

B.A.B.S NEWSFLASH No16

OCTOBER 2009

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday October 25th 2009

At 10.30 for 11.00am

At The Jersey Cattle Building

The Royal Showground, Stoneleigh

LUNCH, please bring a contribution, tea and coffee provided

GUEST SPEAKER, will be Nick Clayton of the Goat Veterinary Society

If anyone has a particular topic they would like Mr. Clayton to cover please let me know in advance.

PHOTOGRAPHIC Competition, please bring a photo/photos you would like to see in your newsletter.

TOMBOLA and RAFFLE

Prizes welcomed

SUBSCRIPTIONS will also be taken on the day

The BABS PUBLICITY STAND

will be present with 2010 calendars and Christmas cards for sale.

If anyone has a particular topic that they would like Mr. Clayton to cover he would be pleased to answer any questions.

WANTED,

Black and white male goat, wanted preferably BA for herd in Cornwall. Barbara Baxter 01326 340772

British Alpine Milker wanted in the Wirral, Cheshire Brenda Noonan 01516384009

MYCOTOXINS

Some of you may have heard that I have been having some problems with my goats. I have had test after test throughout the summer, but after losing my two young BA milkers the vets sent off samples of my feed to be tested. After a four week wait I have had the results of the feed sample I sent off after Maryrose died. It was delayed because it came back with levels of a mycotoxin T2 that both the vets and the testing lab had never seen before. It appears now that the vets have been looking into problems in their dairy herds which they are now attributing to toxins caused by fungus growing on the crops. Allot of the toxins cause loss of performance, rough coats, loss of condition and infertility. Low regular doses affect the immune system. My goats have not had temperatures in any of the cases, in fact some have seemed chilled, most have scoured, but not all, death has mostly been rapid. For symptoms for my herd see CCN/enterotoxaemia and general inability to fight off infection, ie skin problems and post kidding infection. These toxins are often hard to detect as they develop hot spots in the feed. From what I can tell T2 is particularly vicious and can easily kill especially at the levels found. I get fresh batches of feed in every 10 to 14 days and sweep out the bin between, as far as I can tell it is coming in with different batches of feed. It lives on all the grains and with the time lapse it will be impossible to trace. Why some goats have come through I don't know, that is how it seems to go. The only way to protect against it is to use some yeast products coming in from America which bind the toxin and stop it being released to the animal. I have also been advised to vaccinate every 3 months for enterotoxaemia. I think this is just the start of the vets finding out about the problem, but it could well have just been put down to other things in the past and we are seeing more of it now we are having the

damp harvests. If any of you want any more info or think you may have had the same problem please let me know.

For more info look at www.knowmycotoxins.com and the website Alltech, who make Mycosorb the yeast product and also the Wikipedia encyclopedia site gives a lot of info on mycotoxins.

GVS

The next GVS Meeting will be at Wincanton Racecourse on November
The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers are holding their annual Goat walk around a commercial goat farm at Beamster, Somerset on November, contact for tickets.

GVS newsletter Sept 23rd 2009

BLUETONGUE UPDATE.

The EU have published detailed figures of cases seen between May 2007 and today. The document makes rather odd reading as some of the figures given simply do not add up. In at least one country, according to the document, there were more cases between May 2008 and May 2009 than there have been between May 2008 and today! Please do not ask me why!!!!.

However the figures are quite interesting, and subject to the contradictions I have found, the following is my best guess at the situation this summer:

BTV1. France 5 cases. Portugal 50, and Spain 11. The worry is that 2 of those in France are near Le Havre, a bit close for comfort.

BTV8. Austria 2, Czech republic 2, France 56, Italy 42, Netherlands 12, Spain 26, and Switzerland 31.

There is a rumour circulating that BTV8 has been found in Germany this year, but at the Sheep Veterinary Society Meeting last week, the German members present, including a GVS member, claimed not to have been alerted to possible outbreaks. However you look at it, the picture is a lot healthier than in 2008, but the cases in Switzerland emphasise what can happen if vaccination is not carried out. The disease there had been occasional in 2007 and 2008. Now it is at about the same level as we experienced in 2007.

OTHER THINGS

E coli 0157 has become topical again, and we intend to insert a short paper on the subject into the programme of our November 5th meeting at Wincanton so that the implications of allowing children and farm animals including goats, to be "Interactive" can be put in perspective. We do NOT apologise if it shortens the lunch break by a few minutes!!.

Many of you will be aware of a new consultation on TSEs, In effect Scrapie and BSE which has important implications for goat keepers. The consultation document needs a lot of clarification, and we have a meeting of the Goat TSE forum arranged for October 14th, after which I will be able to make a meaningful report, and Patrick Burke, head of the TSE section within DEFRA has kindly agreed to speak at Wincanton.
Nick Clayton.