



WLBP HEALTH PLANNING CONSULTATION HELPING SOUTH WALIAN FARMER

Gareth Mulligan of the Afon Veterinary Centre, Neath, is a keen supporter of animal health planning and has helped all his clients who are members of the FAWL scheme to prepare plans specifically for their farm. One client who farms 180 acres plus 40 acres of summer pasture, breeds 360 cross-bred ewes with all replacements being home reared and finished lambs sold directly off grass. Vasectomised rams are used to synchronise ewes and reduce the length of the lambing period, which usually commences in early March. The farm also carries Limousin cross cows which calve in the spring with the calves being finished from 18-25 months of age.

Health planning has been carried out on the farm since the Objective 1 funding became available. Analysis of the ewe scanning figures for 2007 revealed a sudden rise in the barren ewes from 3% in 2005 & 2006 to 6.1%, with a high proportion of young ewes affected. In addition, analysis and comparison of the lambing records revealed that there was a rise in the number of stillborn lambs compared to the previous years as well. A vaccination programme against enzootic abortion had been in place in 2007. The barren ewes had been marked and kept away from the rest of the flock and these were blood



Vet Gareth Mulligan of Afon Veterinary Centre, Neath

sampled and the results showed evidence of infection of toxoplasmosis. Gareth Mulligan carried out blood tests for levels of copper selenium and cobalt which were all found to be in the normal range.

Toxoplasmosis is the second most common diagnosed cause of sheep abortion in the UK, but in addition to causing abortion, can also result in ewes being barren, lambs mummified and lambs being stillborn. Toxoplasmosis has a very complex life cycle which can involve cats and rodents, with rodents, like sheep being infected by eating the

oocysts (infective stages) in contaminated feed, water or the environment.

As a result of the sampling work and the diagnosis obtained, a vaccination programme against toxoplasmosis was established which was completed by the autumn of 2007, before the ewes went to the ram. Feed storage and rodent control was also reviewed. Scanning results for 2008 have revealed a dramatic fall in the number of barren ewes with the rate back to 3% and the situation will now be monitored regularly. It was only possible to quantify this problem because of the availability of suitable records on the farm.

Last autumn replacement ewe lambs which were grazing away from the main unit were reported to be in poorer condition despite being on good grazing. Faecal egg counts undertaken by Afon Vets as part of the 'worming plan' for the flock revealed only a low sub clinical worm burden in the ewe lambs. Funding provided by WLBP was used to carry out a blood mineral profile on a selection of the lambs which revealed a deficiency in blood vitamin B12 levels in the majority of the lambs tested. Cobalt is required in the diet of all ruminants for the rumen bacteria to produce Vitamin B 12 which if deficient in the animal results in poor appetite, loss of body condition, muscular wastage and finally anaemia.

All lambs had been given access to vitamin/mineral buckets during the autumn, but up-take had clearly been variable. Following the blood results, the lambs all received a cobalt drench and their condition was seen to improve significantly over the following weeks. The health plan was also modified to ensure that replacement ewe lambs will receive a planned and appropriate oral drench in future rather than relying on the up-take from mineral buckets only. Both these cases on the one farm illustrate the importance of having a structured health plan in place, a plan which deals not only with disease prevention, surveillance and control but one which also address and assesses production levels on a regular basis with regular views of the flock and herd. Gareth Mulligan also believes that it is important that any plan when reviewed sets targets for improvement which should be obtainable and practical to achieve and provide an obvious benefit to the farmer and his stock. "To be of any use to the farmer, the health plan must be a working, practical document and not a paper exercise", said Gareth Mulligan.

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

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YMGYNGHORIAD CYNLLUNIO IECHYD WLBPYN HELPU FFERMWR O DDE CYMRU

Mae Gareth Mulligan o Ganolfan Filfeddygol Afon, Castell-nedd, yn gefnogwr brwd i gynllunio iechyd anifeiliaid ac mae wedi helpu pob un o'i gleientiaid sy'n aelodau o gynllun FAWL i baratoi cynlluniau yn benodol ar gyfer y fferm. Mae un cwsmer sy'n ffermio 180 erw ynghyd â 40 erw o borfa haf, yn bridio 360 o famogiaid croesfrid. Mae'r holl anifeiliaid amnewid yn cael eu magu ar y fferm ac mae'r ŵyn wedi'u pesgi'n cael eu gwerthu'n syth oddi ar y borfa. Defnyddir hyrddod ymlid i gydamseru'r mamogiaid a lleihau hyd y cyfnod wyna, sy'n cychwyn fel arfer ddechrau Mawrth. Hefyd, mae'r fferm yn cynnal buchod Limousin-X sy'n lloia yn y gwanwyn, ac mae'r lloi'n pesgi rhwng 18 a 25 mis oed.

Gwnaed cynllunio iechyd ar y fferm ers i arian Amcan 1 fod ar gael. Dangosodd y ffigurau sganio mamogiaid ar gyfer 2007 gynnydd sydyn yng nghanran y mamogiaid gwag o 3% yn 2005 a 2006 i 6.1%, gan gynnwys cyfran uchel o famogiaid ifainc. Yn ogystal, trwy ddadansoddi a chymharu'r cofnodion wyna, gwelwyd cynnydd yn nifer yr ŵyn sy'n cael eu geni'n farw mewn cymhariaeth â blynyddoedd blaenorol. Mae rhaglen frechu rhag Erthyliad Ensöotig wedi bodoli er 2007. Cafodd y mamogiaid hysb eu nodi a'u cadw ar wahân i weddill y ddiadell a dangosodd samplau o'u gwaed fod yna heintiad o tocsoplasmosis. Pan wnaeth Gareth Mulligan brofion gwaed i ddarganfod lefelau copr, seleniwm a chobalt, darganfu eu bod yn normal.



Y milfeddyg Gareth Mulligan o Ganolfan Filfeddygol Afon, Castell-nedd

Tocsoplasmosis yw'r achos ail fwyaf cyffredin o erthyly ymhlith defaid yn y DG, ond yn ogystal ag achosi erthyly, gall fymio ŵyn a gall beri i ŵyn gael eu geni'n farw. Mae gan tocsoplasmosis gylch bywyd cymhlyg a all ymwneud â chathod a chnofilod. Gall llygod, yr un fath â defaid, gael eu heintio drwy fwyta'r wyau mewn bwyd, dŵr neu amgylchedd wedi'i halogi.

Fel canlyniad i'r samplu a'r diagnosis, cychwynnwyd rhaglen frechu rhag tocsoplasmosis a chwblhawyd honno yn hydref 2007, cyn i'r mamogiaid gael hwrdd. Yn ogystal, rhoddwyd sylw i storio bwydydd a rheoli llygod. Mae'r canlyniadau sganio ar gyfer 2008 wedi dangos gostyngiad dramatig yn nifer y mamogiaid gwag. Mae'r gyfradd wedi disgyn eto i 3% a bydd y sefyllfa nawr yn cael ei monitro yn rheolaidd. Ni fuasai wedi bod yn bosibl mesur y broblem oni bai am argaeledd cofnodion addas ar gyfer y fferm.

Yr hydref diwethaf roedd ŵyn benyw amnewid a oedd yn pori ar wahân i'r brif uned mewn gwaeth cyflwr er eu bod ar borfa dda. Dangosodd cyfrifiadau wyau ysgarthol gan Filfeddygon Afon, fel rhan o'r cynllun dilyngyru ar gyfer y ddiadell, fod llwyth llyngyr is-glinigol yr ŵyn benyw yn isel. Defnyddiwyd y cyllid a ddarparwyd gan Cynhyrchwyr Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymru (WLBP) i greu proffil o'r mwynau yn y gwaed ar ddetholiad o'r ŵyn. Dangosodd hwnnw fod diffyg fitamin B12 yn y rhan fwyaf o'r ŵyn a brofwyd. Mae angen Cobalt ar bob cilgnöwr fel bod y bacteria yn y rwmen yn cynhyrchu Fitamin B12. Os yw hwnnw'n ddiffygiol mewn anifail, gall olygu archwaeth gwael, colli cyflwr corff, gwastraff cyhyrol ac, yn olaf, anaemia.

Roedd yr holl ŵyn wedi cael cyfle i ddefnyddio bwcedi fitaminau/mwynau yn ystod yr hydref, ond bu'r cymeriant yn amrywiol. Yn dilyn canlyniadau'r profion gwaed, cafodd yr holl ŵyn ddrensh cobalt a gwelwyd gwelliant sylweddol yn eu cyflwr yn ystod yr wythnosau canlynol. Hefyd, cafodd y cynllun iechyd ei gymhwyso er mwyn gwneud yn siŵr y bydd yr ŵyn benyw amnewid yn cael drensh geneuol priodol yn y dyfodol yn hytrach na gorfod dibynnu ar y cymeriant o'r bwcedi mwynau yn unig. Mae'r ddau achos hyn ar yr un fferm yn dangos pa mor bwysig yw cael cynllun iechyd strwythuredig, cynllun sy'n delio nid yn unig ag atal clefydau, gwyliadwriaeth a rheolaeth, ond sydd hefyd yn mynd i'r afael ac yn asesu lefelau cynhyrchu yn rheolaidd yn y ddiadell a'r fuches. Mae Gareth Mulligan hefyd o'r farn ei bod hi'n bwysig fod unrhyw gynllun, ar ôl ei adolygu, yn pennu targedau ar gyfer gwelliant a ddylai fod o fewn cyrraedd ac yn ymarferol er budd amlwg i'r ffermwr a'i anifeiliaid. "Er mwyn bod o unrhyw ddefnydd i'r ffermwr, rhaid i'r cynllun iechyd fod yn ddogfen ymarferol a gweithredol yn hytrach na rhywbeth ar bapur yn unig", meddai Gareth Mulligan.

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.

