

AHDA MATTERS

Animal Health Distributors Association (UK) Limited

'TIRELESSLY SERVING OUR MEMBERS TODAY AND SAFEGUARDING THEIR FUTURE TOMORROW'

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- **SCOPS – Nematodirus Warning**
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AHDA Membership:

Our membership drive continues to attract new members and a full listing, plus our suppliers joining under the Foundation Partners Scheme is shown below.

New Distributor Members

Ace Farm Supplies, Shrewsbury
Robertson Crop Services, Kildary
Collycroft, Derbyshire
Pharmall, Harrogate
Abbeydale Direct, Ashbourne
Agri Input Direct, Newton Stewart
Agrimed (Scotland), Glasgow
Green Farm Health, Thirsk
Michael Hoyle & Co, Clitheroe
PSB (Country Supplies) Tetbury

Foundation & Associate Foundation Partners

Bradshaw Bennett
Fort Dodge Animal Health
Trilanco
Battle, Hayward & Bower
Net-tex
Virbac Ltd
Janssen Animal Health
Agrihealth (NI)
Schering-Plough
Teisen Products
Merial Animal Health

Legislation and Current Issues

On the legislation front, AHDA is engaged in a push to the VPC (Veterinary Products Committee) to urge them to re-consider the omission of Enzovax, Toxovax, Scabivax Forte and Mydiavac from the sheep vaccine re-classification. Whilst we welcome Covexin 10 being recommended to become POM-VPS, the omission of these others was disappointing and we feel the VPC is not properly accepting the enhanced skill, competency and training of SQP's in their deliberations. Our response to the consultation has therefore been sent to the VMD emphasizing the time, money and investment in upgrading SQP's and our unrivalled position as competent, professional vaccine distributors. We welcome the support from AMTRA and RPSGB on this matter.

Cypermethrin Suspension:

The Environment Agency have just released the long-awaited paper detailing how Cypermethrin dip may be used by farmers safely and could lead to the licence (suspended February 2006) being released again. Whilst AHDA is aware that Cypermethrin is regarded as 'second choice' over OP dip, we believe that more choice and availability of dip will encourage farmers to invest in the necessary facilities with confidence and lead to better sheep welfare in the war against scab and decrease the dependency on injectables.

In summary, the EA detail four options:

- 1) re-introduction to all areas with control measures enforced by environmental regulator
- 2) re-introduction to all areas enforced via farm assurance schemes
- 3) re-introduction to all areas to approved contractors only who would enforce control
- 4) re-introduction to lowland UK areas only with control measures but no enforcement

The additional control measures to be implemented in any of the above four situations are:
Dip operator to hold NPTC Certificate of Competence, farmer to have ground water authorisation, dip location must be more than 100m from water course or water source, containment drip pens for 20-30 minutes holding, move sheep from drip pens to holding paddock(s) for 24-48 hours without access to a watercourse, on return to pastures not to cross a watercourse and no use of Cypermethrin in showers or jetties.

At a glance this may seem a tall order and would make Cypermethrin dipping impractical and not cost-effective but likewise many farms could adapt and start to re-use. EA have produced a lot of detailed costs on the options and AHDA would welcome, as always, your views on these proposals.

Nematodirus:

On a more general note, SCOPS have issued a timely alert for Nematodirus with a mass hatch of over-wintered parasites forecast. Their press release urges sheep farmers to assess the risk, consult vet or SQP and use a white (BZ) drench. It would be timely to include a slot in your next training/sales meeting to be able and ready to respond to enquiries from worried farmers trying to weigh up the risk.

Bluetongue:

Bluetongue continues to dominate the livestock industry with the first vaccine doses from Intervet arriving at wholesalers at the end of April. As covered in our last letter the accelerated provisional licence(s) mean any classification to POM-VPS has to wait until full licence. Our industry can only concentrate on prevention by repellent products to prevent the midges landing in the first place. We mentioned the work in Europe with Butox Swish having good effect on killing midges for up to 28 days. Net-tex (an Associate Foundation Partner) also offers readers an alternative. The Culicoides midge transmits the virus via saliva so best control is to prevent the midge even landing on its target species in the first place, hence the need for a proven repellent. Net-tex midge repellent for smooth and woolly hair is a proven culicoides repellent applied every two days, especially relevant to high value herds and farmers unable to get vaccine supplies.

RABDF:

The RABDF who host the annual Dairy Event have broadened the event this year to embrace beef, sheep and goats now called Dairy Event and Livestock Show. Scheduled for 17/18 September 2008 (last year's cancelled due to F&M outbreak), there are reduced ticket prices for groups and financial support for coach hire. Contact RABDF on 0845 458 2711 or visit www.rabdf.co.uk

Ian Scott. Secretary General. AHDA (UK) Ltd.

AHDA Council:

David Taylor, Countrywide Farmers (Chairman), **Malcolm Jesson**, CWG (Vice-Chairman), **John Rees**, WFS Border, (Vice-Chairman), **Rob Welch**, Battle Hayward & Bower (Vice-Chairman), **Martyn Channon**, Channon Country Store (President), **Ian Mennie**, Harbro, **Ian King**, Reid & Robertson, **Andrew Rettie**, McCaskie Farm Supplies, **Kevin Shaw**, Farmway, **Mary Phillips**, Hay & Brecon Farmers, **Karen Bevan**, CCF, **Philip Williams**, Wynnstay, **Peter Barker**, Wessex Animal Health, **Wendy Kett**, ACT, **Phillip Holden** MBE, Phillip Holden Rural, **Michael Hempstead**