

HORSETALK

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Great new product at a fantastic

Now available in your local branch, a great product at a fantastic price. We have at last launched our own brand Horse & Pony cube. Made to a specific formula to be fed to horses and ponies at rest or in light work, ideal for native breeds. They have a high level of vitamin D3 which helps your horse to absorb calcium ensuring that the calcium phosphorus ratio is maintained. We have made sure that they contain a high level of fibre to ensure healthy gut function in your horse. Levels of oil

and protein have been kept at sensible levels so as not to over heat your horse or pony. This great product is at the fantastic price of just £4.00 collected or £4.50 delivered. CCF Centenary H & P cubes contain high levels of vitamins and minerals so that there is less need to supplement. If you have any further questions about this product please contact Emma by e-mail: equine@ccfagri.co.uk or by phone at head office on 01437 563441.

CATALOGUE

The CCF product catalogue is now available in all branches. It is a comprehensive guide of every product available from CCF for you to browse at your leisure. Please pick up your copy when you are next in your local branch buying feed. If you require something from the catalogue which is not kept at your local branch, please ask the staff who will be happy to obtain the item as soon as possible from another branch, or they can order the item especially for you.

SWEET ITCH

Written by John Edwards MA.Vet.MB cert EP MRCVS

Sweet Itch is caused by allergic reactions to proteins in the saliva of biting midges (*Culicoides* sp). The allergy or hypersensitivity is complex and involves immediate, antibody-mediated reactions as well as delayed, cell mediated reactions. Sweet itch occurs worldwide and in Britain has a strong seasonal occurrence. It is the commonest cause of itching and rubbing in the summer, with signs seen from late spring to late autumn. The allergy takes time to develop and sweet itch is rarely seen in horses under 4 years old, the condition often shows a progressive deterioration with advancing years. Pony breeds including the Welsh Mountain and especially Icelandic ponies are predisposed which may

Indicate a genetic susceptibility—certainly the condition appears to be inherited in some cases.

The only really effective control method for sweet itch is to separate the midges from the horse! Exposure to midges must be reduced and unless exposure is eliminated some signs will invariably persist, and require shelter and shade. Therefore avoiding paddocks with lots of surrounding trees, woods and hedges is recommended, and avoiding stagnant ditches or water. Midges can only fly about 1/4 of a mile so aim to allow and are most active if there is little or no wind. Since midges are weak flyers exposed and windy fields may offer further protection. Stabling in an insect proof stable is the most effective method of control.

Fly sheets can offer protection when grazing. Details of a contact for an Icelandic fly sheet are available from Cotts Farm Equine Clinic. Various fly repellents have been used with variable success. Some people find benzyl benzoate helps but products containing pyrethrin appear most effective.

COTTS FARM EQUINE CLINIC

Veterinary Surgeons

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Cotts Farm Equine Clinic- Telephone 01834 860871
www.cottsequine.co.uk

REDUCING THE PATHOGENIC EFFECTS OF SMALL REDWORM

Small redworm are the most common and harmful parasites to affect horses today, with horses mainly being infected by ingesting infective larvae as they graze. Ingested infective larvae penetrate the horse's gut wall where they encyst. As many as 90% of which can become dormant (inhibited) for weeks, months or even years only to emerge en masse typically in the late winter/early spring. The related disease syndrome is known as larval cyathostominosis, and up to 50% of cases of larval cyathostominosis result in death.

However, it is important to recognise that small redworm larvae are also pathogenic at the time of penetration into, as well as emergence from, the gut wall. Penetration causes life threatening mucosal inflammation, a pathological reaction that has been observed to be reduced in horses treated with moxidectin. EQUEST containing unique active ingredient moxidectin, not only controls all stages of encysted small redworm, with a unique single standard dose, but is also the only wormer due to its unique two-week persistency to prevent re-infection of small redworm

Larvae for two weeks after treatment. Therefore the use of EQUEST during the grazing season is an effective aid in reducing a horse's exposure to the pathogenic effects of infective small redworm larvae as it grazes, by reducing the number of infective larvae penetrating the horse' gut wall. For further information on EQUEST, contact Fort Dodge animal health on 01489 781711.

Most CCF branches offer a rug washing service. Please ask in your local branch for more details. It's a good idea to get your rugs in early so you don't have a last minute panic in the autumn.

COMPETITIONS

Equest have very kindly donated a large umbrella as a prize. Simply answer the following question; EQUEST controls all stages of encysted redworm, but what is required for this control

- A) 5 day course
- B) Double dose
- C) Single dose

Please send your answers to; CCF, Main Street, Clynderwen, Pembs. SA66 7NW

CONGRATULATIONS

To A Davies who wins 100 days supply of show coat. Also to D Robertson, Mrs G Heathman and J Collins who each win 42 days supply of NAF Hooflyte. Well done and good luck in the summer competitions.

We also have a Blue chip baseball cap to give away to help keep the bright sun out of your eyes. Question how many products do blue chip make?

Closing date for both competitions is 01/09/06.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Pembrokeshire County Show 15,16,17 August

Royal Welsh 24th-27th of July at Builth Wells

The national pony society show 20th August at Cothi Bridge

Cardigan show 2nd August

United counties Carmarthen 9th & 10th August