

September has been a good month and I think everyone has got their silage either in the pit or in the bale. Stock have been able to stay out for a bit longer as well which makes everyone feel a better. Now we are getting into October we need to start preparing for housing. This is where health planning is really useful to get worm and fluke strategies sorted out for cattle and sheep as well. Pneumonia in cattle can be a real challenge on some farms and again a bit of forward planning putting a vaccination program together is time and money well spent. The formal health plan can be seen as a chore but all it is doing is putting down what we discuss and put in place through the year.

Jim McKinstry

## Farm Health Plans

The farm health plan is no longer a document that sits on a shelf gathering dust having been written to satisfy assurance scheme criteria, instead it has become a two-way dialogue between ourselves and clients to identify disease risk factors on your farm, improve animal health and welfare by creating a plan of action, reduce antibiotic use and increase farm efficiency and financial gain. No two farms are the same which is why we need to take this tailored approach.

The Farm Health Plan now includes antibiotic collation, BVD eradication plan and Johnes plan (for dairy clients), and your usual health and performance review. Due to the work involved, we urge all clients not to wait until a few days before a farm assurance visit but to make sure these reviews are every 12 months. To assist with this as time often goes quicker than we realise, we plan to send out helpful reminders when 12 months have past since your last herd health plan.

**Please note, as part of the National Johnes Management plan, all dairy farms need to have an updated Johnes plan, signed by a vet in place by the end of October 2020.**

Please contact us to arrange.



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## Issues with Concentrate Feeding in Tups



Tups are often given large daily amounts of concentrates in the lead up to sales/tupping but this can cause several diseases including:

### **Bladder Stones (Urolithiasis)**

Stones can form in the bladder and the tube connecting the bladder to the outside world (urethra) meaning urine is not able to be passed. This is painful and can lead to rupture of the urinary tract and death. A diet high in concentrates and low in forage is a risk factor for this. **Tups should never be fed ewe ration** as this contains too high levels of minerals that can cause these stones. A ration containing ammonium chloride can help to prevent these stones but the best way is to provide a good level of roughage and plenty of water.

### **Copper Poisoning**

If sheep have too much copper in their diet it builds up in the liver until it can't be stored anymore. It is then released into the bloodstream causing blood cells to be destroyed and liver/kidney damage. Most sheep rations will be low in copper but **sheep should never be fed cattle feed** as this has too high copper. Another cause of it can be diets low in substances such as molybdenum and sulphur which naturally block copper absorption.



### **Acidosis**

A large increase in feeding of concentrates can lead to acidosis. The high levels of grain/carbohydrates ferment in the rumen producing acid that kills the bugs and causes diarrhoea and dehydration. Affected sheep will lie down and not eat. If the grain overload is severe then sheep will go into toxic shock and will often die. Concentrates should be gradually introduced over a minimum of two weeks and should not exceed 0.5kg/day. Roughage and water must also be available.

**Hannah Tatham**

## **Salmonella Mbandaka**

A different strain of Salmonella is on the rise. It originally started in the South West of the country but since 2018 had spread North. It can affect cows and calves, it is not completely understood how it gets on to farm but feed sources such as soya bean meal, rapeseed, maize meal and palm kernel have been implicated.

Animals with low immunity such as fresh calved cows and herds with an active BVD infection are thought to be more affected by this disease. It can also infect calves alongside another bug such as cocci or E. Coli K99. The symptoms to look out for are:

- Scour- this can often be bloody.
- High temperature.
- Milk drop.

Salmonella Mbandaka has also been found in the muck of 'healthy' animals with no clinical signs. The good news is that it is sensitive to most antibiotics and cows don't carry the disease and do not continue to shed at later dates.

**Bethany Thornton**



## Pasteurella season is upon us

With this Summers variable weather we have seen many cases of pasteurellosis in both lambs and adult sheep. The bacteria responsible are normal residents of healthy animals however under certain conditions the bacteria grow and can cause major problems in your flock. Stress causes the immune system to weaken so any stressors such as castrating weaning and transporting will increase incidence. Mixing of recently bought in sheep with unknown disease and vaccine status will increase the likelihood of pasteurellosis as will a high worm burden in the flock and of course, the North West's wet weather plays its part.

Pasteurellosis can affect sheep and lambs of any age. The classic signs to look out for are symptoms of pneumonia such as laboured breathing with an increased respiratory rate, runny noses and eyes, coughing, decreased appetite and an increased temperature. It is also common to find animals dead without any obvious signs.

Treatment options are antibiotics for the infection and anti-inflammatories for the pain. However the old adage that prevention is better than cure holds true. Vaccines are available and Heptavac P is ideal for breeding ewes. It covers against Pasteurella and many clostridial diseases. Two doses are required 4-6 weeks apart with the second dose given 4-6 weeks before lambing to maximise protection of lambs through colostrum. For lambs Ovivac P would be a good choice, the first dose given from 3 weeks of age with the second dose given 4-6 weeks later.



If you are concerned about pasteurellosis or want to discuss it further please contact one of the vets.

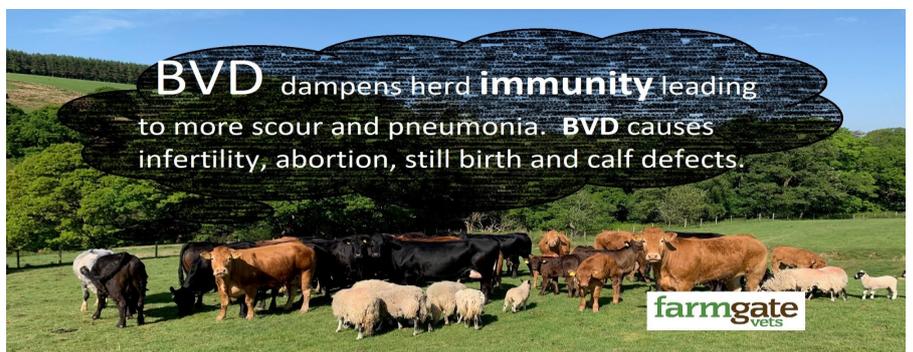
David Weir



## Zoom BVD Stamp it Out Cluster Meeting 14th October 2020 1pm-2pm

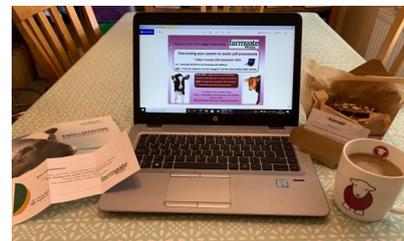
In England funding is still available through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), for controlling BVD in the national breeding herd. This funding covers farm advisory visits and testing so we can work with you to tackle this disease on your farms. If you haven't already signed up, to find out more about this disease and how the scheme works we invite you to attend our next BVD cluster meeting.

Mark will be online on Wednesday **14th October 2020 at 1pm**. Please join us to find out more and sign up to the scheme. Please e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com) or phone the practice to register.



## Calf Pneumonia and Cake

Thank you to all those who joined us for our Calf pneumonia meeting this month, we had some good discussion with the main message being “Big improvements can be made from small changes to our calf rearing systems”. The homemade Tiffin from locally based Huddspudds went down well too!



## Swapping Water Proofs for Aprons!

Just when you thought these times couldn't get any stranger, this month brought us something we never thought we'd see in our lifetimes! Jim and Mark took on the challenge of unleashing their Mary Berry in a Bake Off competition in the aid of **MacMillan Cancer Support**. The challenge was to bake a classic Victoria sponge, filmed at home by their patient, tolerant families which was then shared on social media.



The pair brought in 1.6k views in a very short time as their audience sympathised over slightly sunken cakes (or a “small dimple” in Jim's words!) and “small pockets of flour and butter” in the mixture due to Evelyn breaking the Stott food mixer and Mark having to complete the task by hand.



Normally in the practice we would have been hosting coffee mornings to raise money for this great charity but for obvious reasons these could not go ahead. This alternative hopefully brought some light hearted entertainment which peaked on September 25th as Mark was crowned STAR BAKER, winning with 87 votes over 73.

Not that they were in the least bit competitive?!

Huge thank you to all those who voted and donated.

**£545.00** raised

**Thank you to all  
who donated**

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