



Newsletter

July 2022



Welcome



The perks of the job

We think we lambed our last ewe in mid June, calving is calming down so now its time to start thinking about next spring! I've already been quizzed about ways to tighten up the lambing period, have done several pre breeding fertility checks on stock bulls and pelvic measured bunches of potential breeding heifers.

So in among siloing, hay timing, clipping and the general cowing and sheeping, it's not too early to make plans to help lambing and calving season go more smoothly.

Mark Stott

Included this month

- **Mystery Solved -** Finbarr O Sullivan Greene
- **Making Sure Every Cow Earns her place -** Suckler fertility meeting report - Kythe McKenzie, Mark Stott, Rebekah Carling & Karl Pendebury
- **CCN -** Catriona Hoy
- **News**
- **Diary Dates**

Mystery Solved..

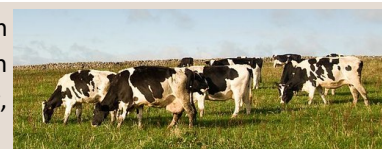
Last month we had a guess what this object retrieved from a cows stomach was?? Full case here - Finbarr operated on one of our clients' cows and removed this metal shard from her rumen. The cow was one of three cows that presented with symptoms consistent with "hardware disease" where metal penetrates through the rumen into other organs. This was a bit of a mystery as tyres were not used on the silage clamp, so it was a puzzle as to where the "wire" had come from. From the picture it is obvious this metal object is not a wire and more likely from the blade of a mixer wagon. Moral of the story if you get some down time between silage cuts, inspect machinery that handles cow's feed. Worn blades are a significant risk! This cow was lucky as it was picked up early by the farmer but that is not always the case as hardware disease is always painful and often fatal. Magnets can be installed on augers to reduce the risk but at a minimum regular maintenance could help spot problems before they occur.



Finbarr O Sullivan Greene



Fly season and all the problems it brings is definitely upon on us! Fly products in stock and Vet Techs are available for an extra pair of hands for herd or flock application this summer, just give us a call.



Making Sure Every Cow Earns Her Place

Last month we held an on farm client meeting on suckler herd fertility at Yealand Manor Farm, which was then repeated at Tynedale, Greenodd in the evening. Thank you to those who came along and in amongst eating nice pizza, here is a reminder of the discussions we had as we made our way around the 4 stations.

Suckler cows – the targets, why and how?

Initially an overview of the industry recognised targets for UK beef suckler herds. 3 key targets are

- A weaning rate of 95%
- A calving interval of 365 days
- A compact front loaded calving block, 65% calving in first 3 weeks.

What are the key factors that underline beef cow productivity:

- Nutrition and BCS
- Bull fertility
- Infectious disease control
- Replacement heifer management.



The calf at foot and the BCS at calving impact on the resumption of the hormones responsible for the return to normal bulling cycles which is important for productivity.

If wanting to reduce and/or tighten your calving period or make use of AI and therefore be able to select the genetics you require, there are reproductive protocols that can be used. In recent years protocols requiring less handling have been successfully used, please consult one of the vets.

Kythe McKenzie, Ceva Animal Health

Bull Fertility Testing

So why do pre breeding soundness exams on bulls? Well, they are 50% of your herds fertility and without a fertile bull your cows do not get in calf. This quick and relatively simple check up has been performed worldwide for many years and repeatedly it has been found that up to 25% of bulls are sub fertile. Not necessarily completely infertile, as these are often more easy to spot. Sub fertile bulls get some cows in calf over a lengthened period of time tend to do the most damage. Only half of these can be identified from looking from the outside, the rest are only detected by collecting a semen sample. With an electroejaculator you don't need a cow in season, you only need a good crush with a side opening. After a full examination and introduction of the probe a sample is usually produced in a couple of minutes. We bring along our mobile laboratory so that within a few minutes you can receive the peace of mind that you have a bull that can produce fertile sperm.

Doing this simple task each year just before the bull is turned out means that this part of the herd fertility is more certain. If you would like to know more about fertility testing bulls please ring the surgery and speak to us.

Mark Stott



Infectious Disease Impacting Fertility

The three main diseases that we need to concern ourselves with are BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis (Lepto). All are spread via direct contact but Lepto can also be spread via water courses. All cause abortion and reduced milk yield and infertility and BVD can cause congenital defects as well. Lepto has the added worry of being able to spread to humans causing fever, vomiting and diarrhoea, rash and headaches that last for weeks to months and needs to be treated with antibiotics. All can be diagnosed via blood/milk sampling and tissue tagging is also an option for BVD allowing detection from birth. Thankfully all 3 have vaccines available.



Rebekah Carling

Beef meetings continued....

AHDB Beef

The AHDB is made up of several teams which all have a single mission to try and get better returns to levy payers either by being more efficient and hitting the right market in pure monetary terms or by being more efficient and hitting specification more

The main teams within AHDB are

Market Intelligence (MI) – Collating data from markets, slaughter systems and the wider consumer arena to help to create robust campaigns

UK Marketing – working towards reputational marketing to redress the non-truths about red meat. Also to look a project looking at “rebranding retail” to make it more appealing to consumers

Export Marketing – To open up and maintain markets across the world ensuring we have a marketplace for the elements of the carcass we do not use anymore.

Animal Health and Welfare – Look at the best research for improving health and welfare of farmed animals to keep England in front of the pack to keep sales around the world safe.

Knowledge Exchange / Knowledge Transfer (KE / KT) This team brings all the above to farmers along with creating regional and national events that farmers can attend (usually FREE). These events are aimed at specific areas of work and as we move forward hope to be more collaborative with vets and allied businesses to share knowledge and best practice within the agricultural industry.

I am the knowledge Exchange manager in the northwest please do feel free to make contact – 07392319847 or email karl.pendlebury@ahdb.org.uk

Karl Pendlebury



Martyn Turner introducing the evening event at Tynedale Greenodd

South Lakes Clients, a reminder that we have a collection point at Tynedale Farm Services, Greenodd.

Phoning J36 to order is essential and we endeavour to get your medicines dropped off and ready for collection within 48hrs.



farmgate
vets
Collection point

Opening Hours

Mon - Friday 8.30pm - 5pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12pm

Vitamin B1 Deficiency

A deficiency in vitamin B1 can be seen in young growing calves and lambs. It results in a disease called CCN (cerebro-cortical necrosis).



Typical Star Gazing with CCN
Photo credit Nadis

This causes the animal to present with neurological symptoms as the brain is affected. However these symptoms are non specific and could also be caused by meningitis, tick fever or toxins so it is always worth getting a vet out to have a look!

Animals may appear blind or crane their necks upwards – this is called ‘star gazing’. They can also seem a bit wobbly on their legs. If left untreated, animals can progress to lying down and seizures.

Early identification and prompt treatment with repeated vitamin B1 injections gives animals the best chance of recovery and they often respond quickly. Even blind animals can recover their sight given early treatment and supportive care.

Catriona Hoy

An Interview with Rebecca Mason

Local farmers daughter Rebecca (Becca) joined our reception team at Junction 36 in March this year, straight into lambing time and has coped admirably! We persuaded her to do our meet the staff interview so here we go...

1) What was your first ever job? My first ever job was working at a local open farm in the soft play area.

2) What do you enjoy most about working for Farm Gate Vets? I enjoy the fact that no two days are the same here. You never know what is going to come in next

3) Where is your favourite holiday destination? My favourite holiday destination would be a road trip around the Scottish Highlands.

4) Who would you most like to have dinner with? (a famous, real or fictional person) - I think I would most like to have dinner with Noel Fitzpatrick because I think it would be really interesting to discuss with him how he comes up with all the new innovative ways on how to treat seriously ill and injured animals.



5) How do you relax after a hard days work? Weather depending I quite enjoy going out for a walk with my two energetic border collies. But, failing that I quite enjoy a nice quiet night in with a good movie or TV series.

Show Dates for 2022 - please join us on the stand on ...

Wed 27th July - North Lonsdale Show (with Tynedale).

Wed 3rd August—Cartmel Show

Saturday 6th August—Garstang Show

Wed 7th, Thurs 8th of September—Westmorland Show



Wedding

Congratulations to vet Becky Kershaw (Inman) and Adam who tied the knot in May!



Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines - Red Tractor Approved Course, Tuesday 5th July 2022 - 1.30pm - 3.30pm at our J36 Practice Meeting Room. Course cost £30 plus VAT including Course Book and Certificate—to book please call the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com or phone the practice.



Members Road Trip! Joint farm walk with The New Farmer Network in Lancashire to Cannerheugh Farm, Renwick, Penrith, CA10 1LA, By kind permission of our hosts Paul and Nic Renison. Meeting for lunch at 11.30am (kindly supported by MSD) at the The Fox, Ousby, Penrith CA10 1QB, we will then head to the farm for approx. 1pm. RSVP by Fri 15th July for food numbers by phoning the office 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

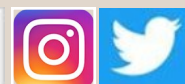
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