

First a conundrum. At the beginning of May we were told that the intramammary tube **Multiject** (made by Norbrook) was out of stock. Ten days later we were warned the **Tetradelta** (made by Pfizer) was going to be out of stock until the end of the year. A few days later we had a letter to say that **Ubro Yellow** (made by Boehringer) would be out of stock for sometime.

The first person to give me (Bob) the correct answer as to the connection (if there is one!) as to why all these products will be in short supply will win a box of **Cobactan** tubes.

Meanwhile we have forward bought Tetradelta so we hope we will have enough to last well into the autumn. Tetradelta and Ubro Yellow are the two market leaders in the intramammary sales by a long way. Boehringer is keen not to lose market share during this period so is offering the first 20 customers a free course of treatment with Ubrolexin. We will also be carrying out a free test on this mastitic milk so bring in a milk sample which we will culture to ascertain the cause of the mastitis and we will give you a course of treatment.

With this hot muggy weather the flies are hatching rapidly (as are the midges) so now is the time to start using fly repellents rather than waiting for the first cases of August bug and New Forest eye to appear. We strongly recommend that you start using **Swish** now; the large 10 litre pack has 2 litres free with it. For sheep clients we would recommend that you apply **CLik** about two weeks after shearing to prevent fly strike. In sheep it is important to apply about half of the dose around the crutch.

And finally with routine worming due shortly it is good to hear that **Cydectin** has come down in price and there is an offer on until August (buy 5litre get one free or buy 2.5litres and get half litre free). According to your health plans many of you are using **Eprinex** in youngstock. I cannot emphasise enough that this is a very costly option. Eprinex only has a place in milking cows where there is no withhold time. Other products are much cheaper and longer acting in youngstock.

And finally a practice tip. Calving a cow in the middle of a field the other night I was looking for a long piece of grass or straw to push up the calf's nose to stimulate the breathing. I could not find one but the client found a stinging nettle and that soon had the desired effect!!

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