



Welcome

Well, it is time to dig out the Christmas jumpers and remind ourselves that mince pies are really tasty! It has been a memorable year with COVID meaning we have had to isolate, obey bio-security rules and get vaccinated instead of our animals! Prices have been good and I hope that the want to eat local, quality lamb and beef remains. With such a good autumn that we have had, the usual winter problems are only starting to creep in. Silages stable and cows are eating them but milk production is only average from them. As vets these are "healthy" silages so we would hope that rumen health should be good.

All of us at Farmgate vets wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jim McKinstry

OPA in Sheep

Ovine Pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA, also known as Jaagsiekte) is a potentially fatal lung disease found in sheep caused by the virus Jaagsiekte Sheep Retrovirus (JRV).

The virus causes a tumour to form, much like a cancer in the lungs, however the tumours are infectious and can spread to other sheep.

Things to look out for in sheep with OPA are loss of condition, difficulty breathing and, in around half of cases, production of clear or frothy fluid from the affected lungs appearing as discharge dripping or pouring from the nose. In affected flocks OPA may be the cause of death of 1%-20% of the flock in one year.

There is no blood test available to diagnose OPA and although scanning the lungs is possible it will only pick up larger tumours if they are on the surface of the lung.

Continued



Photo Credit—Nadis

Included this month

- **OPA in Sheep -**
David Weir
- **Jumping to Wrong Conclusions -**
Finbarr
O'Sullivan Green
- **Protecting Your Herd from TB -**
Hannah Tatham
- **Lambing Courses and Staff News**
- **Christmas Crossword**
- **Diary Dates**

REMINDER FOR DAIRY CLIENTS

All Johnes declarations must be completed by the end of the year. If you haven't had a review in 12 the last months, please contact us ASAP.

OPA in Sheep continued...

Therefore postmortem examination (PME) is likely the most appropriate for OPA surveillance. 'Poor doers' and any animals that have had difficulty breathing or nasal discharge would be good candidates. Another cost effective way would be to post mortem cull ewes regularly as a surveillance measure.

Treatments so far have shown to be unsuccessful therefore if diagnosed control measures to prevent spread are essential. These could include:

- separate flock by age as it is older ewes that spread the virus the most
- at lambing separate any thin or coughing sheep to lamb them in a different shed
- cull older sheep with a low body condition score (BCS)

If you want to discuss OPA further please contact us.



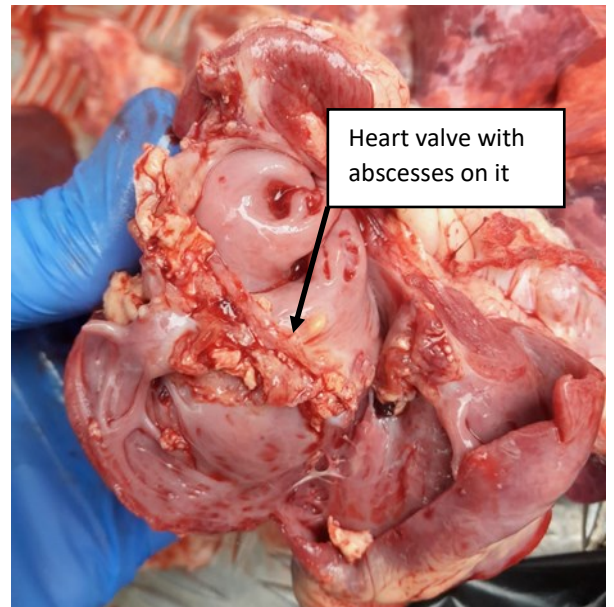
David Weir

Jumping to Wrong Conclusions!

To use Sarah's analogy, like nematodirus in the spring, getting fluke treatments right is like trying to shoot a running fox through a gap in a fence. In a warm wet year the season will come early. In a dry or cold summer like the one just gone the fluke season will come late possibly causing more problems pre lambing rather than during the back end. Therefore the current mantra in the wider industry is "test don't treat".

One valuable type of testing is the post mortem. This year we have had two particular cases that looked "a bit like fluke". One turned out to be ill thrift caused by a gut worm called *Haemonchus*, the other was a lamb in heart failure.

"No sheep should leave your farm without paying for itself"



This picture is from the heart failure lamb. The cause was a blood infection that pitched on the valves of the heart resulting in a very leaky pump! Blood infections like this are often attributed to ticks or injections with dirty needles. As this farm was not in a tick area we focused on injection and needle hygiene.

Better still, time and money was not wasted on an unnecessary fluke treatment. No sheep should leave the farm without paying for itself.

Examining dead sheep/lambs is a great way to monitor for production limiting disease in your flock. For sheep club members, in house post-mortems are included in the subscription and a great way to keep on top of your flock health.

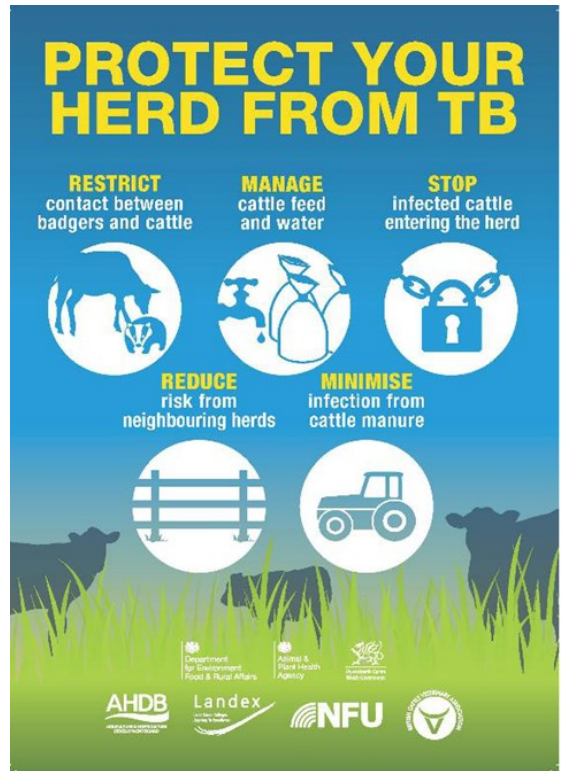
Finbarr O Sullivan Greene



Protect Your Herd From TB

TB is an issue that isn't going away unfortunately, however like for every other infectious disease there are steps that we can all take to protect your herd.

1. **Stop infected cattle entering the herd** – ideally run a closed herd but ask for TB history if you do buy in cattle, ask for the cattle to be pre-movement tested and consider post movement testing of cattle entering your herd, all incoming stock should be isolated.
2. **Reduce risk from neighbouring herds** – check local TB outbreak information at www.tbhub.co.uk, double fence all boundaries with a three metre gap, avoid sharing equipment with other farms, avoid sharing cattle grazing with other herds.
3. **Restrict contact between badgers and cattle** – find out if badgers visit your farm, put in barriers to prevent badgers accessing cattle, limit access of cattle to badger sets at grass.
4. **Manage cattle feed and water** – restrict badger access, don't feed on the ground at pasture and clean up spillages in buildings, don't feed waste milk to calves – you could be passing on the disease this way.



5. Minimise infection from cattle manure

only spread manure on arable land or pasture not going to be grazed by cattle for at least two months, don't spread manure from other farms.

CHECS have launched an entry level membership for all farmers to minimise the risks of TB in your herd and to work towards becoming an accredited herd. The aim is to work with your vet to identify risk factors and to put in place actions to improve biosecurity and reduce the risk of TB on your herd. Speak to a vet today for more information and to sign up.



Hannah Tatham

Practical Lambing Courses

We are very pleased to say these popular courses are back in 2022! Suitable for all experience levels course content includes -

- All aspects of ewe and lamb husbandry
- Lambing techniques
- Disease prevention and simple treatments
- Demonstrations and training in general skills including injections and stomach tubing

Held on Saturday mornings at our J36 surgery, please see diary dates for details.

Becky's Baby News

After a speedy arrival and quick announcement in the September newsletter it is only fair that we give baby Harry Thomas Kershaw a proper welcome into the Farm Gate family! Born on September 28th weighing 5lb 2oz Harry has well and truly settled in and is said to be ruling the roost! Congratulations again to Becky and Adam.



Beth's Christmas Crossword

Across

2. How many compartments does a reindeer's stomach have? (4)
 4. Which queen was the 1st to have a Christmas Tree? (8)
 9. What is the largest breed of penguin on the planet? (7)
 11. In which century was St Nicholas said to be born? (5)

Drop your entries off at one of our branches before Christmas Eve for a chance to win some fab prizes!!



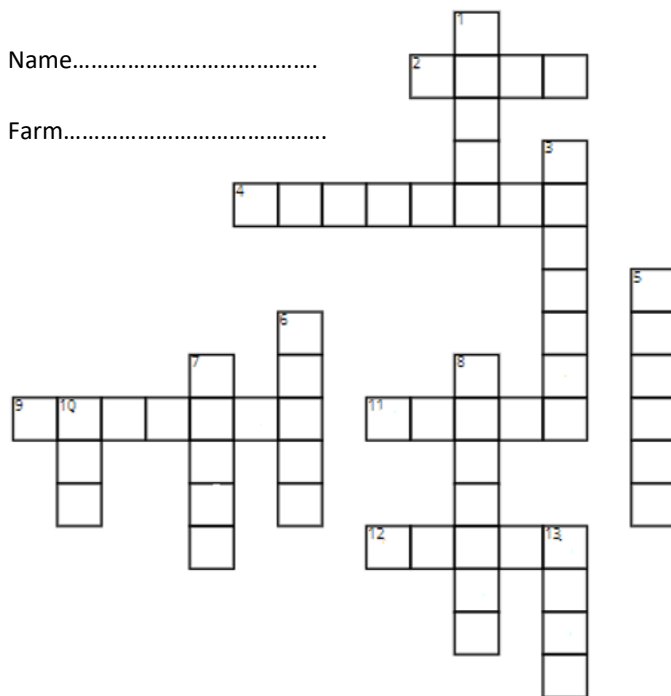
12. Father Christmas is referred to as Papa Noel in which European country? (5)

Down

1. Which species of bear is currently the largest on earth? (5)
 3. What does the B in JCB stand for? (7)
 5. The town referred to as Darrowby in James Herriot's books is actually which Yorkshire town? (6)
 6. How many of Father Christmas' reindeer have names beginning with the letter D? (5)
 7. What shape is often seen on a donkey's back? (5)
 8. Which country is Lapland in? (7)
 10. What is the Grinch's dog called? (3)
 13. Which part of the reindeer's body heats the air before it enters the lungs? (4)

Name.....

Farm.....



Dates For Your Diary



Charity Christmas Quiz Night!! Thursday 16th December 2021, 7.30pm Start, Café Ambio J36 NWA, £10 entry per team (of up to 6), proceeds going to the charity chosen by the winning team. Teams can be made up on the night, supper included, and some great prizes available for our raffle! To book in your team (or individuals) please call the practice. **Christmas jumpers please!!**



Understanding Veterinary Medicines, Red Tractor course. Inspectors are now looking for certificates of attendance which becomes an official standard for Beef and Lamb in November 2021.

Wednesday 22nd December 2021—1.30pm—3.30pm - at the J36 practice, Christmas edition with coffee and mince pies! To book please e mail linda@farmgatevets.com or phone the practice. Cost £30 plus VAT inc. course book and certificate.



Practical Lambing Course - Cost £45.00 inc. VAT - one free place per farm for Sheep Club members.

These popular half day practical courses are back! Held at our J36 Practice (Unit 2B Rural Auction Centre).

Saturday 15th January 2022 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 12th February 2022 9.30am - 12.30pm

Light refreshments provided, to book your place please call the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com, stating which date. Places limited to 12 per course so please book early!

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

Open 8:30--5pm

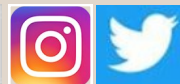
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CLOSED Saturdays

CLOSED Sundays

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