

Newsletter July 2021



Welcome

The sunshine in June has been a great treat. There have been good crops of good quality grass harvested. As more dairy cows are kept inside over the summer months, we see more mastitis and respiratory problems in adult animals in the hot weather. Ventilation is the key. Fresh air kills bugs and removes moisture so opening ridges and installing fans helps. Keeping beds clean and dry is needed to keep on top of mastitis. Charlotte is writing about mastitis vaccines which also can make a big difference against environmental mastitis.

Jim McKinstry

Vaccines for Cattle Mastitis

Vaccines play an important role in the control of disease through their ability to stimulate the immune system. Within veterinary medicine, vaccines control and minimise the effects of harmful bugs and within the last decade have been available for the management of mastitis in dairy herds.

STARTVAC was first launched in 2009 followed more recently by the vaccine UBAC in 2018. Both have been developed by the company HIPRA and designed to reduce the rate and severity of mastitis during early lactation. These vaccines protect against different bugs and require multiple injections to be effective. Milk sampling and bacteriology is an essential first step in identifying the underlying cause before deciding if a vaccine could be beneficial.

Vaccines should not replace current control methods but instead be used in conjunction with other components of mastitis control (milking technique, dry-off management, hygiene, nutrition, housing, bedding, cow comfort, air and water quality, health monitoring) to promote overall udder health.

Herds which may benefit from vaccines are those which have done their best to reduce mastitis in the dry period but still suffer, those with a zero tolerance to mastitis, or those which may be limited in their ability to make changes e.g building improvements. High yielding herds may also benefit from vaccination as cows producing 10,000-12,000 litres a year can experience compromised immune systems putting them at risk of infection.

Please contact the practice for more information on mastitis control plans, milk sampling and investigation (funding available) and the potential role of vaccination in your herd.



Charlotte Chapman

Included this month

- **Vaccines for Cattle Mastitis** - Charlotte Chapman
- **Triclabendazole resistance** - Finbarr O Sullivan Greene
- **Red Water in Cattle Project** - Hannah Tatham
- **Aborted/ Barren ewe local test results**—Rebekah Carling
- **New Branch South Lakes!**
- **Meet The Team** - David Weir
- **Diary Dates**



Use of mastitis vaccines is becoming more common to reduce the need for antibiotics.



	Mastitis Vaccine	STARTVAC	UBAC
Vaccines for cattle mastitis continued...	Protects against	Environmental: <i>E.coli</i> , <i>Coliforms</i> Contagious: <i>Staph. Aureu</i>	Environmental: <i>Strep. Uberis</i>
	Does not protect against	Environmental: <i>Strep. Uberis</i>	Environmental: <i>E.col</i> , <i>Coliforms</i> Contagious: <i>Staph. Aureus</i>
Vaccine Comparison Table	Vaccination protocol	Three injections repeated annually. 1 st 45 days pre-calving 2 nd 10 days pre-calving 3 rd 52 days post calving	Three injections repeated annually. 1 st 60 days pre-calving 2 nd 21 days pre-calving 3 rd 15 days post-calving
Charlotte Chapman	Onset and duration of immunity	13 days after 1 st injection 78 days after 3 rd injection	36 days after 2 nd injection First 5 months of lactation

Triclabendazole Resistance

As we head into this year's fluke season it is worth considering a topic that was widely discussed on farm last year. Triclabendazole or TBZ is the only flukicide that kills early immature fluke. In some warm wet years it is the only fluke drench that will work to treat acute fluke and prevent sudden death in affected lambs. A lot of farms in this area report resistance to the drug but do you know how big a problem this is on your farm?

In a bad year if TBZ is 60% effective it is better than nothing and knowing this about your farm is of huge value. Take the following steps when formulating a fluke plan for your farm.



Classic Bottle Jaw—photo Nadis

1. Find out **when the fluke season starts** on your farm – this is a useful exercise every year as it means that you can target your fluke treatments to the situation on your own farm. We can do this by monitoring the forecast and blood sampling lambs generally starting in September. Once lambs have antibodies (just like the antibodies being discussed with Coronavirus) we know they have been exposed to fluke and the season has started as lambs get antibodies 2 weeks after infection.
2. Find out **how much fluke is about** by testing the muck of 10 individual lambs with a coproantigen test – this goes positive about 4-5 weeks after infection, once all the lambs are positive this is the time to think about drenching the flock. We can also use this dosing to check for resistance..
3. **Drench resistance check.** As with all dose reduction tests it is important to check the dosing equipment is giving the correct dose and that we know the weight of the sheep.



- Dose and mark the 10 “test” lambs.
- Re sample the individual sheep 2 -3 weeks later
- Results – we can then look for coproantigen reduction to monitor for how effective the dose is in your flock and work out whether we can use it in future years.

Cost benefit

This does sound like a lot of testing and in many ways it is. All in between vet time and the cost of testing, it could be an investment of up to £1000. That said a bad fluke year can cost thousands in dead sheep or a poor lambing and with questions over the future of farm subsidies now is the time to set your flock up for the post Brexit era. Discuss your fluke surveillance plan with us at your farm assurance flock plan visit and don't get caught out by fluke this or in future seasons.

“A lot of farms in this area report resistance to triclabendazole, but do you know how big the problem is on your farm?” Finbarr O Sullivan Greene

Red Water in Cattle Project

Redwater or “babesiosis” is a disease that can cause fever, anaemia, diarrhoea, abortion and bloody urine (hence the name!). It is caused by a parasite that is spread by ticks and it is a disease that we see across the practice each grazing season.



Currently the APHA are offering free blood testing for the disease from up to three cattle showing signs per farm. If you have suspicions that you have cattle with the disease then you should contact us immediately as early treatment is very important but we can also discuss this testing with you.

Hannah Tatham



Pre Topping Top Tips!



**Book in your
Ram MOT's**



2 Vaccinate the ewes for abortion.

Aborted/ Barren Ewe Local Results

A barren or abortion rate >2% often indicates an infectious cause requiring further investigation. Toxoplasma and enzootic abortion (EAE) account for nearly two-thirds of abortions diagnosed by the lab.

In May we held some barren/aborted ewe blood testing days at the 3 practices. Of flocks tested, **56% were** positive for toxoplasma and **50%** were positive for EAE.



Toxoplasma is picked up in the environment mainly from infected cat faeces (keeping a stable i.e. neutered cat population will help to reduce circulation) and rarely spreads from ewe to ewe; EAE does spread from ewe to ewe, through infected afterbirth, on new lambs and in vaginal discharge for up to two weeks post-lambing – one of the reasons we recommend wearing gloves and disinfecting them between lambing sheep. Thankfully we have vaccines against both of these diseases which are highly effective and generally only need to be done once per lifetime of the ewe making them also very cost effective!

Please do speak to us for more advice.



Rebekah Carling

South Lakes News !!

To improve our service to clients in South Cumbria we are pleased to announce that we are opening up a part time branch and collection point, within **Tynedale Farm Services at Greenodd.**



- 48 hour medicine collection (max) - pre ordered by phoning Junction 36 on 015395 67889.
- Vet / FGV staff on site regularly .
- A one stop shop for your farm supplies and vet medicines.

Meet the team– David Weir MRCVS

David joined our Lancaster team just over a year ago now, apart from being occasionally being mistaken for a famous actor vet!, we find out here a little bit more about what makes him tick ..

1) What was your first ever job?

My first job was at 12 years old, I worked for the local newsagent delivering the morning paper on my bike.

2) What do you enjoy most about being a vet? I enjoy the variety in the work I do on a daily basis, I also enjoy the variety of people I get to meet.

3) Where is your favourite holiday destination? I am a keen snowboarder so wherever there's some snow and slopes suits me. I particularly enjoy the High Tatras mountain range in Slovakia.

4) Who would you most like to have dinner with? (a famous, real or fictional person). Due to what has been happening in the last year I'd like to have my family and friends down for a barbecue. Maybe Gordon Ramsey could cook and Bill Bailey provide some entertainment.

5) How do you relax after a hard days work? I like to hike in the Lakes as often as I can, I've managed to do a fair few fells in the past year. I've also recently taken on a Border Collie so I've been enjoying taking her out on walks and training her.



Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines, Red Tractor Approved Course.

Junction 36 Meeting Room, **Thursday 22nd July 2021** 1.30pm– 3.30pm £30 plus VAT includes course book and certificate. Brew and biscuits provided, to book please e mail linda@farmgatevets.com or phone the practice.



GARSTANG SHOW
SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST 2021

Come and see us at Garstang Show! It seems like forever since we socialised in person with our clients, a warm welcome will await you on our stand on **Saturday 7th August 2021**, hopefully see you there!

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FGV Sheep Club, summer evening farm visit to Mansergh Hall

Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale by kind permission of James and Catherine Hadwin. **August - Date TBC.** An interesting evening awaits as we see and hear about the sheep milking and other enterprises at Mansergh Hall Farm. Plus a discussion with Sarah Harker on the challenges this year with sheep mastitis. Supper included and kindly sponsored by Hipra, the makers of Vimco - the sheep mastitis vaccine. Further info and member invites to follow. If you are interested in joining our Sheep Club please get in touch or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com.



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Open 8:30am-5pm

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9am—12noon Saturdays

CLOSED Sundays

J36 Kendal Office

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Open 8:30am-5pm

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9am—12noon Saturdays

CLOSED Sundays

Sedbergh Office

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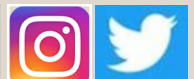
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