



Welcome



"Clashy" and "Backend like" are understatements when it comes to the present weather pattern. I would say that its still better to be struggling to find two fine days together in order to grab crop than to be in the rest of Europe worried that there's no crop at all (and what there is might go up in flames). Neither are we dodging bombs, bullets and land mines in Ukraine. So all in all, we still live in a fantastic place - whatever the weather. The year marches on and to prove it, the local shows have started and we're busy preparing for tugging time by vasectomising tups on mass. It must be an age thing, I'm sure its only five minutes since we were lambing!

Mark Stott

Veterinary Attestation Forms

We have had more than a few conversations recently with farmers worrying about the above forms, and although they may sound scary, there really is no need to panic. Export procedures have changed since Brexit, and a paper trail is required back to the farm of origin of agricultural products confirming regular veterinary health visits. Currently, a farmer declaration is required but from 13th December 2023, the rules will tighten. If you are farm assured (Red Tractor or equivalent) this will be adequate to comply with the rules. If not, we need to sign a short form to say that the farm is free of notifiable disease and has good disease control and biosecurity. This can be done as a specific visit or whilst we are out doing something else. If you wish to take advantage of the Health and Welfare Pathway funding, the visits could be combined for example. The form is valid for 12 months and a copy accompanies consignments to the auction mart or abattoir. The information it contains is then used to support any export health certificates that are needed subsequently. It is our understanding that they will not be required for the sale of store lambs or store cattle.

If you are still confused, please speak to us at the practice or to your auction mart or abattoir. There will no doubt be a few issues to iron out over the coming months, but we are here to help.

Sarah Harker

Included this month

- **Veterinary Attestation Forms** - Sarah Harker
- **A New Approach to Fly Control** Beth Thornton
- **TB Letter Clarification** —Sarah Harker
- **Making a Business from Sheep Dipping** - Farm Special
- **News and Diary Dates**



Please remember to sign up to the **ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE PATHWAY** to make good use of the funding that you are entitled to! Using it on sheep farms now for doing Faecal worm egg counts is very timely. Sign up link—

<https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/register-your-interest?fbclid=IwAR2Cri3ZKqjBVxCiMbn11E1UpA1koLW6AUsMutvIkHM34UW8zLbGOL7B6qY>

A New Approach to Fly Control

In mid-July we had the opportunity to learn more about the use of parasitic wasps, flies and mites to aid in controlling fly populations on farm. Some of our vets and vet techs attended a training day with our Farm Vet Network of practices, in North Yorkshire. We subsequently provided an on-farm meeting to our Farmers; it was kindly hosted by Chris Halhead, Lawsons Farm.

The use of parasitic wasps, flies and mites is not a novel idea; however it has been increasing in popularity. With summers getting warmer and wetter, fly populations seem to be on the rise and conventional use of insecticide products isn't always enough to reduce our fly problems. The use of parasitic insects could help us reduce numbers on farm, without the need to add extra chemicals.

Take home messages:

- Treatment with parasitic insects needs to begin early in the fly season (Early April).
- The wasps, flies and mites all work by stopping the pest fly from breeding so treatment has to be focussed on breeding grounds e.g. areas of dried muck and deep straw bedding.
- The parasitic insects rely on pest flies to complete their lifecycle so there is not any risk of them causing overpopulation on farm. They do not sting or bite humans or other animals.
- Different methods and insects are needed for different environments; there is not a 'one size fits all' answer, when all our farms are unique.



- The insects usually need to be replenished on a regular basis (usually 2 weekly).
- The company also provides natural fly catching buckets that are often useful outside of parlours or on cow tracks on grazing herds.

For more information on the service, please get in contact with the practice. It is most useful to get an individual farm risk assessment and plan. It will be exciting to see how these products can make a difference on farm in the next fly season.

Beth Thornton

TB Letter Clarification

Confirmed cases of TB locally in the last couple of years have created radial testing zones. Despite this, Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire are still classed as Low Risk Areas by DEFRA, as detailed on the attached map. Broadly speaking, the west midlands, south west and Wales are High Risk Areas and an intermediate Edge Area divides High and Low Risk Areas. Cattle moved into the Low Risk Area from Edge or High Risk Areas must have a post-movement test 60 to 120 days after arrival, arranged and paid for by the farmer. Exceptions to this include some finishing and slaughter cattle.

A recent letter to all farmers from APHA warrants some clarification for our clients. Currently APHA write to farmers when they have moved cattle on that legally require a post-movement test, but from 1st August 2023, this will cease.

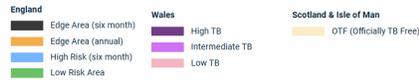
The requirement to test will still be there but you won't be reminded, so it is your responsibility to know the rules and arrange any post-movement testing required. You will still be informed when your usual herd test is due.

Post-movement testing is not a requirement for cattle moved from 1 year testing parishes locally, as they are still defined as being in an overall Low Risk Area. They should however have been pre-movement tested. continued

TB .. Continued

Area Information

Please select a location on the map for further information.



Please continue to ask your questions regarding TB testing, and we will do our best to clarify things for you.

Regardless of the rules, it is wise to consider what you are buying and from where, to protect your herd and those of your neighbours. High Risk Areas are defined as such for a reason.....

Sarah Harker

Making a Business from Sheep Dipping



Contract dipping is definitely a worthy diversification project for the Pye family who have built a life and business around farming sheep. Chris and Phil are the 3rd generation of the family

Dunkenshaw Farm Profile

- Hill Farm on the Abbeystead Estate with grazing up to 1800ft.
- Lambing 1800 Swaledale ewes, 350 to pure swale with the remaining to the Blue Faced Leicester. 130 mule ewes and 100 mule hogs lambed and sold with lambs at foot.
- 50 Blue faced Leicester embryo's.
- 900 Mule gimmer lambs sold each year.

to farm at Dunkenshaw, on the Duke of Westminster's Abbeystead estate.

With so much uncertainty in the future of UK farming the brothers, along with their father Alan were looking for an extra income stream for the business. Due to their location and situation a public tearoom for example was out of the question, so sticking to what they know and work with on a daily basis seemed a sensible way to go. The Pye's have always been great advocates for dipping as a treatment for external parasites on sheep. "The sheep always look well after dipping" commented Chris, "and you know that all bases are covered regarding scab, mites, ticks and lice. We knew our facilities at home needed an upgrade, sheep are bigger than they used to be and our set up was getting dated. Replacing it with a mobile system seemed a good alternative and here is where the idea of then going out contract dipping was born".

Most farmers appreciate that overuse of injectables for scab is accelerating wormer resistance but have little choice due to lack of dipping facilities or handling and disposal licenses. This is where the Pye's feel they can fill a gap in the market. The trailer from Portequip makes the job easier as a decoy sheep can be head locked at the end of the run, then sheep follow onto a slip floor which slides them under a rubber curtain and into the tank. Through put for all sized flocks is high, they exit into drainer pens and then down an exit ramp. The set up can be operated by one person, but additional staff are available to push up sheep if required taking all the stress out of the job! To enquire please give them a call Chris 07894 626896 Phil 07946203205.

Comment from Jim - Scab is becoming a big problem in sheep. In the last 12 months we have seen a large increase in the number of flocks we are diagnosing scab in. This is due to less people dipping and more people relying on injectable treatments for scab. To help in the diagnosis of scab we do not have to wait for a lot of sheep to be scratching to see if there is scab in a flock. There is a blood test that can pick up infection from 2 weeks after the animals have been exposed to the scab mite. This is extremely useful to find flocks incubating the disease that will flare up when the sheep immunity drops or if new sheep are introduced to the flock. We just need to sample 12 sheep in the flock to see if there is scab lurking unseen in the flock.

In my opinion OP dipping is the best treatment for scab in sheep. Having a local dipping contractor to treat sheep is going to be really useful in the fight against sheep scab.

Farewell and Good Luck to Becky



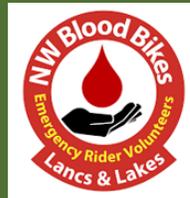
Becky came to us on work experience at 14 and saw practice with us throughout university, so we have known her for a long time! Becky has been an excellent all rounder working as

a small animal and farm animal vet, alongside being our in house computer expert! We will miss her greatly. We wish Becky the very best of luck for the future, enjoy your time out especially the swimming holiday in Greece to get things started!

Good Luck Vale O' Lune YFC

A small group of Vale's vintage tractor enthusiasts are planning on travelling 120 miles from Whitby to Morecambe -coast to coast to raise money for Northwest Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes on Saturday 12th August.

Please sponsor them and this great cause. Good luck and we'll keep our fingers crossed for a dry day!



Sponsorship Link -

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/valeyfc coast2coast-1686298817211?](https://www.justgiving.com/page/valeyfc coast2coast-1686298817211?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=page%2Fvaleyfc coast2coast-1686298817211&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=5c32cddb90584d739633f434de38717d)

[utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=page%2Fvaleyfc coast2coast-1686298817211&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=5c32cddb90584d739633f434de38717d](https://www.justgiving.com/page/valeyfc coast2coast-1686298817211?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=page%2Fvaleyfc coast2coast-1686298817211&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=5c32cddb90584d739633f434de38717d)

Dates For Your Diary



Cartmel Show Wednesday 2nd August 2023 - Please join us for refreshments and snacks on our stand. We will also have a team in the education tent, talking to the public about British Farming. Hannah will be painting cows again so this is not to be missed!!

farmgate
vets
sheep club

Elanco

Thursday 24th August 2023 7pm at J36— Sheep Club Members Quiz Night!!!



Who wants to be a millionaire - Sheep Worms Edition No we haven't lost the plot, we just wanted to liven things up and make talking about worms and worming competitive and fun, hopefully learning something along the way! Elanco will be joining us and are kindly sponsoring supper. To book your seat and supper, please phone the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com by Friday 18th August. ... Final Answer???



Westmorland County Show Wednesday 13th September & Thursday 14th September 2023

Looking forward to seeing you at the show, please join us for a brew and ice cream.

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

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