



Wensum Valley Veterinary Surgeons

FARM Newsletter

January 2020

Happy New Year !!!!!

Dystocia (difficulty calving) is a significant issue at calving as it causes poorer calf outcomes and is more likely to result in the cow not getting in calf again. This is in addition to the welfare concerns and the increased time taken up in monitoring and assisting with calving.



When thinking about reducing dystocia we already consider the impact of the bull and the nutrition of the cow on the size of the calf and take steps through bull selection and feed rationing to reduce the chance of a difficult calving. However we don't think about the maternal factors as much.

The pelvic area of the dam is considered to be the most important maternal factor determining the likelihood of dystocia. The pelvic area is affected by genetics as well as fat levels.

In an effort to help reduce the amount of dystocia seen by our farmers we have bought a **Rice Pelvimeter**. This is a large set of callipers that can be used to measure the internal pelvic area of heifers prior to being served by the bull. By measuring possible replacement heifers we may be able to predict those animals with a genetically smaller pelvic area. Once these animals have been identified we can elect not to keep them for breeding so reducing the likelihood of seeing a problem calving. Over time the hope would be to progressively breed for an easier calving herd.

The ideal age to be doing this is between 12 and 14 months - it could be tied in with BVD blood samples. We are keen to do this on as many farms as possible so if it sounds like something you would be interested in exploring more then give Howard or Jenny a call to discuss.

****Advance Warning****

On Monday 13th January 2020, due to essential power maintenance, we have been told we will be without power at the practice from 0900 to 1300. This means that **we will be operating on only ONE phone line for that duration and NO computer system.**

Therefore we ask politely that during this morning ONLY emergencies and vital issues are reported to allow those customers with an urgent requirement to get through to us.

You are welcome to email us (wensumvalleyvets@gmail.com) in the interim for any routine drug/appointment requirements, and we can of course call you back that afternoon.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

DON'T FORGET Our Sheep Discussion Group evening on the 16th January at 6pm. We will be discussing Iceberg diseases including Maedi Visna and Johne's. If you haven't already, contact the office in order to book a place or for more information. **Spaces are limited!**



Well done to Howard who has completed his Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice. This is the result of many hours of study covering all areas of cattle practice.

January Checklist

- ✓ Make sure calving/lambing preparations are in order
- ✓ Repair field boundaries and perform general maintenance
- ✓ Spread muck/slurry on fields

If you have any concerns or want to discuss your preparation for the lambing or calving period please give us a call to speak to one of the vets.

contact the practice on 01328 864444

check out our website : wensumvalleyvets.co.uk

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