



Newsletter

September 2025



Welcome

It's hard to believe we're heading into autumn already – the year seems to be flying by. As always, there's plenty going on out on farm, and we've packed this newsletter with a few seasonal tips and updates to help keep everything running smoothly.

One date we're really looking forward to is the Westmorland County Show. It's always a brilliant couple of days, and we can't wait to catch up with so many of you there. Please do stop by for a chat – it's lovely to see everyone away from the yard for once, and we always enjoy hearing how things are going.

Mark Stott

Quarantine and Sheep Sales



With Autumn on its way, the excitement and hard work of the sheep and cattle sales are just around the corner. Hours of clipping, dipping (and even plucking) go on show in the rings and you all hope that it pays off.

When you buy your gimmers or tups, they will look well in the ring and even better in you isolation field. As vets we are here to take the shine off things with our advice

on animal health. Most new diseases on a farm do not come from midges or seagulls, they come from newly brought on animals. **Haemonchus**, the blood sucking sheep worm is a problem we see more and more of. It will get introduced onto farms from bought in sheep. This is also how worm and fluke resistance speeds up as new worms and fluke can come on with bought in sheep. **Digital dermatitis**, **scab** and any amount of infectious disease come on through your gate. Don't forget about the sheep that come on a holiday to see a tup, they can also bring unwanted passengers. In your health plans we have a section about quarantine. This is the time of year to dust it off and read it.

Hopefully you have bought sheep from an MV accredited flock. If they are draft ewes have they been vaccinated for enzo and toxo abortion? You need to keep bought in sheep separate for 2 weeks. On arrival we want you to worm them with zolvix and keep them in for 2 days. This is to prevent any resistant worm eggs getting on to your field. Also give a dose of Flukiver or Solantel to kill any triclabendazole resistant fluke. Repeat this in 6 weeks. Footbath all new sheep 3-4 times in the quarantine period in 5% formalin to prevent any digital dermatitis getting onto the farm. Quarantine protocols are a bit of a pain but are a lot better than getting an outbreak of disease in the main flock.

Jim McKinstry

Included this month

- **Quarantine & Sheep Sales**— Jim McKinstry
- **Shackles and Transport**— Beth Thornton
- **Stockmanship and end product quality** - Sarah Harker
- **Healthy Heifer Club**—Gill & Evie
- **Lameness & Anti-inflammatory drugs**—Beth Griffiths
- **News and Diary Dates**



TEST DON'T GUESS with WORM EGG COUNTS
Wormer and Fly Products all in stock for the summer season.



Transporting Animals to Slaughter Using Shackles

From June 2025 the transport of cattle wearing shackles has been prohibited. Shackles are often very useful for keeping cows steady on their feet. If used sensibly and cattle are transported a short distance, are deeply bedded, alone and well partitioned, it can work well. This is how many farmers have used them.

However, a few reports have been made in which animals have been transported over many hours to slaughter and have unfortunately arrived recumbent and unable to rise. A cow in shackles is more at risk of falling during transport, and is likely to find it difficult to stand again. Additionally, the cow will have increased difficulty during loading and unloading due to the angle of the ramps into the vehicle.



This has made the APHA take the decision to put a blanket ban on transportation of cattle in shackles. In the future, either emergency slaughter at the time of the injury or ensuring the animal is fully recovered and able to walk unaided are our options. A blanket ban can seem a little unfair, especially when the majority of farmer's take great care when transporting their stock. But it is ultimately needed to protect animal welfare.

Any animal that arrives at a slaughterhouse wearing shackles is obligated to be reported to the relevant Local Authority (LA) and APHA by the FSA, irrespective of the animal's condition on arrival.

Beth Thornton

Good Stockmanship Ensures a Good End Product



Whilst on our summer Sheep Club trip to Tebay Services in June, we saw carcasses to be proud of that had been bred and reared by one of our clients. I am more used to seeing their sheep in nearby fields as I drive by, again stock to be proud of. This was a reminder that good stockmanship ensures a good end-product. Our actions when we handle and treat our livestock must not have a detrimental impact on the carcasses they become.

AHDB data suggests about 2% of sheep carcasses and 6% of cattle carcasses contain abscesses, often caused by incorrect injection technique or use of dirty or blunt needles. The required trimming devalues the carcasses or at worst, extensive abscessation leads to total condemnation. Syringes and needles should be clean and used no more than a few times and certainly not if they become contaminated or damaged. Injections should only be done into clean dry areas of the animal, although sometimes waiting for a dry day to get jobs done can be frustrating! Some injectables are irritant in larger volumes, and depending on the drug, the data sheet may recommend splitting over 2 sites to limit muscle damage.

Injections under the skin should be done over the neck or behind the shoulder where loose skin can be grasped, taking care to keep the needle parallel to the body wall to keep clear of underlying muscle. Intramuscular injections should avoid more valuable cuts of meat on the rump and back legs, and be done in the neck where possible. Needles should be an appropriate size and length for the drug, size of animal and site of injection.

Correct technique ensures our treatments work properly and do not damage the carcasses produced from our stock thus maximising animal health, human health and farm profitability.

Sarah Harker



Healthy Heifer Club

I think it's time to tell everyone who might not have already heard about our brilliant calf club, Healthy Heifer Club. Anyone who's rearing calves, be it beef or dairy, may well be interested in joining our group. It's all about improving calf health and productivity.

The vet techs make weekly / fortnightly visits to take birth weights, weigh calves, analyse blood sample results, help host Healthy Heifer meetings, quarterly weight reports and take the lead in each farm's unique vaccine protocol.

We meet with a group of like minded farmers interested in all things calf health,

including growth rates, disease reduction/prevention and benchmarking. You farmers do like to see how you compare to other farmers!



We are a proactive group of farmers, vets and vet techs where knowledge is shared and rearing protocols are discussed. We usually have a good feed too!

Contact any of the vets or vet techs to have a chat about more details on joining our club.

Gill Lumb and Evie Ford

Lame Cattle and Sheep - don't forget anti-inflammatories



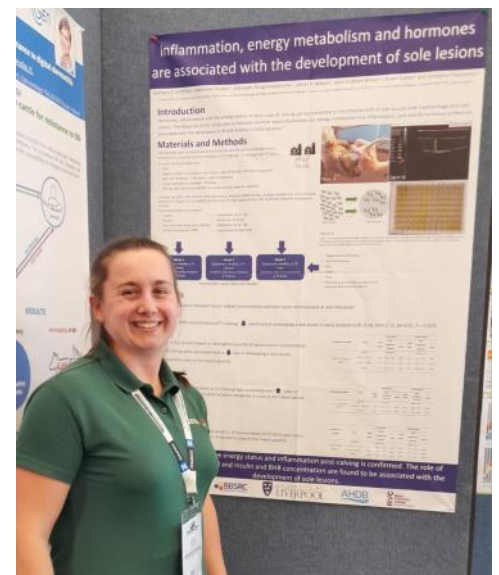
I recently attended and presented at a conference focused on new advances in anti-inflammatory (Metacam, Ketofen or Allevinix) use. Many topics were discussed including using anti-inflammatory when treating sole ulcers, white line disease and sole haemorrhage in combination with a hoof trim and block on the unaffected claw.

Inflammation plays a significant role in how animals are affected by disease. Early and proactive use of anti-inflammatories can improve treatment outcomes and limit production losses.

Digital dermatitis in cattle and contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD) in sheep are both infections which cause painful open sores on the feet. These lesions can lead to behavioural changes such as reduced lying and standing times, reduced milk yield and liveweight gain.

Treatment should include cleaning and drying the lesion well and applying a licensed topical or injectable antibiotic. Adding in an anti-inflammatory drug into the treatment plan will reduce pain but also limit the production losses linked to the inflammatory process. Especially in sheep where inflammation associated with CODD has been shown to permanently damage the foot. In dairy cattle, the addition of a single dose of Ketofen to cows that were lame with digital dermatitis after calving gave over 10kg/day more milk over the following seven days. Lame cows which did not receive Ketofen were over 20 times more likely to remain lame a week after diagnosis, compared to those that were treated with an anti-inflammatory.

Anti-inflammatory drugs are one of the most important tools in my toolkit as a vet, used correctly they lead to better treatment success and a more productive cow or sheep.



Beth Giffiths



#farm24

You may have seen our posts last month, in an attempt to raise the profile of the industry we are privileged to work in. Thanks to all who participated and for all the social media posts likes and interactions.



An Interview with Evie Ford

Those of you who use our Vet Tech service will have met Evie, she works with our team on an apprenticeship from Harper Adams University. Having just passed all her year 1 exams (well done!) we thought it was time for an interview- **What was your first ever job?** Milking cows on a weekend whilst at school. **What do you enjoy most about working at Farm Gate Vets?** Working with farmers and their calves and helping make improvements. **Where is your favourite holiday destination?** Greece **How do relax after a hard days work?** I go for a ride on my horse (pictured below).

Whatsapp Ordering Number

07442 862092

Please include-

- Name and Farm Name -
- Collection from Lancaster, J36, Sedbergh or Tynedale
- Medicine requested and quantity
- Reason for use - e.g. lame cows.



Westmorland County Show - 10th and 11th of September 2025

A warm welcome awaits on our stand where we'll be serving brews, drinks, ice cream, cakes and biscuits. Please come and see us for a chat.



Understanding Veterinary Medicines—Red Tractor Approved Course

Tuesday 16th September, 1.30pm at our J36 Practice A mixed course for beef, sheep and dairy farmers who require an approved course for farm assurance. £40 per person including course book and certificate.

To book your place please phone 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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