

Workshop - DISEASE PREVENTION AND MONITORING

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The object of this workshop was to discuss prevention measures and monitoring techniques which are useful for common deer farm problems.

MONITORING

1. Tb testing - recommend -
 - i) full herd test annually
 - ii) if necessary retest at 6-12 week intervals fitting in with farm management procedures.
2. Internal parasites: FEC, lungworm larval count.
Liver fluke egg count: use lungworm larval count to monitor fawn or weaner drenching. Regard 50 larvae/gm faeces an acceptable maximum. Monitor adults at strategic times of the year e.g. hinds, prefawn.
3. External parasite problems: physical examination.
Lice - mid winter; ticks - early and mid summer.
4. Facial eczema: pasture spore count:
Maximum safe pasture level: 100,000 spores/gm for red deer;
40,000 spores/gm for fallow deer.
5. Strategic weighing of deer: Target weights (red deer).

March	average 40kg weaner hind
	average 45kg weaner stags
May	average 50kg weaner hind
	average 57kg weaner stag

15 month hinds	78kg average
15 month stags	95kg average
6. Post mortem examination: whenever possible.
7. Feedback from D.S.P.: valuable.

PREVENTION MEASURES

1. Vaccination.
 - a) Clostridial vaccines.

Recommend - 2ml 5-in-1 vaccine at weaning and 6 weeks later.
- 2ml 5-in-1 vaccine annually in adults
hinds - 2 weeks prefawning
stags - at button drop or pre-rut

- b) Salmonella vaccine.
Salmonellosis in deer is rare, therefore either vaccinate anyway or just in an outbreak situation.
- c) Leptospirosis vaccine.
Vaccinate in an outbreak situation or routinely in dairy area.
- d) Foot abscess vaccine.
2 x 2ml F. necrophorum vaccine 3 weeks apart can be useful.
Footbathing is also very useful.
- e) Scabby mouth.
Rare occurrence.

2. Worm drenching and clean pasture.

Lungworm. Drench young stock from March until June. Drench interval of 21 days for effective BZ drenches, and 4-5 weeks for Ivomec.

- Drench bought in stock at least twice at the above intervals.
- Drench 15-18 month old stock at least once in the autumn.
- Drench adult stock periodically at strategic times.

On individual farms vary the above programme after monitoring with faecal larval counts.

Gastrointestinal. As for lungworm.

Liver fluke. Rafoxanide can be used if needed.

3. Dipping.

Lice - pour on preparations seem useful, but be careful to have ventilation e.g. warbex, decacide. Sprays can also be used.

- Ticks -
1. Asuntol or pyrethroids on affected young deer.
 2. Integrated controlled grazing; either sheep on for 3 days then off and sprayed, then on again OR cattle on over the September/October period to remove ticks and graze pasture right down.
 3. Flectron eartags into hinds pre-fawning; 3 month protection.

4. Trace elements (Cu, Se, Co). See other workshop.

5. Yersiniosis. See other workshop.

6. Feeding, stress and shelter.

Good feeding is extremely important in many disease and worm problems. Any stress should be minimized. Shelter is very important, especially in bad weather - if no natural shelter is present then artificial shelter should be used on deer farms e.g. shade cloth or lean-to sheds.

7. Facial eczema.

Spraying of pasture with fungicides. Feeding of silage, hay or alternative crops. These should be done on the basis of dangerous spore count levels.