

Bovine Medicine

Third Edition

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Contents

Contributors, ix

Preface, xi

Section I: Modern Cattle Practice

- 1 Sustainability and One Health, 3
Judith L. Capper
- 2 Modern Cattle Practice: a Blueprint for the Future, 11
Jos P. Noordhuizen
- 3 Education and Cattle Practice: 'What Do We Do? What Should We Do?', 26
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 4 Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine and Clinical Audits in Cattle Practice, 41
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 5 Practice-Based Clinical Research, 49
Mark A. Holmes
- 6 Expert Witness, 55
Paul Roger

Section II: Practice Management and Professional Skills

- 7 Practice Management – Developing a Progressive Veterinary Practice, 63
Peter Orpin
- 8 Veterinary Leadership and Communication Skills, 69
Michelle McArthur and Adele Feakes
- 9 Marketing, Promotion and Farmer Education, 77
Peter Orpin
- 10 Veterinary Equipment in Ambulatory Practice, 85
Karin Mueller
- 11 The Practice Laboratory, 97
Allan Kessell
- 12 Safety: Handling and Restraint of Cattle, 110
Mandi Carr

Section III: Clinical Skills

- 13 Herd Health Investigations in Cattle Practice, 117
Cheryl L. Waldner and John R. Campbell
- 14 Diagnosis and Clinical Reasoning in Cattle Practice, 124
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 15 Special Diagnostic Procedures, 133
Phil Scott and Peter D. Cockcroft
- 16 Bovine Haematology and Biochemistry, 146
Allan Kessell
- 17 Post-Modern Examination and Sample Taking in Cattle, 161
Elizabeth F. McInnes
- 18 Microbiology for Cattle Practitioners, 175
Bryan Markey
- 19 Epidemiology: the Important Concepts, 184
Michael P. Reichel
- 20 Biosecurity, 189
Wayne Boardman
- 21 Applied Clinical Parasitology for Cattle Practitioners, 198
Mike Taylor
- 22 Cattle Poisoning: Principles of Toxicological Investigations, 211
Jo Payne, Chris Livesey and Alan Murphy
- 23 Antimicrobial Selection in Cattle Practice, 225
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 24 Pain Management in Cattle Practice, 238
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 25 Bull Health and Breeding Soundness, 246
Peter Chenoweth
- 26 Euthanasia of Cattle, 262
Karin Mueller

Section IV: Herd Health

- 27** Important National and International Diseases of Cattle, 273
Michael P Reichel and Charles G B Caraguel
- 28** Population Medicine and Herd Health Planning, 280
Nigel B. Cook
- 29** Welfare and Cattle Behaviour, 291
Clive Phillips
- 30** Rumen Health in the Dairy Cow, 297
Dai Grove-White
- 31** Genetics for the Bovine Practitioner, 305
Nicholas N. Jonsson and Emily K. Piper
- 32** Abortion and Perinatal Mortality in Cattle, 312
Richard D. Murray

Section V: Dairy Cattle Herd Health

- 33** The Prevalence and Cost of Important Endemic Diseases and Fertility in Dairy Herds in the UK, 325
Alastair Macrae and Richard Esslemont
- 34** Dairy Cow Housing Audit, 338
Chris Watson
- 35** Cattle Signs, 347
Kiro Petrovski
- 36** The Farm Audit: Health and Management of the Calf, 360
Katrine Bazeley
- 37** Heifer Rearing, Weaning to Second Calving: Optimising Health and Productivity, 373
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 38** The Farm Audit: Health and Management of the Transition Cow, 381
Ian J. Lean and Peter J. DeGaris
- 39** The Farm Audit: Clinical Dairy Cow Nutrition, 388
Tom Chamberlain
- 40** The Farm Audit: Udder Health, Mastitis Milk Quality and Production, 396
Andrew Biggs
- 41** The Farm Audit: Foot Health, Lameness and Footcare, 406
Nick Bell
- 42** Reproductive Technologies: On-Farm Applications, 418
Tim Parkinson

- 43** Optimising Herd Fertility: the Farm Audit, 436
Rob Smith
- 44** A Hazards Analysis Critical Control Point Approach to Improving Reproductive Performance in Lactating Dairy Cows, 450
I.J. Lean, A.R. Rabiee and N. Moss
- 45** Practice-Based Dairy Health Planning and Plans, 465
Jonathan M.E. Statham
- 46** Organic Dairy Farms, 476
Kathryn Ellis

Section VI: Beef Cattle Herd Health

- 47** Beef Suckler Cow Diseases: Monitoring and Surveillance, 489
Phil Scott
- 48** Beef Suckler Herd Health: Key Intervention Points, 493
Phil Scott
- 49** Auditing Beef Cow Herd Reproduction, 501
George Campbell and Iain Riddell
- 50** Farm Audit – Replacement Beef Heifers, 506
Robert L. Larson
- 51** Cattle Housing: Design and Management, 517
Jamie Robertson
- 52** Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD): Diagnosis, Prevention and Control, 525
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 53** Farm Audit of Beef Cattle Nutrition, 531
Colin Morgan
- 54** Audit of Semi-Intensive Beef Finishing Systems, 537
Peter D. Cockcroft
- 55** Beef Cattle Feedlots – How to Measure, Manage and Monitor, 543
Mandi Carr
- 56** Organic Beef Farms, 549
Kathryn Ellis
- 57** Marketing Beef Cattle Practice, 555
Brad J. White

Appendix I Vade Mecum of Cattle Conditions, 560
Kiro Petrovski
Index, 634

Preface

Many new books on specific bovine medicine topics have been published since the last edition of this book, with the majority of them taking a traditional approach to their structure and content. This book takes a radical departure from this format in order to provide the additional skills and insights required for modern service delivery and practice organisation. To this end, the publishers and I have decided to completely restructure and rewrite the book so that it reflects the shift in the skills sets required for modern cattle practice. This edition does not retain any chapters from the previous editions, and has a new multi-national team of contributors.

The aim of the book is to provide a selection of useful, relevant and practical information for the cattle practitioner, which is not readily available elsewhere, and which supports modern practice and industry needs. The book could equally have been retitled 'Cattle Practice' to reflect the change in scope and emphasis in this new edition. The non-technical skills, such as leadership, marketing, communication and business organisation, are now represented. In addition, the book acknowledges the growing importance of population medicine and herd health management planning. The skills required to support this important shift form the backbone of the book. Key technical skills are also represented, such as: the ability to perform

an on-farm post-mortem and to take appropriate samples; the ability to select appropriate antimicrobials; and to optimise pain management.

The book comprises 57 chapters. Each chapter provides a set of learning objectives so the reader is given an insight into the author's intent. It is partitioned into six sections: Modern cattle Practice and Education, Professional Skills, Clinical Skills, Herd Health, Dairy Cattle Herd Health and Beef Cattle Herd Health. The clinical or farm audit has been used as an applied structural framework to integrate husbandry, welfare and health at a group or herd level within the herd health sections. The audit scopes across the management practices, and processes and identifies relevant key performance indicators and target values to measure the strengths and weaknesses of performance. The intent is not to provide all the traditional information about a topic, as this can be found easily elsewhere, but to indicate how knowledge and information can be used in risk assessment and in the formulation of recommendations that have a high impact at population level. Further reference information on cattle diseases is provided in a *Vade Mecum* at the end of the book. The chapters collectively form a toolkit of skills that will support the delivery of cattle practice.