

# Newsletter

## January 2024



### Welcome

January can be such a bleak month. Dark, wet and Christmas a very long way off. But the month is named after the Roman two-faced god, Janus, looking back at the past and forward into the future. So what did we learn last year? How bloody wet it can be. Over 6 foot of rain fell in Kendal in 2023. That would drown all but the giants of the farming world. A new word "Attestation". I use the word daily but I'm still not sure of its meaning! Looking forward, what can we predict? The days will get longer but not guaranteed to get dryer. The farming cycle will start again with lambing time just around the corner and that feeling of optimism that spring will return. We would like to wish a Happy New Year to you all.



**Mark Stott**

### Included this month

- **Emergency Resuscitation Training-** Mark Stott
- **Healthy Heifer Club Meeting-** Hannah Tatham
- **Left Displaced Abomasum-** Charlotte Chapman
- **Lungworm in Cattle-** Jim McKinstry
- **Fluke in January 2024**
- **News and Diary Dates**

### Emergency Resuscitation Training at J36

If a member of your family collapsed in the yard, would you know what would be needed to keep them alive until help arrived? If you collapsed, who in the team is able to help save you? What happens in those first few minutes after a heart attack is so important to the results of the outcome. The new year brings a new opportunity to make that difference.

Arnside and Milnthorpe are running a resuscitation (CPR) course at our J36 practice on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30. If you'd like to come along, please phone our J36 branch (01539567899).



Places are limited but if demand requires, they will run further courses. We'll supply tea and biscuits. The course is free but a donation to first responders would be much appreciated.

**Mark Stott**



**Orf Vaccine Back in Stock** After the upheaval of last year we have reassurance from Zoetis that Orf Vaccine will be in good supply season. This nasty virus can live in the environment for a very long so prevention is always better than an outbreak on infected farms.



## The Left Displaced Abomasum - The Cost & Risk Factors

LDAs are commonly seen in early lactation dairy cows with an occurrence ranging from 0-25% in herds within the UK. The condition can be a pricey one, with costs associated with the condition from:

- Cost of treatment
- Loss of milk through wastage and reduced yield
- Subsequent reduced fertility

These losses are estimated to cost between £375-£750 for every LDA case during a lactation. This does not take into account losses which can happen as a result of losing/culling the animal (costing upwards of £15000/case).

Minimising the impact of LDAs relies upon understanding associated risk factors, the most important being nutrition.

- The transition period appears is closely linked to LDAs . Negative energy balance and/or excessive body condition and rapid weight loss are risk factors.
- Other conditions such as milk fever, slow fever (ketosis), fatty liver all increase the risk of LDAs as does toxic mastitis and infections post calving (metritis, held cleansing). Retained cleansings can double the likelihood of a cow getting an LDA.
- Inadequate feed-face and cubicle design can increase the risk.
- Bullying can also increase LDA prevalence in heifers.

Investigating underlying nutritional bottlenecks alongside herd management and housing can the overall incidence of the LDAs and their associated costs on farm.

### Treatments (*To toggle or not to toggle?*)

A thought that must cross the dairy farmer's mind when the dreaded 'ping' gets found in one of your cows. Although the most common course of action is surgery, toggling may still have its place in the veterinary toolbox for LDA corrections.

A study investigating the treatments of 872 LDA cases showed that:

- 72% were fixed surgically (only 3% were opened on both sides)
- 12% were fixed using a technique called endoscopy.
- 9% were fixed by the toggle technique.

The other cases were fixed by less common methods including surgery with cows lying on their backs (1%), rolling the cow (2%) or just using medicines (1%). 2% were left untreated.

Deciding on which treatment action to take is often based on which method is least likely to cause complications and recurrence but also what is within the vet's remit (expertise and equipment). Costs certainly cannot be overlooked either.

Unsurprisingly, the greatest risk of death comes with the toggle. With research suggesting it is 3-4 times riskier than that of surgery. We find surgery the most successful correction technique. If you have dairy cows you will more than likely have a twisted stomach at some point. Having a clean, light and easily accessible area to operate on cows makes for a happy vet and usually a successful outcome.



Charlotte Chapman

## Electronic Billing

As we move with the times many clients are now taking the option of receiving invoices (along with a PDF of the newsletter) via e mail, rather than traditional paper. Should you wish to go electronic please speak to reception of e mail [info@farmgatevets.com](mailto:info@farmgatevets.com).



## Lungworm in Cattle

Well, 2023 has not disappointed with lungworm in cattle. We were always taught it was a sporadic disease but the last 2 years have been terrible with a lot of herds in the practice affected. If cattle are affected by lungworm their lungs will be damaged and their weight gain decreased.



By the time we are called in the animals are in bad shape and treating them can actually make things worse with the dying worms causing a severe pneumonia!

We have got lazy with lungworm control as we have the pour-on (squirt and hope) wormers and long-acting injections to kill and prevent infections. We are seeing more cases of lung worm in cattle that have been treated. Is this proper resistance of the lung worm to clear wormers, poor application technique or a combination of both? We need to know why but it is difficult to fully investigate breakdowns.

Now is the time we need to plan on what to do to prevent this disease. Lungworm is one parasite that has a vaccine that will protect against it and that is easily administered. HUSKVAC is given 2 times, 4 weeks apart usually before an animals first grazing season, but can be given any time in their lives. This then will protect the animal for life. The major problem for this is animals vaccinated as heifers that then may not come in contact with lungworm if they are housed as milking cows and only grazed sporadically as dry cows. HUSKVAC NEEDS TO BE CHALLENGED IN THE FIELD WITH LUNGWORM TO MAINTAIN IMMUNITY. It is a forgetful vaccine and needs to be reminded what lungworm is so it can protect against it. Lungworm challenge is effectively its booster.

We need to turn the clock back 30 years and start to control lungworm like we did with out the reliance on zero milk withdrawal wormers and clear wormers. HUSKVAC for lungworm protection and I am afraid drenches for gut worms will need to be used as the over use of clear wormers will come to bite us!

Jim McKinstry

## Fluke in January 2024

We have started to get some positive blood results back on lambs that have been exposed to fluke. It is still at low levels but on the whole it is looking like fluke will be at lower levels this year. Our advice will be to go in with Triclabendazole in January in flocks that triclabendazole still works. If you have triclabendazole resistance then have a word with a vet to see what else we can do. Closantel containing products should be used from February onwards as there will be immature fluke in the late winter as well. Most importantly please give all ewes a dose of Albendazole in late spring to kill any adult fluke that have missed our treatments.



Post mortems are really useful to see what is happening on your farm. The more sampling and testing we can do, the better the advice we can give you.

Jim McKinstry

## Calf Rearing - A fresh perspective!

In the New Year we are holding a meeting for all clients involved in rearing calves where we will hear about how the poultry industry has made changes to management and reduced antibiotic use by 74% over 10 years. Looking through different lens doesn't do any harm, we hope you can join us! Phone the office to book in.



### Keeping Calves Healthy - Learning from Chickens

Dairy Farmers and Calf Rearers, please join us for this lunchtime meeting on—  
Tuesday 9th January 2024, 12.00—2.30pm at Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club,  
Raygarth, LA6 2DS. Lunch Included and served on arrival.

A calf is not a hen, we of course know this!, however there are many things cattle farmers can learn from the Poultry Industry who, in 10 years have reduced overall antibiotic usage by over 74%.

Speakers—Jen Lock—(Poultry Specialist), Kath Alpin (Cattle Vet) from Boehringer Ingelheim.

To book your place please call the office or e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) by 5th Jan please.





## Christmas Quiz Night



Huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Charity Christmas Night! We enjoyed great food and hospitality from Kirkby Rugby Club and a fun quiz with lots of random

questions. Thank you also to all the local businesses, clients and staff who donated raffle prizes. **Overall we raised £1000 for MacMillan Cancer Support.**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



## Introducing Lesley

We are pleased to introduce you to our new Practice Manager, Lesley Faulkner who isn't exactly "new" to Farm Gate Vets as some of you will recognise her friendly face from our Sedbergh practice. Lesley joined us in July 2017 as a Veterinary Nurse having previously trained at RSPCA Putney Animal Hospital in London and then becoming Head Nurse at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. We are delighted that Lesley has taken on this position, she certainly has a good idea of what she is letting herself in for! Lesley is currently having the benefit of working alongside her predecessor Carol Curwen who has made the decision to retire after 10 years in the role. In her spare time Lesley can generally be found outdoors on a paddle board, walking or spending time with her children.



## Dates For Your Diary



### Lambing Courses 2024

**Practical Lambing PLUS - (includes a Farm Visit). Saturday 6th January 2024, 9.30am—Approx 2pm, lunch included. £55.00 including VAT.**

**Practical Lambing - Saturday 3rd February 2023—9.30am—12.30pm refreshments provided. £45 including VAT. To book either course please call the office on the numbers below. **Free place for Sheep Club Members****



**Keeping Calves Healthy—Learning from Chickens. Tues 9th January, 12.00pm –2.00pm at Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club A** Lunchtime meeting for any clients involved in rearing calves. See advert on the previous page for more information! To book in please **phone the office or e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com)**. Meeting kindly sponsored by Boehringer.

**Learning How to Save a Life with Arnsdale and Milnthorpe Community First Responders. Wed 10th January 2024 7.30pm** at our J36 Practice. A CPR course for farmers, limited spaces, free of charge (donation to the association would be gratefully received).

### 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

CLOSED Sundays

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