

Newsletter

February 2023



Welcome

We're already a month into '23 and lambing is upon us. We've got so much going on in the practice at the moment with lots of good meetings and training courses in the pipeline which we'll tell you about as time goes on. Our vet tech services are going from strength to strength and the vets are beavering away at all sorts of projects. The fly in the ointment is the increasing issue of medicine supplies. Drug companies, when challenged site the same issues as to why the government is struggling: Brexit, Covid, and the Russians so conveniently out of their control! February is often a miserable but thankfully short month with Spring just around the corner!

Mark Stott

Lungworm

I find I keep talking about old diseases in this newsletter. Lungworm or husk or hoose, has been around as long as cattle have been farmed. You would have thought that with the modern wormers we have and an effective vaccine to prevent the disease we would very rarely see it. Think again. Last year was probably one of the worst years for lungworm that I have seen. We saw it in all ages of cattle which lead to some deaths as well.



Lungworm loves warm and wet conditions after a period of dry weather which was what we had last year. If you get a wet year when cattle get a low challenge early on you may only see mild signs and the cattle get over it. In a year like last year, they get a big challenge late on and this is when we see big problems.

Before long-acting wormers it was routine for farmers to vaccinate young cattle with Dictol (now Huskvac) as it was a hassle to bring cattle in through the summer to drench them with white or yellow wormers. Boluses, pour-ons and long-acting injections were marketed saying that they would allow exposure to lungworm and then you would not need to vaccinate cattle. Problems with this was that you did not have lungworm exposure every year and we are seeing lungworm resistance to wormers. Pour-on wormers need to be used properly and cattle MUST GET THE WHOLE DOSE IN CONTACT WITH THEIR SKIN to get the correct levels of the drug to kill the worms.

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Included this month

- **Lungworm** - Jim McKinstry
- **Colostrum Quality and High Yielding cows**– Hannah Tatham
- **Entropion in Lambs**– Rebekah Carling
- **Feeding Sheep Pre Lambing** - Jim McKinstry
- **Top Tips for using Sheep Dip** - Rachel Mallet, Bimeda
- **Diary Dates**



The colostrum is gold campaign is back for February 2023, www.colostrumisgold.org It highlights the key role colostrum plays in farm animal performance through improved health while reducing antibiotic use. More info on the link.

#ColostrumIsGold

Lungworm cont..

Vaccination for Lungworm is a no brainer. 2 doses will give lifelong protection. People will argue that cows are being kept inside so they do not need protection but we need the youngstock protected as treatments are starting to fail. If cattle are vaccinated for lungworm, you will be able to cut down the amount of dosing for gut worms you do through the summer and this will save money and time and hopefully slow the formation of resistance.



Have a word with us this month about parasite control in cattle as what we have been doing needs to be looked at before we get in a mess from worm resistance like the sheep world!!!!

Jim McKinstry

Colostrum Quality and High Yielding Cows

Colostrum is liquid gold – we should all know this by now. It contains all the antibodies and nutrients a calf needs in the first days of life. A calf is born without an immune system so without any antibodies to fight off infections that they will come across (no calf building is sterile!) then they are more likely to get ill.

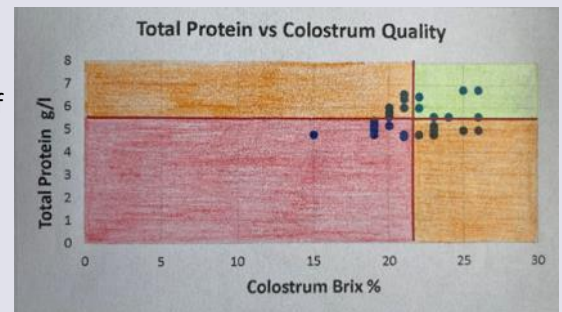
We can measure colostrum quality with a brix refractometer (pictured). All you need is a drop of colostrum and then you look down the eye piece to see the reading. A reading of 22% and above is classed as good quality colostrum. Colostrum quality can often be below this, especially if you have high yielding cows as it just gets diluted. Through nutrition and



vaccination colostrum quality can be increased. However all is not lost, this graph shows real on farm data and even when the colostrum quality was below 22% there was some calves that still had good total protein results over 5.5. Total protein in the blood will show how many antibodies a calf has received from colostrum.

It was found that the quicker you can get colostrum into a calf, the more likely the total protein results would be good. After 4 hours had passed none of the calves had total protein levels above 5.5. Colostrum quality decreases over time and so does the ability of a calf to absorb the colostrum across the gut. All calves recorded received at least 2 litres of colostrum, but the recommendation is 4 litres or 10% of bodyweight in the first 4 hours – ideally less than 2 hours for the best results. Speak to us about blood testing calves to assess total protein and investigate if your colostrum is up to standard.

Hannah Tatham



Entropion in Lambs



Entropion is when the lamb's eyelid curls inward causing the hair on the outside of the eyelid to touch the surface of the eye. Understandably this constant rubbing causes the eye to be irritated leading to the weeping that is normally the first sign that there is a problem. The longer the rubbing goes on, the more damaged the eye becomes, and if not resolved quickly enough this can be irreparable with the inside of the eye bursting out through the hole caused. There is a genetic component so if you do have a year where there seem to be a disproportionate number of lambs with the problem it is worth seeing if you can trace the issue back to a specific ram.

The majority of lambs will be fixed by simply unrolling the eyelid as often as you can and pinching the skin underneath to cause it to swell slightly keeping the eyelid away from the surface of the eye. However with some there may be quite a lot of eyelid rolled in and these ones will need more aggressive treatment. This involves putting about a ml of penicillin into the lower eyelid (making sure you are within the skin and not going straight through) which creates a longer lasting swelling of a few days which is normally enough time for the eye to correct itself. If this still doesn't work then you'll need to bring it in for us and we can stick some sutures in.

Rebekah Carling

Feeding Sheep Pre Lambing

Sheep cake does not get any cheaper with all the problems outside of our control. What we can do is target its use to make sure we are not wasting it on the wrong sheep. We see too many problems like watery mouth and joint ill in lambs and prolapses and twin lamb disease in ewes that can be prevented with a bit of vet advice.

What should we be doing?

- Scanning sheep. An absolute must in my opinion. Sell the empty sheep and target the feed to the number of lambs the ewes are carrying.
- Analyse your forage. This makes up the majority of the in lambs ewes' diet so we need to know how much energy we need to supplement.
- Treat any other diseases like lameness, worms, or fluke. Itching sheep eat less so make sure you keep scab and lice at bay.
- Feed better cakes as you can feed less of it. Let me explain. If you buy on price, feed companies can make a cake that fits any budget, but the cheaper ones have less available energy and protein to the ewe. So every kilo is cheaper but you end up feeding more to get the same results. We want every mouthful to have as much energy as possible so look at cakes with wheat as the main ingredient. If the main ingredient is barley, then your cakes has about 12% less energy in it to start with.
- Ask the sheep what they need. Pre lambing blood samples 1 month before lambing are really useful to spot problems and give us time to make changes.

If you want some impartial and sound advice please get in touch as we want to keep the stock healthy and not just sell you some magic in a tub!!!!!!!!!!



Jim McKinstry

Top Tips for Using Sheep Dip

Our **Sheep Club** discussion group met last month to talk about ticks, we were joined by Bimeda who make Gold Fleece Sheep Dip. Here are a few top tips from Bimeda Vet, Rachel Mallet.

Like all of the medicines we utilise, correct use is critical to ensure efficacy of the medicine and the right outcome for your flock. This is especially true when tackling scab which can survive for 17 days in the environment.

- Diazinon works by binding to the wool grease to provide ongoing protection and so sheep must have at least 1cm of wool growth prior to dipping.
- The bath must be mixed correctly to start and topped up at regular intervals to ensure that the bath always stays above the minimum effective concentration required to tackle parasites as detailed in the table below. Remember the bath will eventually become too soiled requiring you to empty it and start again- the rule is 1 sheep to every 2L of dip wash e.g. a 1,000L tank must be emptied and re-started after 500 sheep have passed through.
- Sheep must remain in the bath for 1 full minute to allow the diazinon to be fully absorbed into the fleece and their head must be dipped under to ensure any parasites hiding in the ears are exposed.
- Remember to utilise the correct PPE according to the datasheet for your own safety and ensure you have a responsible means of disposal in line with Environment Agency and government requirements.

Amounts to be administered and administration route to prepare the bath

Dip bath size in litres	Volume of dip to be added to the bath	To Replenish the bath	Restart the bath after
Under 2250 litres (under 500 gallons)	600ml of dip concentrate to 900L of water (200 gallons)	Add 180ml after every 36 sheep dipped and restore the bath with water to its original volume	1 sheep per 2 litres of original dip wash
Over 2250 litres (over 500 gallons)	600ml of dip concentrate to 900L of water (200 gallons)	Add 480ml after every 96 sheep dipped and restore the bath with water to its original volume	1 sheep per 2 litres of original dip wash
1000 litre bath	660ml	180ml after every 36 sheep dipped	500 dipped sheep
1500 litre bath	1000ml	180ml after every 36 sheep dipped	750 dipped sheep
2000 litre bath	1320ml	180ml after every 36 sheep dipped	1000 dipped sheep
2500 litre bath	1667ml	180ml after every 36 sheep dipped	1250 dipped sheep
3000 litre bath	2000ml	480ml after every 96 sheep dipped	1500 dipped sheep

Please refer to Data Sheet for further Information

Half Term Art Competition !!



Calling all young budding artists, give yourselves a break from farm work this half term and create a picture for us along the theme of-

“When the vet visits our farm”

- Closing date is Sunday 26th February 2023.
- Post photo's of your creations in the facebook comments of our art competition post ,which will appear mid Feb.
- Or drop your pictures off at the practice (please inc. contact details).
- Or e mail them to linda@farmgatevets.com
- Please include the name and age of child.

PRIZES - The winner in each category will **WIN** an Art Set and a Farm Gate Goodie bag!!



Category 1— Age 0—7 years

Category 2— Age 8—16 years

Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines - Thursday 16th February 2023. 1.30pm—3.30pm, at the J36 practice meeting room. Course cost is £35.00 plus VAT including course book and certificate. To book in please phone the office or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com No more dates planned in the near future so please come and join us if you still need to do this course!



Cattle Lameness Meeting, On farm Dairy Client meeting **Wednesday 22nd February 2023,** 11pm—2pm by kind permission of **Mr J Bargh & Son, North Farm, Heaton with Oxcliffe, Morecambe, LA3 3ES.** We will be discussing early detection (mobility scoring), how foot disease progresses and a crush side early treatment talk and trimming demonstration by guest speaker **James Wilson from Herd Health Consultancy.** Lunch included, please phone the practice or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com to book your place. Kindly Sponsored by Ceva Animal Health



Practical Lambing courses— £45 per head including VAT. To be held at our junction 36 practice, these courses provide a good mix of theory and hands on lambing techniques, sheep husbandry and disease prevention. Light refreshments provided.

Saturday 11th February 2023, 9.30pm- 12.30pm

To book please call Kendal or Lancaster on the numbers below, 12 spaces per course.

ZOOM Lambing Course - Tuesday 21st February 2023, 7-8pm. This course proved popular

in lockdown, a good mix of presentation, video demonstrations and discussion. Please see our website to book—

<http://www.farmgatevets.com/practice-info/events.aspx>

Online Course cost £15 including VAT

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

CLOSED Saturdays

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