



Welcome

The leaves are turning and the nights are drawing in but thankfully stock is still out and there is a bit of grass about.

With turn in just around the corner we need to be thinking of pneumonia vaccination to protect the youngstock. Pneumonia is always a problem. Farmer's comments about the outbreaks that I deal with are "we always get a bit but this is the worst we have seen". With a bit of proper health planning, we can help you to prevent the problems. It is too late when the calves are tifting and off their feed.

Lungworm has hit hard this year as the warm and wet conditions have been ideal for lungworm as Mark's article shows. We struggled getting lungworm vaccine this year so that will not have helped. It is very important to treat cattle for lungworm at housing as damaged lungs are more likely to get pneumonia.

Jim McKinstry

Included this month

- **No Coughing Matter**—Mark Stott
- **Diarrhoea in Young Calves**—Becky Dean
- **Westmorland Show Quiz**
- **Make sure dead animals pay for themselves** - Mark Stott
- **Calf Jackets**—Charlotte Chapman
- **Sheep Producer Halal meeting**
- **News**
- **Diary Dates**

No Coughing Matter

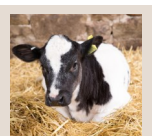
This is a still of a little video we put on social media that went viral - despite it being a parasite! Although they were treated with a pour on wormer 2 weeks beforehand, this group of homebred stirks were not only coughing but dying. One was so far gone, I decided to euthanase it to obtain a good fresh post mortem. I often marvel how an animal survives with such badly damaged organs. The lungs were totally abnormal with pasteurilla pneumonia and that could have been the diagnosis until the airways were opened up and these lungworm were found. They shouldn't have been there if the wormer had worked. Wormer resistance or under dosing? Injecting the rest of the cattle with the same wormer resulted in almost a full recovery.



Mark Stott



As housing time fast approaches it's time to really think about lung health. Make sure you vaccinations for pneumonia bugs including IBR are carried out to help prevent the wheels falling off further down the line.



Diarrhoea in Young Calves

The other corona... (no, not the beer.)

Diarrhoea in calves can have many different causes, these can be bacterial or parasitic, but much more commonly they are viral in origin.

The big two viral causes being **rotavirus**, and **coronavirus**.

Both of these viral infections attack the cells lining the intestines of calves, causing damage and preventing absorption of digested milk. This digested milk then sits in the gut, being poorly absorbed, not nourishing the calf and drawing water from the calf's blood. Eventually exiting the body as watery pasty diarrhoea, taking the nutrients and fluid with it.

Two big red flags here are

- Increased water loss, causing dehydration
- Reduced nutrients entering the blood.

The end result being a poorly calf, who gets progressively more dehydrated. There can be a wide range in severity of symptoms, from mild to fatal, and degree of dehydration is the major driving force.

Treatment of viral diarrhoea focuses on replacing lost fluids, in milder cases via oral electrolytes but in cases where the calf is so dehydrated they cannot stand then a vet visit and a drip is often needed.

Antibiotics are not a first line treatment as they do nothing to viruses. But painkillers are helpful.

It is important to remember that even after the virus has been cleared from the system, the damage to the intestinal lining has to heal and this can take some days.



As always prevention is better than cure, and it is possible to use vaccines against this disease. With these vaccines the mother is vaccinated in the 12-3 weeks before calving, causing her to make antibodies, which go into her colostrum. This colostrum is then drunk by the calf, and the calf is thus protected.

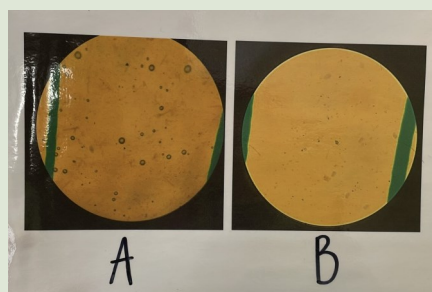
A final note to make is that calves with diarrhoea still need milk. Electrolyte solutions are there to replace fluids, not feed the calf and if the calf is starving it will not fight infections or heal well.

Becky Dean

Westmorland Show Quiz answers and Winners!!

For those of you who joined us at the Westmorland Show this year you may have entered one of our competitions, if so the answers and prize winners are here....

1) Know your poo! - The sloppy sample (sample 2) had the lowest worm egg count. The pelleted sample (sample 1) was high. However an added twist meant microscope photo A looked like it had most eggs, but a trained eye could see that these were mostly air bubbles and in fact B had the most worm eggs. So Picture A was sample 2 and Picture B was sample 1. Congratulations to the winner of the draw who was **Helen Ellwood**.



2) Calf Weigh Banding - Our polystyrene calve, despite having 3 broken legs did weigh in on the tape at 110kg. Congratulations to the prize draw winner who was **Paul and Dorothy Roskell**. We will be in touch to give you your rugby shirts soon.

Make sure dead animals pay for themselves!

Where there is livestock there's dead stock—it's a fact of life (or death) and it's tempting to just ring the knackerman ASAP to get the offending animal out of sight and out of mind, but are you missing a trick? You may think it's a one off and having a postmortem is only throwing good money after bad, but what if it could tell you more than what the animal died of?

A simple post mortem with some in house tests could tell us the fluke and worm status of your flock or herd. Some of the so called iceberg diseases of sheep such as OPA, Johnes and MV are often discovered in the ewe that died of pneumonia for example. These incidental findings are often more important for the overall health of your stock than the fatal ailment.

This means that post mortem examinations are worth the time and effort. What's more, members of our sheep club get their sheep post mortems included in their subscription so at no extra cost—a real bargain!



Mark Stott



What is this?

Sarah came across this specimen on farm last month, the question is what is it? Answer to be revealed in next months newsletter.

Calf Jacket Time



If you're reaching for your coat this is a sign that your calves also need to cover up. Temperatures from as warm as 15°C can be enough to cause cold stress in a new born calf. Get calf jackets on, check housing, and prepare to support your calves through the cold spell. If calves are cold energy from milk feeds will go to keeping warm and not weight gain so don't waste valuable time and money.

Charlotte Chapman

Sheep Farmers - Date for your Diary

The aim of this meeting is for sheep producers to understand more about the Halal market and its growing importance to the UK lamb sector. Some of the myths around how this sector operates will be dispelled and we will learn how best to capitalise on this market. We expect interest to be high so please book early by calling the office or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com

In conjunction with AHDB we invite all sheep farmers to this evening meeting

Halal - Dispelling the Myths and Exploring the Market

Thursday 24th November 2022 6.30pm arrival for food, 7pm start
at J36 Rural Auction Centre Exhibition Hall, LA7 7FP

- Grace Randall - Lamb performance in retail and foodservice.
- Dr Awal Fuseini - What Halal means, why lamb is so important to Muslim communities, how the sector operates, how to capitalise on this market, how Muslim communities perceive lamb production in England, how we can better market lambs at different times in the Muslim calendar.
- Martin Eccles - Butchery demonstration showing Halal market requirements.

Supper kindly sponsored by Ceva and MSD, please advise us of any special dietary requirements.

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Please RSVP by phoning Farm Gate Vets on 015395 67899 or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com

AHDB

An Interview with Mary Brownsord

Mary joined our reception team in April this year and quickly settled into the Farm Gate family. Most Lancaster clients will have met her already but here we find out a little bit more about what makes her tick..

1) What was your first ever job? My first job was when I was 13 at Inglenook Fish and Chip shop in Ingleton. I worked there until I was 18. I never did figure out how to get rid of the frying smell from my hair before a night out but I always had plenty of room on the dancefloor!

2) What do you enjoy most about working for Farm Gate Vets? Definitely the people I work with! Especially Shirf's.

3) Where is your favourite holiday destination? Can't beat a family holiday to Center Parcs, even though it costs an arm and a leg to go these days.

4) Who would you most like to have dinner with? (a famous, real or fictional person) -

Captain Raymond Holt from Brooklyn 99 (the best show ever made!).

5) How do you relax after a hard days work?

I try and drag myself to the gym at least 3 / 4 times a week but if that fails you'll find me in the pub having

a drink and a catch up with my mates! I also love getting out and about with my dog when my dad hasn't stolen her to go shooting with.



We are recruiting a friendly full time

Receptionist / Administrator

A vacancy has arisen in our friendly motivated reception team at our busy farm animal practice in North West England, split between our J36 and Lancaster practices.

Job Vacancy—Reception Team
We have a full time vacancy available and we would love to hear from you. Please contact Carol on 01524 60006 or e mail carol@farmgatevets.com
Closing date Friday 14th October 2022

Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines - Wednesday 19th October 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



Halal, Dispelling the Myths and Exploring the Market, Thurs 24th November 2022, J36 Rural Auction Centre Exhibition Hall, 6.30pm for supper, 7pm start, in conjunction with AHDB this will be very informative meeting for sheep farmers, see article on previous page. To book please ring the office or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com



Christmas Charity Quiz Night !!! After last years covid cancellation we are back, further details to follow, but start revising general knowledge ready for December!

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

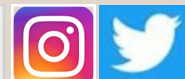
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