



# Newsletter

## June 2021



### Welcome

Where did the spring go? I can't believe that the longest day is in the middle of this month but hopefully we are at last going to get some warm "growy" weather. We've just gone through probably one of the busiest springs I can remember. Not particularly any specific problems, just plenty of lambings, calvings etc. Things are quietening down now so we have time to catch up with herd and flock health plans, medicine courses and general paperwork. In addition, with luck as COVID rules continue to relax, we'll hope to see you soon at face to face meetings as well as on zoom.

**Mark Stott**

### Could it be salmonella?

Salmonellosis is an infection of the digestive tract, caused by the bacterium Salmonella. There are over 2000 strains of Salmonella but only 3 are of importance in cattle. Animals can become persistently infected carriers, and shed intermittently or continuously. It is important to remember that Salmonella is zoonotic, and can cause potentially fatal infection in humans.

#### Clinical signs in cattle include:

- Diarrhoea
- Dysentery (bloody diarrhoea)
- Abortion
- Poor growth
- Septicaemia (in calves)
- Joint infections
- Reduce milk yield
- Pneumonia
- Dry gangrene (ear tip necrosis/ on healing limb wounds)

Infection can be acquired from contact with faeces, aborted material and un-pasteurised milk. Farm visitors and neighbouring cattle are also a potential source of infection. The bacteria can survive for months in slurry, for a year in soil, and can withstand high and low temperatures.

Diagnosis of salmonella in symptomatic animals can be made by faecal culture or post mortem exam. Blood sampling is useful for monitoring purposes or to make a retrospective diagnosis.

Continued..

### Included this month

- **Could it be salmonella?** - Becky Inman
- **FGV Sheep Club**, we are recruiting– Linda Dawson
- **Photosensitisation** Becky Dean
- **Sound Investment**– Sarah Harker
- **Welcome to** Charlotte Chapman
- **Diary Dates**
- **Photo's and social media**



Ask us about vaccination with Bovivac S as a control strategy.



## Could it be salmonella, continued..

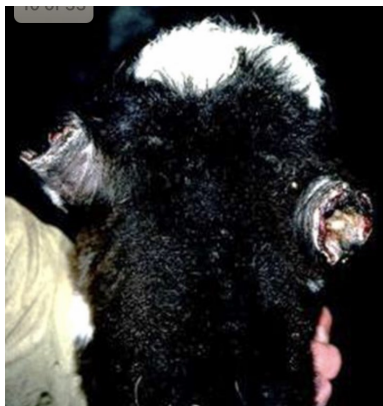
On dairy farms, herd level monitoring can be done by quarterly bulk milk testing.

An outbreak of salmonellosis can have serious economic consequences on a farm as well as public health implications. It is estimated that a positive herd has:

- 316kg less milk/cow/year
- 3% fewer calves/cow/year
- 1.5% greater rate of calf mortality
- 20,000 higher bulk milk somatic cell count

Control and prevention of salmonellosis is based on biosecurity, good hygiene, vaccination and monitoring.

Please speak to one of the vets if you suspect Salmonellosis on your farm.



Dry gangrene /ear tip necrosis caused by salmonella



Spinal abscess in a calf caused by salmonella, photo—NADIS



Clinical signs include pneumonia and scour

Becky Inman



### Sheep Club Package

- Flock Health Plan visit and written plan suitable for farm assurance
- A second farm visit for other purposes e.g. blood sampling
- Unlimited Faecal Egg Counts
- 20% off tup MOT's and fertility tests
- 20% off tup vasectomies
- Members only discussion group meetings, trips, visits etc..
- Post mortems (excluding Lab fees)
- A place on our lambing course

## Sheep Club, we are recruiting!

Client sheep health clubs are becoming more popular across the UK as vet practices try to engage more with their sheep clients in the joint effort to increase productivity but at the same time reduce antibiotic and wormer use.

For us, this means we want to see more of you, we want to be involved with what is happening on farm, we want you to be able to share your ups and downs within a group of like minded sheep farmers.

Worry about vet cost is often an issue and sometimes a barrier to us getting more involved with sheep clients, so the idea here is you pay a subscription of £25.00 plus VAT per month and in return you get all the benefits listed on the left.

For the routine work it has been business as normal but in terms of meetings, trips and discussion groups, Covid has been a challenge recently but the club has still managed to meet over Zoom. Most recently for a question time style meeting with Sarah Harker and auctioneer Ian Atkinson. Prior to this some members or their staff/families took up a their free space on our lambing course, and in November we had a discussion on thin sheep. Face to face meetings prior to this have involved guest speakers e.g. costs and benchmarking with AHDB, farm walks and other meetings at the practice which will resume shortly.

If you are interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to call the practice or e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com).

**farmgate**  
vets  
**sheep club**



## Photosensitisation

It is supposedly approaching the summer months, with stock turned out to graze the lush pastures (maybe someone should tell the weather gods!).

Something we encounter here and there every summer is photosensitisation, or severe sunburn. This is often seen in white haired animals, on white patches, or on the ears or muzzle where hair is thin. It causes painful, hard, cracked, and peeling areas of skin. Alternatively, the skin might feel crunchy to touch.

Photosensitisation is more complex than the sunburn you or I might get falling asleep on the beach.

In livestock this condition is actually a chemical reaction occurring in the skin. The reaction is fuelled by chemicals found in certain plants which the animal eats, which deposit in the skin, and is triggered by UV rays in sunlight. The chemical reaction damages the skin cells, which die and start to peel off.

The chemicals build up in the skin either because of the type of plant eaten or due to liver disease stopping chemicals breaking down and being removed from the system.



During the later stages the affected skin becomes dry and parchment like and sloughs off. Photo NADIS

Various plants can contain light reactive chemicals, in the UK St Johns Wort and Bog Asphodel are the most common, but various other plants can have effects, including some non-native garden shrubs. This condition is very painful, and animals are often depressed, and may have reduced milk yield and lose weight. Supportive care is essential, if you are suspicious of photosensitisation bring the animal inside out of any sunlight to stop the chemical reaction, also give painkillers like Loxicom or Ketofen, sometimes several doses in severe cases. Fly protection may be needed, and sometimes antibiotics if wounds become infected. If in doubt speak to a vet and arrange for the animal to be examined. The animal will need housing until the skin is starting to heal. In most cases this is enough to sort the problem, however if the root of the problem is liver failure then the animal may relapse or get worse rather than better.

### "More complex than sunburn"

- Often seen in white haired animals.
- Fuelled by plant chemicals ingested by the cow.
- Liver disease can be the root cause as it fails to remove these chemicals.
- Treatment is supportive care, keep inside out of sunlight and pain killer.



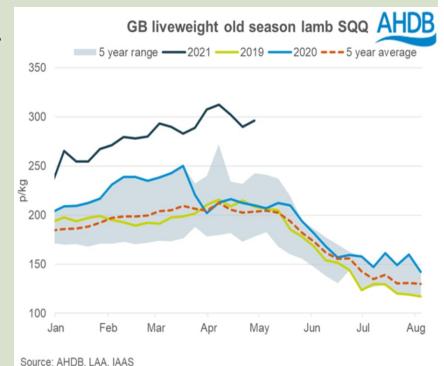
Becky Dean

## Sound Investment

With livestock and milk prices better at the moment, it's good to see more positivity in the industry. The cost of increased veterinary involvement feels more justified and we seem to be keeping busier than ever. If stock is worth more, it's worth looking after. Regardless of stock prices, it is always appropriate to look at what you are spending and where in terms of vet and medicines input. Preventative actions and treatments often make a better investment than 'fire-brigade' ones. A proper discussion around health planning often reveals products and treatments that are unnecessary, or inappropriately timed rather than just highlighting the extra inputs that would benefit. As agricultural support changes and our farms have less of a buffer in terms of payments, sensible business decisions need to be made. Invest in what is likely to benefit the health, productivity and profitability of your stock, but don't waste money where it won't.

But while things feel better, consider investing. Vaccines against BVD, footrot and sheep abortion for example are always likely to be sound investments. They just feel easier to make when things are a good trade.

***"Preventative actions and treatments often make a better investment than fire-brigade ones," Sarah Harker***





## Charlotte Chapman MRCVS BVSc



## Big welcome to Charlotte

Charlotte graduated from Bristol University in 2016 and has worked primarily in mixed animal practice. After spending two years locuming across the North of England and Scotland, Charlotte is looking forward to having a permanent role with us and developing her interests in herd health and productivity.

Outside of work Charlotte is kept busy with her post graduate certificate and the pet blood bank. She hopes to find time to hike all 214 Wainwrights in the Lake District with her dog Carlos.

## Dates For Your Diary



**Understanding Veterinary Medicines**, Red Tractor Approved Course.

Online **Tuesday 15th June 2021 1pm– 2.30pm** £30 plus VAT includes course book and certificate.

To book please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice.



**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. To book please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice.

## Social Media Highlights!



If you follow us on social media you may well have seen the captions our followers came up with this for this photo! Lots of comments about politicians/ farmers / reps talking “rubbish” and toilet roll shortages. The moral of the story is, **we don’t mind how you get your sheep muck samples to us for worm egg counts, just make sure you do!**



**Did you guess?** Our May photo was of course our Farm Gate dream team sisters on reception, Jeanette and Shirley!

### 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

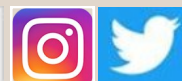
Monday-Friday

CLOSED Saturdays

CLOSED Sundays

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