

Newsletter

May 2023



Welcome

Winter has not gone yet. It has been a cold and wet spring but I suppose after the last 2 really good springs this was always going to happen. Early lambing has been a doddle but with the slow grass growth and wet weather there have been more problems with older lambs. Calving is getting in full swing now with some big suckler calves needing a caesarean to get them out. Caesar/calving gates are wonderful!!!!!!! (And grant fundable for those who have not got one).

With the wet spring the fluke snail will have been thriving in muddy tracks and poached areas. That is fine as long as we don't give it any fluke eggs. Dosing ewes and cows that have not been dosed or dosed in the winter is really important to stop snail infection with fluke eggs. Ask one of the vets or SQP's about fluke dosing drugs this spring.

Jim McKinstry

Treat Early for Flies!

It's getting to that kind of year again where flies are going to start becoming a problem. Flies are prime culprits for spreading disease and disrupting behaviour which reduces productivity. Here are a few ways we can control and manage them around cattle...

- **Improve farm hygiene** - Choose location of muck heaps wisely (as far away from livestock buildings as possible!), keeping pens and calf buckets clean.
- **Adequate ventilation**, increased air flow throughout sheds as hot and humid places increase fly breeding.
- **Fly Traps** – monitor regularly, choose location wisely, near livestock but out of reach.
- **Parasitic Flies (Bestico)**- a novel way of fly control on farm, ask us for more details on this!
- Avoid grazing near woods and streams in summer.
- Use of right product at right time - **Apply early to start killing adult insects before they lay eggs** and continue to re-apply throughout the grazing season, Spotinor can be re-applied every 4 weeks. Remember our Vet Tech Service if available should you need extra help for application.



Gill, Mary & Ruby

Included this month

- **Treat Early for Flies**– Vet Techs
- **The Hospital Pen**– Becky Dean
- **Sheep Abortion Vaccine**
- **How to test for drench resistance** - Sarah Harker
- **Ventilation on your summer job list**- Charlotte Chapman
- **Animal Health & Welfare Item Grants**
- **News and Diary Dates**



TREAT EARLY before fly numbers explode!
Fly Products in Stock



The Hospital Pen

Having a dedicated space for sick and recovering animals is really important on farm, even if it feels like 'wasted space', here's why:

Isolation: Animals which are suffering from infectious conditions can be spreading bugs to their group mates, perpetuating problems, and potentially increasing your losses. Some of the conditions where it is advisable to isolate sick animals – aborting ewes and cows, scouring calves, calves with pneumonia (particularly if they are producing lots of mucus from eyes and nose), to name a few, scouring cows, contagious eye infections in sheep.

Ease of treatment: if your sick animal is in a pen with easy access to light, water, electricity and for cows, some way of handling them (even just a gate that swings round) it will make monitoring for improvement (or deterioration) easier and



administration of treatment easier. Keeping the medicine stores close by saves trailing about after that bottle of Metacam!

Better recovery: Providing a space where there is clean, dry, comfy bedding is beneficial (sick animals will often spend more time lying down), just like in humans, rest promotes healing. Being able to provide a heat lamp and draught protection for calves and lambs helps them to maintain body temperature, meaning more energy can be spent fighting infection. And finally, not having to compete for food, water and a place to lie down makes recovery easier.

It is also worth noting that having your 'calving pen' also being used as your 'hospital pen' is not a great idea, calves are very vulnerable to infections at birth, and landing in a pen next to a load of sick adults significantly increases the risk to that calf. Not to mention, you will hopefully have gaps between 'inpatients' meaning proper mucking out and disinfection should be easier.

Becky Dean

How to Test for Drench Resistance

Many of you have already realised the benefits of faecal worm egg counts (FWECs) in sheep, allowing more accurate timing of wormer treatments, more reasoned product choice or sometimes proving that treatment isn't needed at all. In-house testing is free to Sheep Club members and is a service that is well used. Taking things a step further, we can use the FWEC as the basis for resistance testing to see if wormers are still working effectively on your farm. In simple terms:



- Fresh samples are taken from 10 individuals in a batch and submitted for a FWEC
- Wormer treatment is given ensuring adequate dosage for bodyweight and correct administration
- Individuals are re-sampled after 7 days if testing a yellow wormer or 14 days if testing a white or clear wormer
- Results of the first and 2nd FWEC are compared to determine how well the treatments are working

This efficacy test is a requirement of the new **DEFRA-funded Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Review in sheep**. If you wish to benefit from testing, either through the review or otherwise, please get in touch. It is important that you get the details of the testing right to allow valid conclusions to be drawn.

Sarah Harker

Sheep Abortion Vaccines

For those clients who can, we urge you to vaccinate your sheep with Cevac before the **end of July** this year. Ceva, the manufacturers have given us a warning that their last delivery may arrive too late for the season meaning supply from August—October might be tight. They do however have plenty of a batch that expires at the end of July (26.07.2023). Getting home bred replacements done early will ensure they get vaccinated and potentially mean more vaccine will be available for the peak sheep buying in months later on.

Please call to order.



Is Shed Ventilation Improvement on your Summer Job List?

The start of the grazing season may not seem like an obvious time to discuss ventilation, but now is the time to take stock of what improvements can be made while those sheds are empty through summer.

Ventilation is essential when it comes to removing gases and airborne bacteria as well as maintaining moisture levels and controlling environmental temperatures. Because of this ventilation plays a key role in preventing diseases such as pneumonia and mastitis.

INDICATORS OF POOR VENTILATION	
Draughts	Damp bedding and moulds
Temperature changes	Excessive condensation
Smell of ammonia/urea	Wet coats and dirty animals
Cobwebs and dust	Disease in adult cattle e.g., pneumonia, mastitis

Consider the following for your adult cattle building(s):

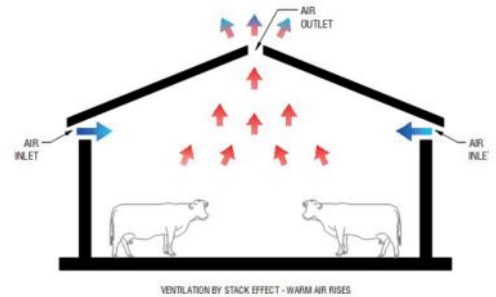
- Where is your building positioned on farm?
- Are there any adjacent buildings which could be impeding airflow?
- Does the building have an outlet?
- How is the air getting into the building (inlets) and are these adequate?
- Are your buildings draught-free at cow height?
- What levels of mastitis and pneumonia are there in the adult stock?
- Are unweaned suckler calves struggling with pneumonia during housing?



Effective ventilation in adult housing is driven by the 'Stack Effect' produced by adult cows; (note this is not applicable to young calves which are unable to produce this effect) a concept relying on heat production from the cow alongside adequate air inlets and outlets for air to flow through a building (figure 1).

Buildings will ventilate naturally if positioned to the prevailing wind, which in the UK is south-westerly. But this still requires adequate inlets and an outlet to a building.

If you read this article and feel your shed could do with some alterations, feel free to get in touch for a friendly chat or arrange a visit on farm for a housing assessment; sometimes all it takes is a fresh pair of eyes to make some simple, cost-effective solutions for better housing.



Charlotte Chapman

Figure 1 Ventilation by the Stack Effect (FAS 2017)

FAS (2017) Cattle Housing and Ventilation. SAC Consulting. Available at: <https://www.fas.scot/downloads/technical-note-tn689-cattle-housing-ventilation>

Animal Health and Welfare Item Grants

Applications are open from now until **June 15th 2023** for grants from £1000 up to £25,000 as part of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund. Items need to be installed and fitted before the money can be claimed, you have until December 2023 to do this. Included are items on our vet wish list along with auto ID shedding gates, weighing

Your Vet's Wish List !

- Handling systems
- Cattle Crush
- Calving Gate
- Head scoops

equipment, EID panel reader, calf milk pasteurisers, automatic calf feeders, cow brushes, perimeter fencing, cow mattresses, calf crates, heat lamps, rubber flooring, calf jackets, group calf hutches, mobile / fixed sheep handling systems, weigh crates, mobile sheep dip, snacker feeder, lamb creep feeder, auto lamb feeders, turnover crate, to name a few! For further information— <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2023/about-the-farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2023>

Condolences to the Padgett Family

It is with great sadness that we hear and share the news of the passing of our previous colleague, Carl Padgett (Padge). Many of our clients will remember Padge from his time in practice with us where after graduating from Glasgow vet school and a spell down South, he returned to home turf to join Geoff Hudson, Richard Bottom and Roger Salmon at Bay Vets. He continued as a partner at Baldrand Farm Practice before later moving on within the industry and becoming a key figure in the veterinary profession. Our thoughts and condolences are with Jules, Rose and all of Padge's family at this time.



Celebrating 20 Years of Shirley!!!!

All of our Lancaster clients will recognise this friendly face as we celebrate the fact that 20 years ago Baldrand Farm Practice gained this gem of a lady and despite all, she is still with us! Hailing from a farming family Shirley joined the practice in 2003 and went through the transition from Baldrand Farm Practice to Farm Gate Vets. Happy to avoid the limelight at all costs, Shirl's will be mortified with this fame so please ensure you congratulate her when you visit the Lancaster Branch this month!



JOB VACANCY We have a vacancy for a **SMALL ANIMAL VET** (or mixed practice if desired) to work from our Sedbergh Branch. If you know of any vets wanting to return to the area please let us know.

Dates For Your Diary



Understanding Veterinary Medicines—Wednesday 3rd May 2023—1.30pm-3.30pm at our J36 practice. This the Red Tractor approved course required now as a assurance scheme standard. Course cost is £35 which includes a course book and certificate. To book in please call the office or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com



Getting the most from The Animal Health & Welfare Pathway This is an information meeting for clients to find out more about how to apply & claim, what the grant money can be spent on and how to make it work for your farm. We are offering two dates, an evening and a lunchtime as follows-

Tuesday 16th May 2023, 7pm (supper included and kindly supported by MSD)
OR

Thursday 18th May 2023, 12.30pm (lunch included and kindly supported by Zoetis)

Both meetings will be held at our **J36 practice meeting room**. Booking is essential for food numbers and places will be limited. Please call the office or e mail linda@farmgatevets.com to book your place.

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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