Abner and Daniel Hughes
Fferm Brychyni, Sardis, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

WLBP HEALTH PLANNING OF BENEFIT TO LLEYN FARM

Abner and Daniel Hughes discussing herd health issues with their vet Ken Williams (left).

Abner and Daniel Hughes of Fferm Brychyni, Sardis, Pwllheli farm approximately 800 acres of both upland and lowland on the Lleyn Peninsula. In January 2007 the two brothers completed their WLBP herd health plan with Milfeddygon Deufor vet Ken Williams, supported by funding obtained by Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd under EU Objective 1 scheme.

One of the main points of discussion was the problem of calf diarrhea in calves under a week old. In the spring of 2006 a high proportion of the calves born developed a profuse scour. The calves rapidly became dehydrated and involved treatment with oral rehydration fluids and antibiotics. Due to the hard work of the two brothers none of these calves died but the labour involved was significant. There is no doubt that these calves developed some "check" in growth as well as the added cost of treatment. A rough calculation by the brothers estimated these costs to be in the region of approximately £40 per calf. The factors involved in calf scouring was discussed in some detail. It was pointed out by Ken that calf scouring and its prevention was a complicated matter as a number of agents and factors were involved.

The level of hygiene on the farm was good and the cows appeared in good bodily condition. The cows were mainly silage fed with no extra concentrates fed as is the case on many similar units in the area. Some of the recommendations for the coming spring was the need for thorough investigation of the possible case of the scouring in calves as well as blood sampling for colostrum intake and trace element status.

Spring soon arrived and the cows started to calve once more. The first calves to be born were not affected but to the brothers disappointment all the other calves born developed scouring. Abner and Daniel soon consulted their health plan and got in touch with Milfeddygon Deufor to implement the recommendations. It was at this point that the brothers were glad that they had put some time aside in their busy timetables to complete their health plan.

FACTFILE

- 800 acre upland and lowland farm on Lleyn Peninsula
- Farm beef and sheep
- 150 suckler herd producing Charolais x Limousin store cattle
- Small herd of pedigree Charolais breeding bulls
- 1200 ewe flock Suffolk x improved Welsh ewes

It was decided that the practice would visit the farm and examine the affected calves to take samples as well as to examine the management system. The brothers were pleasantly surprised that funding for the investigations was available again through WLBP. Within days the results came through and showed a number of organisms were involved namely Cryptosporidia and Rotavirus infections. Of particular interest to Ken was the finding of seriously low blood copper levels as he had seen similar situations where a deficiency of a single trace element can have a profound effect on overall herd health. Ken recommended that these findings were recorded in the animal health plan and further tests to be carried out to monitor the copper levels.

With this information at hand the brothers have started to work on a preventative programme for next year, one measure considered is the treatment of all cows with a slow release trace element bolus 6 weeks prior to calving. It was also advised that records were to be kept enabling a cost analysis to be carried out next year to determine whether the problem has improved.

Abner and Daniel stated that: "The health planning consultation has given us the opportunity to identify preventative methods of combatting herd health issues on our farm in conjunction with our vet, whereas previously we were turning in circles trying to combat issues that were affecting our system's production levels."

Ken stated: "We have been very pleased to see how health planning has worked for this farm as well as many others in the practice".

For further details of the scheme contact WLBP on 01970 636688.

WLBP acknowledge the help and support of the Welsh Assembly Government, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Abner and Daniel Hughes
Fferm Brychyni, Sardis, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

Cynllunio Iechyd Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru o fudd i fferm yn Llŷn

Abner a Daniel Hughes yn trafod materion iechyd y fuches â'u milfeddyg Ken Williams (chwith).

Mae Abner a Daniel Hughes o Fferm Brychyni, Sardis, Pwllheli yn ffermio oddeutu 800 erw o dir uchel a thir isel ar Benrhyn Llŷn. Ym mis Ionawr 2007 cwblhaodd y ddau frawd gynllun iechyd buches Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru Cyf gyda'r milfeddyg Ken Williams o Filfeddygon Deufor, gyda chymorth ariannol a gafwyd gan Gynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru Cyf o dan gynllun Amcan 1 yr UE.

Un o'r prif bynciau trafod oedd y broblem o ddolur rhydd ymhlith lloi dan wythnos oed. Yn ystod gwanwyn 2006 dechreuodd cyfran uchel o'r lloi a anwyd ysgothi'n helaeth. Aeth y lloi yn ddadhydredig yn gyflym a bu'n rhaid eu trin â hylifau ail-hydradu i'w llyncu a gwrthfiotigau. Oherwydd gwaith caled y ddau frawd, ni chollwyd yr un o'r lloi hyn, ond bu'n rhaid treulio amser sylweddol yn rhoi triniaeth iddynt. Mae'n amlwg fod twf y lloi hyn wedi dioddef a bod eu triniaeth wedi ychwanegu at y costau. Mae'r brodyr yn amcangyfrif bod y costau hyn oddeutu £40 y llo. Cafodd y gwahanol agweddau ar ysgothi ymhlith y lloi ei drafod yn fanwl. Dywedodd Ken fod ysgothi ymhlith lloi a'i atal yn fater cymhleth oherwydd roedd yn ymwneud â sawl cyfrwng a ffactor.

Roedd hylendid y fferm yn dda ac roedd yn ymddangos fod y buchod mewn cyflwr da. Roedd y buchod yn cael silwair yn bennaf heb ychwanegu unrhyw ddwysfwyd – yn unol â'r arfer mewn llawer o unedau tebyg yn yr ardal. Ymhlith yr argymhellion ar gyfer y gwanwyn canlynol roedd yr angen i ymchwilio'n drylwyr i geisio darganfod achos yr ysgothi ymhlith y lloi – yn ogystal â chymryd samplau gwaed ar gyfer cymeriant colostrwm a statws elfennau hybrin. Daeth y gwanwyn ymhen fawr o dro a dechreuodd y buchod loia unwaith eto. Ni chafwyd problem gyda'r lloi cyntaf i gael eu geni ond er siom i'r brodyr dechreuodd yr holl loi a anwyd wedyn ysgothi. Yn fuan ymgynghorodd Abner a Daniel â'u cynllun iechyd a chysylltu â Milfeddygon Deufor er mwyn gweithredu'r argymhellion. Roedd y brodyr yn falch eu bod, er gwaethaf eu prysurdeb, wedi neilltuo amser i gwblhau eu cynllun iechyd.

FFEIL FFEITHIAU

- Fferm tir uchel a thir isel 800 erw ar Benrhyn Llŷn
- Gwartheg cig eidion a defaid
- 150 o wartheg sugno yn cynhyrchu gwartheg stôr Charolais x Limousin
- Buches fechan o deirw magu Charolais pedigri
- 1200 o famogiaid Suffolk x Cymreig wedi'u gwella

Penderfynwyd y byddai'r milfeddygon yn ymweld â'r fferm er mwyn archwilio'r lloi a oedd yn dioddef a chymryd samplau yn ogystal ag archwilio'r gyfundrefn reoli. Roedd y brodyr yn falch o ddarganfod bod arian ar gyfer yr archwiliadau ar gael unwaith eto drwy Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru. O fewn dyddiau cafwyd y canlyniadau a oedd yn dangos fod nifer o organebau'n gyfrifol am y broblem, sef heintiadau Cryptosboridia a Rotafirws. Roedd o ddiddordeb arbennig i Ken ddarganfod fod y lefelau copr yn isel ofnadwy yn y gwaed oherwydd roedd wedi gweld sefyllfaoedd tebyg lle roedd diffyg un elfen hybrin yn gallu cael effaith ddifrifol ar iechyd cyffredinol y fuches. Argymhellodd Ken y dylid cofnodi'r canlyniadau hyn yn y cynllun iechyd anifeiliaid ac y dylid cynnal profion pellach i fonitro'r lefelau copr.

Trwy ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth hon mae'r brodyr wedi dechrau gweithio ar raglen ataliol ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf; un ystyriaeth yw trin yr holl fuchod â bolws sy'n rhyddhau elfennau hybrin yn raddol chwe wythnos cyn lloia. Cafwyd cyngor hefyd y dylid cadw cofnodion er mwyn gallu dadansoddi'r costau y flwyddyn nesaf a darganfod a yw'r broblem wedi gwella.

Dywedodd Abner a Daniel Hughes: "Mae'r ymgynghori ynglŷn â chynllunio iechyd wedi rhoi'r cyfle i ni ddarganfod dulliau ataliol i fynd i'r afael â materion yn ymwneud ag iechyd y fuches ar ein fferm ar y cyd â'n milfeddyg. Yn y gorffennol roedden ni'n troi mewn cylch wrth geisio datrys problemau a oedd yn effeithio ar lefel ein cynnyrch." Meddai Ken: "Rydym yn fodlon iawn â'r modd y mae cynllunio iechyd wedi llwyddo ar y fferm hon yn ogystal ag ar lawer o ffermydd eraill sy'n defnyddio'r practis".

I gael manylion pellach am y cynllun, cysylltwch â Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru ar 01970 636688.

Mae Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru yn cydnabod cymorth a chefnogaeth Swyddfa Prif Swyddog Milfeddygol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.