

Focus

Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter
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Doddie Cup Ride
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Doddie Cup 555 Ride

From the 9th to the 11th February, Dan Downes, Trade Account Manager for Scotmin took part in the fourth Doddie Cup ride.

Cycling a total of 555 miles from the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, to Murrayfield in Edinburgh, Dan rode alongside some 200 other riders, including international rugby stars from across the UK and Ireland. With eleven other riders representing Aberystwyth RFC, the team cycled in relay through the night for two days ahead of the Scotland vs Wales Six nations match.

As part of a convoy led by farmer and former Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright, the aim

was to deliver the match ball, calling in at eleven clubs throughout Wales, England and Scotland on the way, whilst raising money and awareness for the "My Name's Doddie Foundation".

Dan commented "Although taking part in the ride was tough, we were helped along by having not only great team mates and support, but also the camaraderie of the other riders, and the public.

From the start at dawn in Cardiff, over the Pennines in the rain, or riding through Newcastle upon Tyne at 2:00am, barely a mile went by at any time of the day without a cheer from someone on the side of the road. The support put on by clubs throughout the three

countries really did help hit home, how the rugby, and farming communities have pulled together to try to help find a cure for this cruel disease.

The money we've helped raise is going to a massively important cause, with almost £500,000 being raised so far by the teams taking part".

To date Dan and his team collected over £27,000 for the charity with donations still pouring in.

To view the running total or to donate please visit. www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aber4doddie. ■





Dale's Diary: High Magnesium Spring Supplements

Grass staggers, tetany, hypomagnesaemia, call it what you like but spring magnesium deficiency in ruminants can be both expensive and fatal. Fast-growing spring pasture is low in magnesium and high in moisture.

This, together with less supplementary feed used at grass means that magnesium intake is reduced. To make matters worse, magnesium absorption in the animal's gut can be compromised by high fertiliser use, particularly when potassium is added to the pasture. If the



challenge of low magnesium supply is not enough, stress can also reduce blood magnesium levels making a dangerous situation critical. The problem of staggers is mainly seen in but not confined to lactating livestock during the spring grazing period with the risk period lasting anywhere between three and ten weeks.

Classic symptoms to look out for include reduced milk yields, nervousness, twitching, stiffness, staggering and collapsed animals. There are several options available to tackle grass staggers:

1. Add Cal Mag to any buffer feed (minimum 50gms/head/day)
2. Increase Mag level in your mineral
3. Place high magnesium tubs out in the field
4. Add Mag chloride flakes to water supply

MEGALIX Quattro Mag and ProPlus Magnesium tubs offers four sources of magnesium, containing two slow releasing and two fast releasing magnesium sources offering ultimate protection against staggers. ■



FarmShield Hygiene Powder

FarmShield is a non-toxic hygiene powder for pens, cubicles, stables, calf hutches and box floors.

Containing a unique formulation, FarmShield is designed to absorb moisture from livestock bedding, creating a healthier environment for animals to prosper.

FarmShield is pH neutral and non-abrasive to animals' skin or surrounding fixtures and fittings. The drier environment lessens smells and odours related to ammonia and reduces the opportunity for maggots or larvae to spread, altogether ensuring a significant reduction of infection related illnesses.

Research carried out at AGROLAB (Denmark) confirms that FarmShield effectively reduces bacterial and fungal spores often found in wet



bedding, with research conducted by Biocide reporting up to a 98.4% reduction in bacteria.

- Reduces bacteria and fungal spores
- Contains newly developed active substance
- Effectively dries floors
- Covers large areas without becoming lumpy
- Minimal dust
- Reduces fly larvae
- Reduces ammonia
- Non-abrasive to fixtures and floors
- Improves stock hygiene

FarmShield is available from £22.38 per 25kg bag, speak to your Scotmin representative today to find out more. ■

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