



Welcome

In my career, our profession has changed dramatically. When I qualified, James Herriot was still alive and his job had been very similar to mine. It was still a very male dominated and physical profession. But vetting and farming have moved on and increasingly we're using brains more than brawn. The diseases haven't changed but our understanding has improved. That said, the three diseases in this edition are still challenging to treat but we now try to concentrate more on control and prevention. To that end, our staff are taking on the role of vet techs. Their jobs will include collecting samples and information to help monitor health on farm. This is a new chapter in the service we supply and I'm excited to see it develop.

Mark Stott

Johnes in Beef Cows

I find Johnes a really frustrating disease, this is due to:

- clinical signs don't start to appear until years after infection has occurred
- the animal will have been spreading the disease well before showing clinical signs
- testing can't pick up infected animals until after they have already started spreading the disease
- and the main control measure dairy herds use of keeping calves separate is impossible for a beef herd



However all is not lost! With proactive testing and a strict culling and replacement policy, it is possible to keep your herd free of the disease.

Have you got it on your farm?

For beef herds all cattle over 2 years are blood sampled, we wait until 2 because this is when they are most likely to become positive.

Included this month

- **Johnes in Beef Cows** - Rebekah Carling
- **Jim's Thoughts on Fluking Cattle** - Jim McKinstry
- **Pasteurellosis in Sheep** - Catriona Hoy
- **Vet Tech Service Coming Soon!**
- **News and 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 months, please contact us ASAP.

Johnes in Beef Cows continued...

All positive animals should be culled and their previous 2 calves shouldn't be kept as breeding stock - risk from in utero transmission and contaminated milk. However, all calves sharing the same space will be at risk from contact with the bacteria-ridden faeces. Therefore, if for whatever reason you are not culling your positive cows, you must keep them separate to the rest of your calves.

Control

As cows shed the bacteria before testing positive it is important to try and minimise faecal contamination as much as possible by:

- Raising feed and water troughs
- Using mains water and cordoning off non-flowing water sources
- Avoid spreading manure on pasture
- Maintain good hygiene in buildings especially calving pens

Staying free!

With the difficulty in detecting early stages of the disease, the only way you have of 'knowing' you



are buying a negative animal is to buy from accredited herds that have consistently tested free of the disease - Johnes Level 1. The hope would be that if all the cows are negative (and have been for years) the calves shouldn't have come into contact with the bacteria and should therefore also be negative. A one-off, negative test of an individual animal is no good - it is the serial negative testing of the herd you are looking for.

Rebekah Carling

Jim's Thoughts on Fluking Cattle

Fluke is an ever and present problem in all of our grazing animals. Cattle are more of a challenge as they do not show as serious signs as sheep but fluke will still cause decreased growth rates, decreased milk production and liver condemnations at slaughter. This year is not a particularly bad fluke year as we have had a dry summer. Never the less cattle still need to be treated during the winter to prevent adult fluke infecting pastures next Spring.

Dairy Cattle - The best time to treat is at drying off. We recommend Tribex 10%, Tremazole 10% or Zanil at dry off. There are no fluke treatments for lactating cows with a zero milk with hold so dry off is the best time to treat them.

Youngstock and store cattle need to be treated a set period after housing depending on product to be used to make sure that all of the fluke are killed. Using fluke and worm products at housing will not kill all stages of fluke and will need to be repeated. Personally, I recommend an Ivermectin pour-on (**Enovex**) at housing for all cattle as leaving worming to later in the winter will allow lung and gut worms to affect growth rates.

Cattle can be drenched with **triclabendazole** products 2 weeks after housing. I tend not to recommend this unless there is a very high fluke challenge due to resistance problems with it. It is better to wait and use the other products to get a better kill.

There is a new pour-on product, **SOLANTEL** which can be applied 7 weeks after housing.

Another product is **Bimectin Plus** which can be used 12 weeks after housing. It is a wormer as well which is over kill but the flukicide is what we are after. With **Trodax being discontinued** we do not have any specific injectable fluke drugs on our shelf. If in calf heifers are being treated, please ask us as some products can not be used in the last 4 1/2 months of pregnancy.



"Fluke control can be a bit confusing but please ask us as we can get you the right product at the right time, at the right price!!!" Jim McKinstry

Pasteurellosis in Sheep

Recently we have been seeing many lambs and sheep die suddenly and whole groups affected by pneumonia. Pasteurella appears to be a common cause in these groups. Bacteria that cause pasteurellosis are carried by healthy sheep and can cause disease when triggered by stress.

With recent breeding sales involving handling, transport and mixing of stock, many animals brought on to farm could be immune compromised. Other stress factors include drenching and changing weather - we've seen plenty of that recently!

The first sign of pasteurella may be seeing animals found dead, however they can also present with runny noses and breathing with increased rate and effort.



Antibiotic treatment is an option if you catch it early enough but some animals may die despite treatment. When treating animals it is also important to give an anti-inflammatory and to handle minimally and with as little stress as possible. Prevention is better than cure and there are vaccines available that protect against pasteurella and clostridial diseases. Many farms will already be vaccinating for clostridial and pasteurella. There are several vaccines available including Heptavac P, Ovivac P and Ovipast (pasteurella only). Vaccinating breeding ewes with Heptavac P at the right time also boosts their colostrum, passing on immunity to newborn lambs against lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, tetanus and pasteurellosis.



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Catriona Hoy

Vet Tech Service—coming soon!

Over the last decade as farms have become bigger and busier, we constantly come across a common theme, people have less time and fewer staff to complete all the various health management tasks on farm. This is



where a vet tech service comes in, a concept which is becoming more and more common in the UK. Vet techs take care of tasks such as disbudding and vaccinating, correctly and on time, freeing up yourself and other farm staff to do other jobs.

We are currently in the processing of training a group of highly capable, livestock experienced staff who will in the near future form our Vet Tech Service. Examples of services we expect them to offer include..

- Disbudding and vaccinating calves
- Whole herd vaccinations
- Measuring and recording data such as weights for our healthy heifer scheme.
- Taking samples for diagnostics
- Drying off service
- Mobility scoring
- Fly Control
- Assisting vets e.g. TB tests.



Watch this space for further updates but in the meantime, please enquire and let us know how we can help.

Warm Welcomes

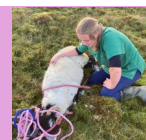


Hannah Fulford joined our Lancaster branch in August after graduating from University with a degree in Agriculture with Livestock Science BSc(Hons). Hannah's practical experience includes working on a local family dairy farm for the last six years, two lambing seasons in the Scottish Borders and several months working for a local foot trimmer. Currently splitting her time between Lancaster and Kendal on reception, our plan is to utilise Hannah's experience as part of the Vet Tech team as we roll out this new service to clients. In her spare time Hannah is a keen horse rider and member of YFC.

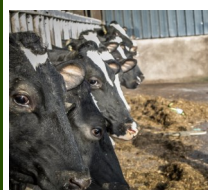
Ruby Allan After graduating from Newton Rigg College this summer with a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture, Ruby started with us on reception, part time in July and now full time since September. Ruby is a farmers daughter from near Kirkby Lonsdale where they farm beef and sheep with the main interest breeding mule gimmer lambs. In her spare time she is usually found with her dog, Gem on the farm and competing and socialising with her local young farmers, the highlight this year competing down in Stafford with the Ladies Nationals Tug of War Final. Ruby is looking forward to meeting new faces and relished the prospect of learning new skills whether its in the office or on farm as part of our new Vet Tech Service.



Rescue Mission of the Month! This Swaledale was in luck last month when Kathrine combined her climbing skills to reach the stranded ewe with her vet skills to fix its damaged leg!



Dates For Your Diary



Navigating Volatile Feed Prices without Compromising Herd Fertility - Thursday 18th

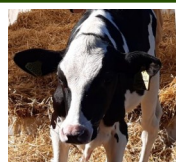
November 2021 at the Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Aimed at dairy farmers, we will be joined for this meeting by guest speaker **Professor Mark Crowe** from University College Dublin who will lead an interesting discussion on improving herd fertility. Please book your place and supper by phoning the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com. Thank you to our meeting sponsors, Elanco Animal Health



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. Please book early as these courses are filling up fast and our face to face meetings are running at reduced numbers for Covid Safety.

Thursday 25th November 2021—1pm—2.30pm Online - via Zoom.

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.



Pneumonia weather is inevitable but calf disease is not. Thursday December 2nd 2021, 7.00pm

for 7.30pm @J36 meeting room. Please join us for this vet talk and discussion on pneumonia control in the challenging North West climate. Supper included and kindly sponsored by Boehringer, please book by phoning 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

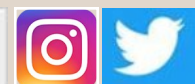
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