



Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome

Although definitions alter, meteorologically, we are now in Autumn. Its probably an age thing, but I think the seasons pass by faster and faster. At the time of writing, I think most of us in this corner of the country have had a good summer. The right mix of sunshine and rain to make the grass grow like Topsy (I think that phrase probably shows my age as well!). It's been good thriving weather for parasites as well. Fluke forecasts are for a medium to high infestation this autumn. We'll keep you posted on social media regarding what we find in the coming weeks but rest assured, we're getting well stocked up in appropriate treatments in anticipation. Don't forget to keep an eye out for husk in cattle. Although that season started in early July, outbreaks will occur well into the back end. Likewise depending on the weather, fly issues will also continue and treatments may have to go on well into the autumn as well. So I don't end on a down beat, Westmorland Show is just around the corner and we look forward to seeing you on our stand for a brew and some fruit and yogurt.

Mark Stott

Avoid Buying in Problems!

Breeding sheep sales are in full swing and we are talking lots about quarantine. Below is a quick and simple guide on current guidance. Please be aware for each flock and farm incoming sheep can pose different risk so please give us a call for more farm specific guidance.



ALL BOUGHT IN SHEEP SHOULD BE ISOLATED FROM THE MAIN FLOCK FOR 4 WEEKS.

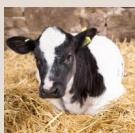
- On arrival put sheep on hard standing for 48 hours.
- Assess for lameness (lift feet), foot lesions (CODD) and orf. Treat any infections.
- Give worm treatment: group 4 (Orange) wormer (Zolvix) PLUS a group 3 (clear) wormer (Ivermectin.)
- Fluke treatment: Consider time of year and treat accordingly. Use Triclabendazole in autumn months, due to risk of acute (young) fluke.

48 hours after treatment turn out onto 'dirty' pasture. This is pasture that has been grazed by your own stock this season but is also ideally dry and not "flukey". Foot bath sheep twice weekly with a suitable product e.g. formalin or copper sulphate and isolate and lame ones until resolved.

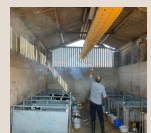
Beth Thornton

Included this month

- **Avoid Buying in Problems**— Beth Thornton
- **Pre-Milking Teat Preparation** - Jim McKinstry
- **Healthy Heifer Scheme**— Hannah Fulford
- **Red Water**— Hannah Tatham
- **News**
- **Diary Dates**



Time to reduce pneumonia pressure ready for housing, consider cutting drainage channels, improving ventilation (outlets and inlets), reducing drafts at calf level, sourcing some calf jackets and vaccination to boost the calves internal ability to fight off bugs.



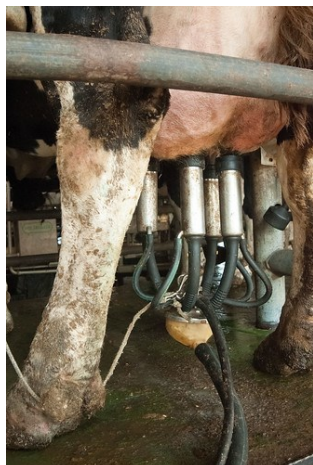
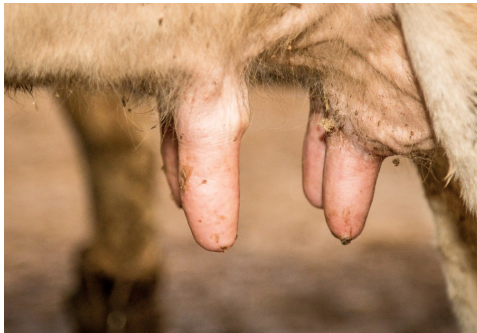
Pre-Milking Teat Preparation

Most of the mastitis and cell counts problems we see come from the cow's environment. It is great when it is a cow-to-cow problem because they are easy to sort as we keep the infected cows away from the clean cows.

Environmental mastitis (*E.coli* and *Strep. uberis*) are more difficult as they can pop up from anywhere the cow has contact with, which can be a big challenge. This is especially challenging in the summer when sheds are not ventilating well, beds are damp or cows at grass are lying under trees and hedges to stay out of the heat or more likely sheltering from the rain. One of the most important control methods is **Pre-milking teat preparation**. This can be done in many ways and we see many ways that are used to do this important task more quickly but this can lead to more mastitis in the cows. The most important thing about pre milking teat prep is the length of time or **KILL TIME** the product has with the bacteria on the teat. If it is only on for 10 seconds, it will not do the job.

The big mistakes we see are

- Too short a time in contact with the teat.
- The wrong product being used. There is no product that can be a pre and a post milking teat dip. It will do both jobs badly!!!!



- Teat brushes. If these are to be used make sure the chemical mix is correct. If teats are really mucky clean them off with some blue roll before you use the brush. Clean the brush in hypochlorite after every side as the opening of the brush gets mucky and will contaminate the clean teat end when you remove the teat from the brush.

If you are still getting environmental mastitis problems and you are keeping cows clean and prepping their teats properly before milking, then we need to have a chat about mastitis vaccination. This is something we use on some farms and can be a game changer but only if you are doing the other things right in the first place. It is no substitute for boring old cleanliness!!!!!!



Jim McKinstry

Why Join our Healthy Heifer Scheme?

Our Healthy Heifer Scheme is aimed at improving calf health, maximising growth, and taking some stress away from you!

What we do:

- Measure the weight of calves – Birth weight, 4 weeks old and 8 weeks old.
- Monitor total colostrum management.
- A vaccination programme suited to your farm.



By measuring each calf at these intervals, it allows you to see the daily live weight gain (DLWG) of each calf and if they are achieving target growth rates. It also identifies any underperforming and sick calves, which could link to problems within your system.

Colostrum is vital for a calf to get the right start in life, but do you know if the colostrum you are feeding is high quality? And are you feeding it within 4 hours of birth? The Healthy Heifer Scheme allows us to take blood samples from calves and analyse the total protein (TP) within the blood sample. The Vet Techs can then help create a colostrum management plan with your vet, to improve your colostrum plan on your farm.

Healthy Heifer Scheme - continued

A vaccination programme can be created to suit your farm by the Vet Techs, so that no calves miss their vaccinations. A record is kept of the date's calves are vaccinated and what product is used.



We are offering a **FREE TRIAL** of our Healthy Heifer Scheme, which includes 4 visits. These visits can be spread out over 4 weeks or 8 weeks depending on what suits your system. The free trial includes measuring, vaccinating (not including vaccine) and blood sampling the calves. After the

trial, a report will be written and presented to you by the vet tech, to look over the points raised within the trial.

For other services that we offer, please look at our leaflet or get in touch with one of the branches.



Hannah Fulford BSc (Hons)

Tick Borne Diseases and our Warming Climate—Focus on Redwater

Redwater or “babesiosis” is a disease that can cause fever, anaemia, diarrhoea, abortion and bloody urine (hence the name!). It is caused by a parasite that is spread by ticks and it is a disease that we see across the practice each grazing season. Not all ticks carry the parasite but areas that are known to have ticks are at risk. Cattle that are bought in or grazed for the first time are more at risk, but we do see one-off cases in any age of cattle.



Signs occur around 2 weeks after a tick has bitten, so it is rare to find a tick on an affected animal. The parasite invades the blood cells and causes them to malfunction and eventually burst. Early signs of disease would include separation from the group, lack of appetite, weakness, diarrhoea and pale colour of the membranes around the gums and eyes. As a rule any animal that is off colour while at grass warrants a closer inspection as this is not normal. If we catch the signs early, then we do have a drug called Imizol that is effective at treating the parasite. This can also be used as a prevention for at risk animals but cost and long withdrawals often limit widespread use in a herd.



Tick populations appear to be expanding year on year so diseases like redwater may become more common in the future. Tick control on farm centres around reducing tick environments through drainage and clearance of vegetation – however there are a lot of schemes that discourage this! There aren't any licensed products for tick prevention in cattle but permethrin spot ons and pour ons are licensed in sheep so speak to us about products that likely will help.



Hannah Tatham

Thank you for coming to see us!



So good to see lots of clients at the local shows so far this year, Ulverston, Cartmel and Garstang. Dalefarm Lakeland (a local creamery at Kendal who many of our dairy clients supply) supplied us with delicious Greek style yoghurt which we served up on the stand along with fresh strawberries, which seemed to go down very well! Congratulations to Emma Knight and Beth Ladds who won our calf weigh banding competition at Ulverston and Garstang respectively. At Cartmel Hannah and



Becky spent the day in the education tent where they lambed sheep, painted real heifers with anatomy and generally had a very busy day engaging with the general public on the work of farmers and farm vets.

Next stop the Westmorland Show, see you there!



Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines - if you still need to do a Red Tractor approved medicine course, or would like to register interest in doing a MilkSure course, then please let us know and we will happily put on some more dates. Thank you.



Westmorland County Show, Wed 7th and Thurs 8th September 2022. A warm welcome awaits on our stand, please come and say hello and dry some highly recommended Dalefarm yoghurt!

Halal, Dispelling the Myths and Exploring the Market, Thurs 24th November 2022, venue TBC in conjunction with AHDB this will be very informative meeting for sheep and beef farmers, more details to follow!

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

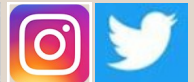
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