervix is often not fully dilated, therefore we need to be very careful with vaginal delivery of the calf. A study found that the next lactation culling rate of cows who had a torsion was 57%, with over half of these due to infertility (Lyons et al., 2013), however more research needs to be done into longer term outcomes.



180° RIGHT TORSION

180° LEFT TORSION



Join us for our
APHA Approved DIY AI Course

APHA Approved DIY AI Course

Giving certification to confidently perform artificial insemination of cattle

- Theory and legislation of the technique
- Anatomy and equipment handling practical sessions
- Cadaver uterine tract demonstration and practical, seeing/handling the cow uterine tract, outside of the cow
- Training cow practical, getting used to physical motions of AI on a model, before the real thing
- Two-day on farm practical, AI-ing live cows, demonstrations of technique and monitoring quality of the practical skills obtained
- On farm follow-up (subject to location), to ensure AI is being carried out successfully and pregnancies are being established, with further practical training if required

All of this will give the delegate a solid foundation to be able to effectively inseminate and establish pregnancies in cows, helping to improve fertility and genetics on-farm



Join us for
Dairy Herdsperson Certificate

Dairy Herdsperson Certificate

This intensive two day practical course is designed to provide essential skills for those working as a dairy herdsperson. Perfect as a refresher or for those looking to develop their skills to best practice level.

The course is split into 6 modules:

- Calving & Cow First Aid
- Fresh Cow Care
- Milking Routines & Mastitis
- Calf Rearing
- Fertility Management
- Hoof Care & Lameness

2 Days Training includes Tuition, lunch, refreshments during the day, dinner on the first evening, course notes & CPD certificate.

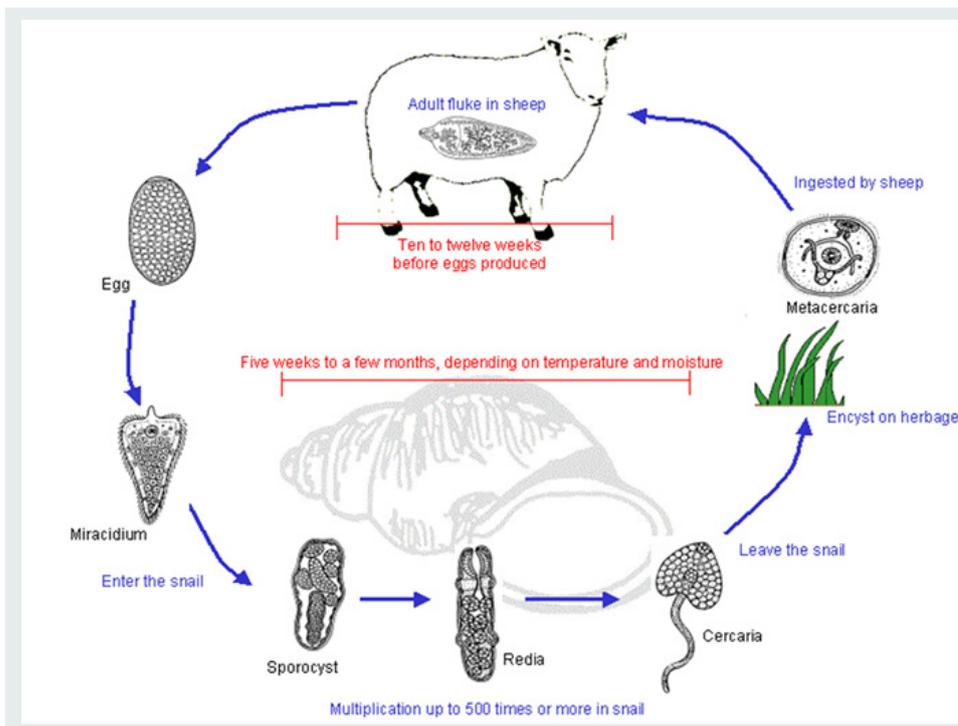


Defending Livestock: Battling the Complex Life Cycle of Liver Fluke

As a wet July/August ends, we will now start to look ahead to winter. This time of the year is where fluke starts to come to the forefront of farmers and vet's minds alike. It is a parasite which is ideally suited to the English Autumn and Winter, as it loves wet ground.

The life cycle of Liver Fluke is complex.

The signs of chronic fluke are condition loss for all ruminants, poor fertility/milk production in dairy cows, weak calves & high perinatal deaths in spring calving herds and bottle jaw in sheep. Acute infections can cause sudden death, it is usually only in sheep that we see signs of Acute Disease. If you notice any of these, please get in contact with the office or your vet.



There are multiple different tests we can use to identify a fluke problem at various stages of disease. One of the most sensitive tests is postmortem inspection, by vets or in the abattoir. We can also send faecal or blood samples to the lab. At different times of year, depending on stage of the Liver Fluke life cycle, we might suggest different types of testing. If fluke is diagnosed or causing clinical signs in your herd, it would be beneficial to treat.

With blanket treatment common, we are trying to make more sustainable decisions and try to reduce our worming/fluke treatments. This is key to ensure we have effective products available for when we need them most. Diagnosing a fluke burden before treatment is gold standard before any treatment is given.

For a ruminant to become infected, it must ingest herbage with the immature fluke stage on it. The mud snail generally spends most of its time on boggy ground or near water courses. A good method of prevention, therefore, is to fence off any areas like this to reduce snail-ruminant contact.

A key point about the fluke life cycle is the delay in development into adults once ingested by the ruminant. It takes about 6-8 weeks for the adults to form in the bile duct. Therefore, the immature fluke ingested can cause disease if in high enough numbers usually around late summer to autumn. The adult fluke develops and cause disease in winter and early spring.

If a fluke burden has not been diagnosed but the history and clinical signs all fit the fluke checklist, then a discussion with your vet is crucial to ensure the correct product is used. Triclabendazole products are the only product which treat immature fluke. We need to ensure we protect this medication and use it sustainably. In a chronically infected animal, other products should be used. As with all worming or fluke products, using combination products when not required will only predispose to resistance. Resistance does occur and is likely to become more prevalent on farms in the future if sustainable practices aren't followed.

- Harry Connock

All of our articles are available in full on our blog - check it out



Shepton Top 10

Recognising exceptional health and safety

COME AND JOIN US

We are delighted to announce that Shepton has been named as one of the Top 10 in the Health and Safety Awards 2014. Shepton has led its safety drive successfully for a second year in a row and will continue to strive for excellence.

To celebrate this we are presenting all the winners, including Shepton, at a

special awards ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel in London. Tickets for the event are available from the Health and Safety Awards website. We are delighted to have been recognised for our safety performance and will continue to strive for excellence.

Shepton has been named as one of the Top 10 in the Health and Safety Awards 2014. We are delighted to have been recognised for our safety performance and will continue to strive for excellence.

To celebrate this we are presenting all the winners, including Shepton, at a



UK: review how to lower your disease status, ensuring good disease control

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Good disease control is essential for a successful business. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control. It is essential to ensure that your business is protected from disease control.

Join us for our TEAS Lunch and Learn Meeting

Thursday 10th October 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Free

For more information, please contact:

TEAS Team

TEAS@shepton.com

01246 361111

01246 361111

01246 361111

01246 361111

01246 361111

