



Welcome

Well at the time of writing, the weather has decided that winter should get kicked off with temperatures now not getting over 10 degrees C after weeks of struggling to fall below 10 degrees. This season has already been a challenge regarding pneumonia but this new weather of still, damp and cold weather is going to test the best of calf sheds so please keep vigilant. We at the practice are celebrating getting through the TB testing on two radial areas which have kept us very busy. Thank you for your co operation in getting these tests done and thanks also to those people who had to allow us to work our normal work round all this testing. Advent is now upon us and I hope you're all enjoying the chocolates behind the doors on your calendars. We, at Farm Gate Vets wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mark Stott

Included this month

- **Halal - Meeting Summary**
Rebekah Carling
- **Ticks—Sarah Harker**
- **Cattle Handling Systems -**
Finbarr O Sullivan
Greene
- **New Scour Vaccine**
- **Parasite Forecasts**
- **Beth's Christmas Crossword**
- **Diary Dates**

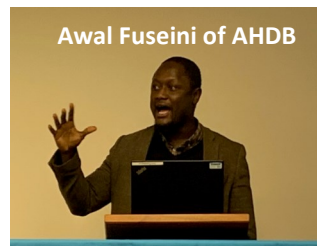
Halal - Meeting Summary

Here is a short report from the meeting we hosted with AHDB on the UK Halal market

The general population only consumes 6% of lamb weekly and don't eat mutton at all, compare this to the Halal market of 62% for lamb and 32% mutton and it is easy to see why it makes sense to take this market seriously and hopefully everyone who came along to the Halal meeting will have found it helpful.

As well as having a higher weekly consumption of lamb and mutton, the Muslim festivals also greatly increase sheep meat sales. These follow the lunar calendar and so will be 10 days earlier every year. There are 4 main festivals to take note of: Ramadan (22/3/23-21/4/23), Qurbani (29/6/23), Eid Fitr (21/4/23) and Aqiqa (celebrating a child's birth). Things to note for Qurbani would be that a sexually mature ram that is as natural as possible is preferred i.e. entire, >6 months old and not-docked or to be ID tagged multiple times.

One of the main sticking points for people when Halal is mentioned is the welfare concern of slaughter without stunning, especially as there is no legal necessity to label whether meat is Halal or not. The Quran doesn't allow for animals to be brain-dead before bleeding, however electrical stunning is reversible and ... continued overleaf



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 months, please contact us ASAP.



Halal meeting continued- therefore most Muslims will accept this as Halal – AHDB is working hard at reducing the gap through education. As electrical stunning is the conventional method of stunning small ruminants in the UK, this means that most small ruminants in the UK Halal market are stunned prior to slaughter. For those still concerned that they may be eating non-stunned lamb – 72.3% of UK slaughtered lamb is Halal – buying farm-assured or from mainstream retailers means you are guaranteed pre-stunned meat. **Rebekah Carling**



Ticks and Tick Borne-disease

Tick-borne diseases haven't always been on my veterinary radar. Historically they tended to be regional, seasonal and those farms that did have them were used to living with them. For a few years, local farmers have been seeing more ticks, or ticks where they haven't seen them before and this seems to have accelerated this autumn. A 'clean' tick isn't necessarily a problem but where they carry disease, exposure can have serious consequences. We have seen redwater (so called because red blood cells burst and colour the urine) causing losses in adult cattle. Tick-borne fever is becoming more common in sheep and is probably still under-diagnosed. It makes lambs and adults more prone to everything else including joint ill, pasturellosis, infertility (tups and ewes) and abortion. Louping ill is a viral disease causing deaths and nervous signs, affecting sheep on its own, or in combination with tick-borne fever and again, we have seen outbreaks recently. Ticks are typically active in spring and autumn but their seasons are becoming extended, perhaps due to climate change. Spending much of their lifecycle in deep vegetation, they survive best on unimproved or under grazed pastures.



There are no vaccines available against these diseases and treatment options are limited and not always successful. Attempts at control require consideration of the following points:

- Previous exposure will give immunity so homebred stock develop some protection over time.
- Bought-in stock can be fully susceptible to the worst effects. Think about what time of year they are brought in and what grazing they are put on to.
- Protect adult sheep and lambs from ticks with dipping and pour-on products. Good protection may necessitate earlier, more frequent and later treatments than were historically considered adequate. No licensed products are available for cattle, but sheep pour-ons can be used.

**farmgate
vets
sheep club**

- In house post-mortems (exc Lab fees)
- Flock Health Plan Visit plus 1 other
- Unlimited faecal worm egg counts
- For cost effective sheep health management
- A place on our lambing course
- 20% off tup vasectomies and fertility testing
- Regular member only talks, farm visits, trips

- Avoid the combination of high risk stock on high risk pasture at high risk times of year, but this autumn has proved that this is difficult.
- Stock movements can introduce ticks and tick-borne disease into new areas so if you haven't got ticks, either avoid or quarantine and treat risky purchases. Ticks will feed on any mammal so farm dogs need protection too, but please avoid using cattle and sheep insecticides which can be toxic. Plenty of safe effective products are available from the practice. Lyme disease from ticks can cause illness and chronic lameness in dogs. It is also a zoonosis, meaning that it can affect humans. Take advice if you get a rash or feel ill following a tick bite.

At our next Sheep Club meeting we are discussing issues with Ticks, Thursday 12th January 2022, 7pm at the J36 practice meeting room. Members and Guests welcome. We will be joined by Bimeda makers of Gold Fleece Sheep dip who are kindly sponsoring supper.

Sarah Harker

Cattle Handling Systems



Carrying on from the theme of last month's article TB testing can often be a monotonous and tedious task. As a TB tester long days testing gives you lots of head space and lots of time to watch cows. To this end I have been wrestling with the question what is the difference between a test where cattle can be tested comfortably at over 100 cows per hour and those where tests take much much longer than that! The answer is good facilities and calm cattle handling.

"I have never met a farmer who has regretted up grades to handling systems"

Over the next couple of months we

will share our thoughts on what makes for calm testing days and hopefully improved efficiency in handling stock. I have never met a farmer who has regretted upgrades to handling systems. They don't just make TB testing easier but often speed up other routine tasks e.g. vaccination or vet visits.

If you want pointers towards gold standards check out these resources from AHDB

<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/improving-cattle-handling-for-better-returns>

Gold standard is great and well worth the investment if you have the opportunity to put a new system in. However, small changes to existing systems can often be made with very little investment.

My top tip for this month is **watch your stock as they go through your system**. Is there a point that cattle stop or need to be forced? Common issues we come across are funnels going into races without stock board where cattle look for an escape rather than go into the race or races that don't have a proper funnel to fill them. Small changes like the addition of a hanging funnel gate or stock board could make all the difference and if time is money save some cash in the long run.

If this has picked your interest check out this webinar from arguably one of the world's leading experts on cattle handling Temple Grandin. Well worth a watch!

<https://ahdb.org.uk/cattle-handling-with-temple-grandin>

Finbarr O Sullivan Greene

New Scour Vaccine

Calf scour continues to be a highly frustrating disease and along with pneumonia is still the most common killer and performance inhibitor of calves. We have always been strong advocates of dam vaccination for both dairy and suckler cattle, these vaccines work well and cover for some of the main bugs - Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.coli.

Boehringer have just launched a new vaccine called Fencovis, which behaves



very similar to the other vaccines, but has the advantage of a **single dose vial**, which is the same price per dose as the 5 dose, and 25 dose. Vaccination is a single 2 ml dose anywhere between 3 months and 3 weeks of calving. Please speak to us to find out more.



Not an ordinary year for parasites!

This year has been an unusual parasite year and in some ways November appears to be the middle rather than the end of this year's worm season. This is certainly reflecting in our recent worm egg counts which are higher than expected for the time of the year. If ever there was a year to "Test not treat" so you don't get caught out by unusual parasite patterns it is this one. Worm egg count sample kits are available at reception in all branches.



Finbarr O Sullivan Greene

Beth's Christmas Crossword

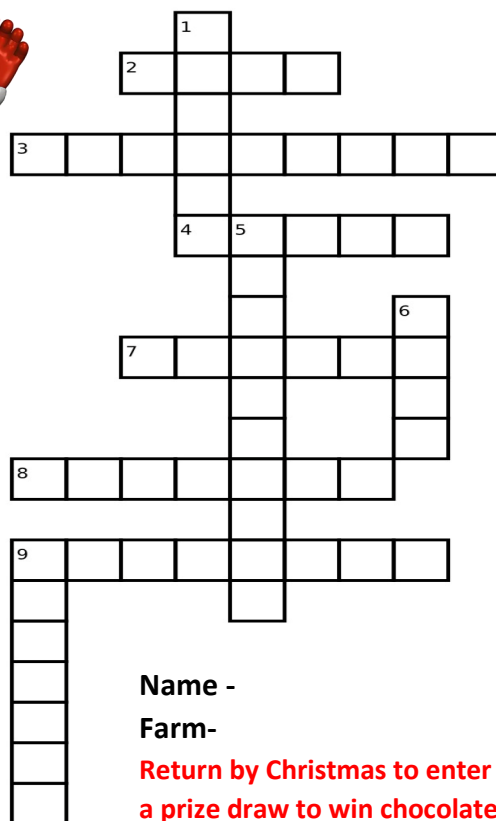


Down

- 1) Small Irish breed of cattle that shares its name with an English male. (6)
- 5) Type of scanner used to diagnose pregnancy in cattle, sheep and humans. (10)
- 6) City in which the world cup is currently being held. (4)
- 9) First name of this year's Bake Off Winner (7)

Across

- 2) Side of a cow or sheep that is normally incised when performing a caesarean. (4)
- 3) You will find me on a pear tree (9)
- 4) The largest of the cow's 4 stomach compartments (5)
- 7) Popular breed of sheep in Australia and New Zealand that produces abundant wool. (6)
- 8) Former Health Secretary who took part in "I'm a celebrity 2022". (7)



Name -

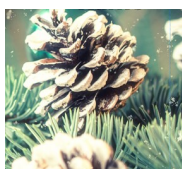
Farm-

Return by Christmas to enter into a prize draw to win chocolate!

Dates For Your Diary



Red Tractor Approved, Understanding Veterinary Medicines - Tuesday 6th December 2022, 1.30pm at J36 meeting room. Course cost is £35.00 plus VAT including course book and certificate. To book please phone the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com



Christmas Charity Quiz Night Thursday 15th December 2022—7pm for 7.30pm start at Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club, £10 entry per team of up to 6, raffle, complimentary Supper included. Christmas Jumpers obligatory!! To book in team or individuals (teams can be made up on the night), please call the office.



Ticks and their increasing presence in the Northwest. Thursday 12th January 2023, 7pm at the J36 practice meeting room. Bimeda, makers of Gold Fleece Sheep dip will be joining us and kindly sponsoring supper. Members please confirm your attendance, for clients interested in joining Sheep Club please come along for a no obligation night out! Please phone the practice or e mail- linda@farmgatevets.com



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

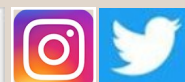
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