

## Use of antibiotics under the cascade and preventing residues

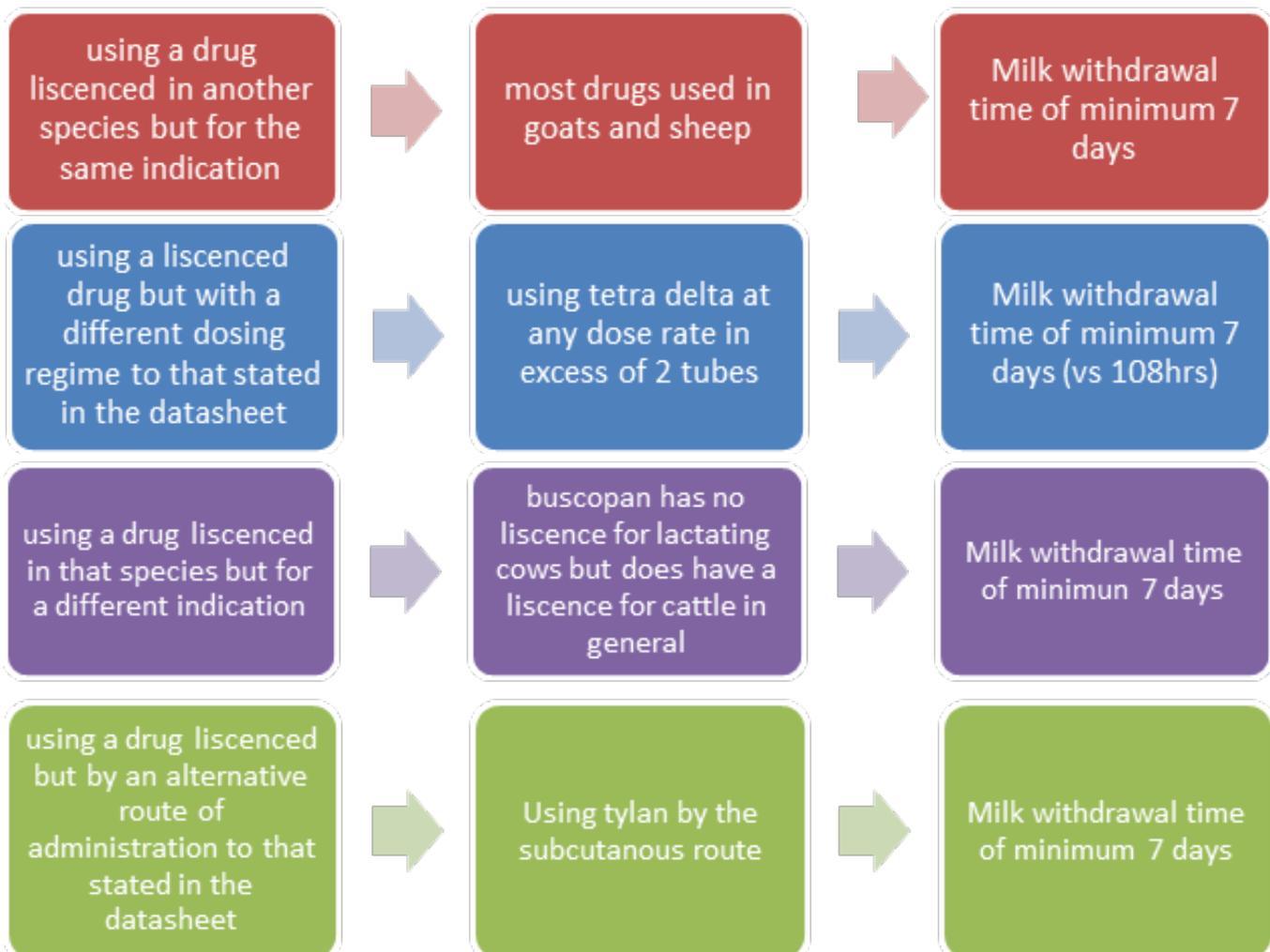
Jo Child – BVetMed MRCVS

Drugs can be prescribed for treatment of your animals 'under the cascade' by a vet. This means a treatment that is not as licensed but none the less is the most appropriate drug or mode of action for the use required. It can only be prescribed by a vet to be used in this way and due to differing from datasheet recommendations, usage will incur a longer than usual withdrawal period.

### Why does this matter?

In our last news letter you will have read about new milk testing options including the Randox test and where these might be used. If you have been on our very popular MilkSure course you will already be very familiar with and understand the following flow chart and the 'cascade'.

Examples of off-licence usage and withdrawals applied might include



All unlicensed combinations should ideally be tested before milk enters the tank even after 7 days

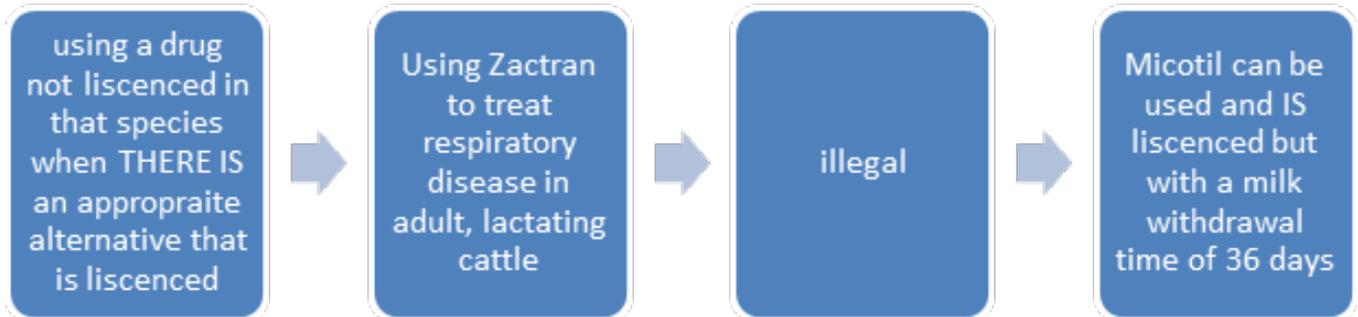


continued.

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Jo Child – BVetMed MRCVS – continued

There are however, combinations and dosing regimes sometimes advised that are not only off licence but that cannot be justified under the cascade. These are habits that we need to work to get away from as there are no specific withdrawal periods and we cannot defend their use



## AHDB are offering GoPro type cameras and data loggers for measuring Humidity and cow behaviour to borrow

Cameras are available to capture time lapse images in cow sheds to understand cow flow and how cows behave as a herd. Data loggers can constantly monitor Temperature and Relative Humidity in cow sheds or calf housing giving valuable information about the disease challenge or the need for additional feed to help combat cold weather in calf housing.

**To find out more or borrow these items (there is no charge) please contact [Becky.miles@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:Becky.miles@ahdb.org.uk) - 07500 873258 or [David.Ball@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:David.Ball@ahdb.org.uk) - 07773234524**

## Biological Fly Control Case Study

Pupal form of 'Spalangia cameroni' are tiny, parasitic wasps that attack immature stages of nuisance flies. The wasps insert their eggs into the immature stages of several species of flies. The white, legless wasp larvae feed inside the host and eventually kill it. The wasp completes its development, emerges as an adult and continues the process by searching out more hosts. These small wasps only attack flies; they neither sting nor bite other insects, animals, or humans. The Spalangia are released in doses throughout the fly season, spread in areas where flies breed; over lagoons and muck heaps. We now have a couple of farms experimenting with biological fly control on farm and a case study from elsewhere sounds

encouraging. For more information and to see whether this would be appropriate for your farm please contact Izzie at the practice.

### Fly Parasite Case Study:

"My main reason for starting with fly parasites three years ago was the sheer number of flies in the sheds and parlour during milking. The annoyance and stress caused to the cows and to us working was huge and it got to the point where lots of units were breaking due to the cows kicking them off. It wasn't a very pleasant environment.

"The process of using the flies was really simple, The stress level of the cows (and workers!)

has reduced, we have a better working environment and in my opinion the cows are happier and this can only contribute to better milk yield and immune function during the summer months.

"Tackling the population at the start of the season is important as it keeps the numbers low and at a level that will not cause undue stress or disease transfer within the herd. Fly parasites do not have an instant effect on the number of flies, but with persistence and regular fortnightly use, you will see the benefits, as we have done."

## Reminder

We are updating our files in light of the new data regulations and would appreciate it if you could let us know your correct business contact details.

## Staff News

### Welcome to



John Walsh – John joins us after working 8 years as a farm vet in Castle Cary. He will be working 3 days a week at Friars Moor with the rest of the time spent helping to run the family dairy farm near Sherborne. He has 2 young children who keep him busy most of the time, but sometimes he manages to find time for cycling, playing golf and pints of real ale!

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