



# Newsletter

## May 2021



### Welcome

I had to listen twice but I have heard some farmers wanting rain. We go from one extreme to another. First cut silages will be interesting and grass will need to be tested before mowing to see what the nitrogen levels are. Lambing time has been very busy and calving is getting going now too. What a difference good stock prices make to our work load. Here is to a nice warm May and turning the heating off!!!!

Jim McKinstry

### Frustrating Flies!!

Flies cause a nuisance by biting/feeding off cattle and they can also cause and spread diseases such as new forest eye, warts and summer mastitis. Good fly control throughout the summer months will reduce the number of flies on your farm and risk of diseases spreading. Areas that are ideal for flies to breed include muck heaps, calf beds and lambing pens that haven't been cleaned out so a focus on hygiene will reduce the fly population on your farm.

**The key to prevention on stock is to start early and repeat regularly.** Topical spot on and pour on products (containing synthetic pyrethroids) won't stop flies landing on cattle but they cause flies to die shortly afterwards, this helps to break the lifecycle. Another useful product is Neporex powder which will prevent flies breeding when applied around your farm. Other methods of control include ear tags that contain cypermethrin, insecticide sprays applied regularly and Stockholm tar applied to the udder to prevent summer mastitis. We have a range of fly control products in stock at competitive prices – don't wait until it's too late.

Hannah Tatham

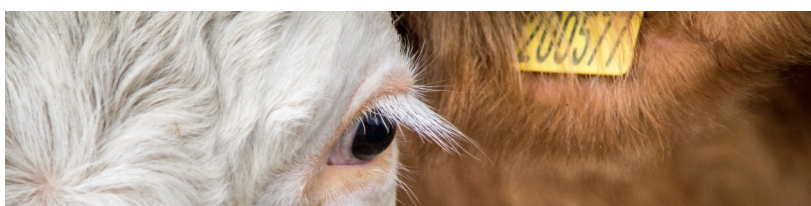


### Included this month

- **Frustrating Flies**, Hannah Tatham
- **Batton Down Your TB Hatches**, David Weir
- **New Cattle Lameness Cost Calculator**, Kathrine Muller Jones
- **A Few Points of Note on Sheep Scab**, Sarah Harker
- **Always Check the Label**, Finbarr O Sullivan Greene
- **Staff News and Diary Dates**.



Fly  
Products  
in stock  
now



## Batton Down Your TB Hatches

Luckily we are in a low-risk area for TB with routine testing every 4 years, however TB has been on the rise recently so it is still very important to stay vigilant to prevent breakdowns. There are effective ways to help prevent the spread and minimise risk to both yourself and your neighbours. The following 5 step plan will reduce the likelihood of TB entering the herd and reduce potential spread.

### 1) Stop infected cattle entering the herd

This has been shown to be the most common way for TB to enter your herd. Ensure you know the history before you buy. Buying from high risk and edge areas should be avoided, however even low risk areas can have occasional outbreaks. After buying stock, make sure you isolate all cattle before they enter the herd for 28 days. Post-movement testing can be done to ensure the bought in cattle are TB free.

### 2) Restrict contact between badgers & cattle

Indirect contact is more common than direct contact in the pasture. This means that the cattle are more likely to be infected from badger faeces and urine when out at pasture or feeding inside. To reduce this contact simple methods can be adopted. Firstly find out if badgers visit your farm, lambing and calving cameras can be used for this. If badgers are visiting you can put up aluminium sheeting on gates to reduce badgers entering shed space. Also limit access to latrines and sets by erecting fencing around them.



### 3) Manage Cattle feed and water

Restrict access to feed stores, troughs and mineral licks and don't put feed on the ground at pasture and clean up spillages as badgers are attracted to this. TB can also be spread through milk, so do not feed calves waste milk that has not been pasteurised or boiled.

### 4) Reduce risk from neighbouring herds

Put up effective fencing between neighbouring herds, double fencing at boundaries is great for reducing potential TB spread as well as reducing transmission of other diseases such as BVD. Avoid sharing equipment and vehicles between farms as these can act as carriers of TB. Also sharing grazing pasture with cattle from a different herd should be avoided. You can check for local TB outbreaks online at [www.ibtb.co.uk](http://www.ibtb.co.uk).

### 5) Minimise infection from cattle manure

For this to occur you would need at least one animal on farm infected with TB or share grazing with an infected herd. TB



contaminated slurry and manure has been shown to spread infection. Low moisture manure should be allowed to compost for at least 30 days before being spread. As for slurry and high moisture manure – the longer the better. Storing for 6 months has been shown to half the risk of TB being spread. Injecting slurry below the ground surface will also minimise risk.



David Weir



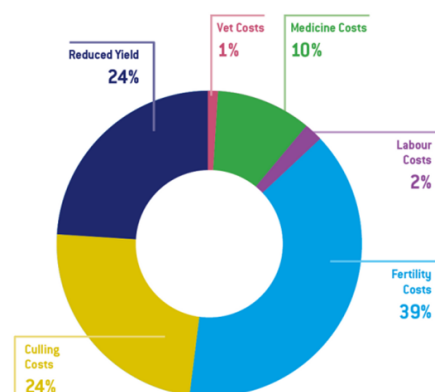
## New Cattle Lameness Cost Calculator

We all know it- lameness is a massive economic and welfare concern for modern farming, especially for dairy farmers. It's expensive, bad for the cows and no one wants to see lame cows in their sheds.

The graph shows that the effect on fertility and reduced yields are the biggest 'cost' of lame cows. This is not necessarily seen as money spent, but is more like invisible money that could be earned and saved from reducing both the number of lame cows and also the amount of time cows are lame for.

CEVA are trialling a new lameness calculator that helps work out the cost of

lameness on individual farms by looking at the number of lame cows within a year and the cause of the lameness. It is quick and easy to do on farm (only 5 minutes, 10 max with a brew), doesn't cost you anything and it will produce an individual breakdown of where the money is being lost from those lame cows. From this, we can then look at how we can reduce the number of lame cows and ultimately make them more profitable.



Breakdown of annual cost of lameness per herd

**“With the cost of a lame cow estimated from £180 per case, it might be worth that extra 5 minutes over a brew next time you see one of us” Kathrine Muller Jones**

## A Few Points of Note on Sheep Scab

- If you have itchy sheep, ensure a **correct diagnosis before treatment**. It could be lice or scab, or neither. Treatment with the wrong product is a waste of time and money, but more significantly, encourages the development of resistance.
- Diagnosis is sometimes difficult. Because the mites are so itchy, there needn't be many there to give symptoms. In early cases we might need to sample several sheep or repeat a few days later to find them. Diagnosis can be supported with blood samples for antibodies to demonstrate previous exposure.
- If you have lice or scab, **all in-contact sheep need treating**. This includes lambs on ewes. Obviously treatment of young lambs needs extra care with dosages.
- Sheep can continue to itch for a few days after effective treatment as mites jump on from an infected environment, and debris from dead mites is still present on the skin. It doesn't necessarily mean that the treatment hasn't worked.
- Mites survive off sheep for up to 16 days. Treatment with a single injection of Dectomax will kill mites on the sheep for approximately the same length of time..... Hence, if treated but left in the same environment, especially a heavily contaminated indoor one, re-infection is a risk. To ensure successful treatment, housed sheep should be moved if at all possible, or given 2 injections 12 - 14 days apart. Sheep outside are at less risk of re-infection, but again, there is a potential loophole.
- **Plunge dipping** is an effective way of managing scab, allowing less reliance on the injectable treatments. With continued over-use of these injectables allowing further resistance to develop, management of scab and worms will become problematic.

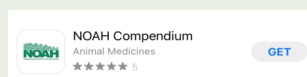
In summary, scab is an ongoing and probably increasing problem. Diagnosis, treatment and prevention is not always straight forward so please ask for advice.



Sarah Harker

## Always Check the label!

A large number of drug withdrawals have recently changed and that change is communicated through the data sheet supplied with all medicines. Apart from being good practice and keeping the medicine book right it is important to keep up to date with changes to the drugs you use. The “Noah app” is a great tool to stay up to date your meat and milk withdrawals. Search “Noah Compendium” in your app store, or check the data sheet that comes with every medicine.



Finbarr O Sullivan Greene

## Guess which staff member?

In April it was Jim!

But who is on this months photo?????



## Congratulations to Beth

Beth and husband Gary welcomed baby Edith Evelyn Thornton into the world arriving safely on 30/03/21 and weighing 7lb

12oz . She's still a bit small for taking on calf weighing duties but she'll be in training soon!



## Dates for your diary

**Thursday  
May 6th 2021  
7.30pm**

**Ketosis, at what point do your wheels fall off?** - please join us **online** for this session on ketosis, how to identify at risk cows, where the Kexxtone bolus fits and recognising your own system pressures. To register and receive a complimentary cake parcel, please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice.

**Thursday  
May 13th 2021  
1pm - 2.30pm**

**Understanding Veterinary Medicines**—at least one person on the farm must have attended an approved veterinary medicines course since 2016 for Red Tractor Dairy and now for Beef and Lamb (from November 2021). We intend to run several courses over the spring/summer, initially online but hopefully face to face later in the year. To book this online course please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice. Cost £30.00 plus VAT and includes certificate and course handbook. Don't worry if you are new to Zoom we can help!



**Thursday 20th  
May 2021  
7.30pm-8.30pm**

**Members Question Time** - via Zoom. For Sheep club members or anyone interested in joining. On the panel we have **Sarah Harker** and special guest **Ian Atkinson** from Northwest Auctions. To register and submit questions sheep or industry related (or completely random!!) please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice.



**Between 1pm  
and 4 pm  
Lancaster  
Tues 18th May  
J36  
Wed 19th May  
Sedbergh  
Thurs 20th May**

**Aborted and Barren Ewe Testing Afternoons** - bring up to 6 ewes to the surgery on these designated days to be blood tested for the most common causes of **sheep abortion** (EAE & Toxo), vet time and lab fees will be completely **free** on these afternoons. To take up this opportunity **please call the practice to book a time slot.**

Eligibility - Flock size 100 + and not vaccinated already for both enzootic or toxoplasma abortion. We can test for the one you don't vaccinate for.

**If you still have those aborted or barren ewes on the farm this is well worth doing!**



### Lancaster Office

Tel: **01524 60006**  
Open 8:30am-5pm  
Monday-Friday  
9am—12noon Saturdays  
CLOSED Sundays

### J36 Kendal Office

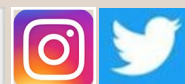
Tel: **015395 67899**  
Open 8:30am-5pm  
Monday-Friday  
9am—12noon Saturdays  
CLOSED Sundays

### Sedbergh Office

Tel: **015396 20335**  
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Monday-Friday  
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