



# Newsletter October 2023



## Welcome

Westmorland Show is already becoming a dim memory as we roll into October but I had two enjoyable but exhausting days. It was so great to see so many of you on our stand and I apologise as I didn't manage to speak to you all. Conversations, as usual, covered everything from specific animal health issues on farms through to what the kids and increasingly, what the grandkids are getting up to. It's amazing how time flies. Sarah receiving a long service medal from the show reminded me how long I've been vetting and how things have changed. Just as I have never experienced, like my predecessors, catching Brucellosis from cattle, new vets will never see a BSE case, hopefully never see foot and mouth disease (FMD) are unlikely to see a full blown BVD case. The most worrying conversations at the show were regarding the uncertainty of the future of farming. This time the uncertainty is not disease related but government policy; the direction it's going; and whether suddenly



that direction will change with little warning. None of us have a crystal ball. None of us could have predicted BSE or FMD, which were terrible at the time but we got through it. One way or another the farming community and related professions will get through this chaos and continue to produce the high quality food you are renowned for.

**Mark Stott**

## Changes to the Supply of Prescription Only Medicines.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September the veterinary regulator (RCVS) issued updated national guidance on the supply of prescription only POM-V medication. The new guidelines have put increased focus on the prescription of most of the medicines we supply to you. This requires all farm practices to review their prescribing procedures to ensure they comply with the new guidelines. Our goal is to put in place ways to comply with the new rules and still provide you with the medicines you need to maintain the health and welfare of your animals with as little disruption as possible. Please look out for further updates .

**Finbarr O Sullivan-Greene**

### Included this month

- Changes to the Supply of POM V Medicines— Finbarr O' Sullivan—Greene
- Lantra Foot Trimming Courses - Finbarr O' Sullivan-Greene
- Parasites continue to behave unusually—Mark Stott
- 25 Years of Sarah
- Orf Vaccine, Cool Bags and Johnes Declarations
- News and Diary Dates



**Replacement ewes**— Don't forget the importance of quarantine measures and abortion vaccines. We have chlamydia vaccine in stock and touch wood, there is no supply issues with the toxoplasma vaccine. **Intranasal Vaccine for Calf pneumonia** now available in single dose vials (same price as multi vials).



## Lantra Foot Trimming Courses

Finbarr, alongside Tim Carter will be delivering two Lantra approved foot trimming courses next month, the details of which are below. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

**BASIC FOOT FIRST AID:** Full one day course Monday 13th November £300 plus vat. This is aimed at beginners or those who have lost confidence in picking up the feet of lame cows. The course aims to set the foundations in good hoof first aid including blocking and first line treatment.

- Basic anatomy of the foot/landmarks
- Tools for the job (including knife sharpening)
- Mobility scoring overview
- Recognition of main lesions causing lameness
- Handling, lifting and examination of a foot
- Introduction to the 5-step trimming method
- Treatment protocols: block choice and NSAID administration
- Practical lesion treatment/blocking



**INTERMEDIATE HOOF TRIMMING:** 14th -16th November Three full days £800 plus vat. This course will build on the First aid course and cover areas in more depth as well as expanding knowledge and skills in other areas. It is aimed at an intermediate level complementing the existing Advanced Level 4 qualification in professional cattle hoof trimming.

- Anatomical overview and lesion development
- Tools for the job (including knife sharpening) and grinder use
- Mobility scoring overview
- Recognition of lesions causing lameness and recording
- Handling, lifting and examination of a foot
- The 5-step method
- Treatment protocols: Block choice and NSAID administration (including vet referral)
- Practical trimming and lesion treatment/blocking
- Lameness prevention: Success Factors



## Parasites continue to behave unusually!

Sometime we assume that diseases and parasites do what the books say but the repeatedly used cliché "but they don't read the books" is often true. Grazing youngstock are a case in point this year. APHA sent out a warning regarding a case that occurred in September. Calves that had been at grass all season, despite having been wormed in July were scouring, losing weight and even dying. Post mortem and faecal egg counts revealed very heavy worm burdens. The books say calves are exposed to worms in the early part of the year and develop immunity by the back end. The dry period at the beginning of this year had meant any worms in faeces had been dried into the pat and not able to infect the calves. This led to the calves not developing any immunity and the worm burden didn't build up until September. If calves are still outside but going backwards, this may be a nutrition issue but don't forget worm burdens. If in doubt pop in some faeces for testing. We can give you an answer that day. A similar but slightly different subject is lungworm. Coughing in stock at grass or shortly after housing is not necessarily pneumonia. Testing is not as straight forward and may take a few days so trial treatment with anthelmintic may be the best option. In that case, have a chat with one of our vets for the best course of action.



**Mark Stott**

## Long Service Award for Sarah

This year Sarah has completed her 25th year of working as a vet here at Farm Gate. This was not only recognised by the practice but by the Westmorland County Agricultural Society where an award was presented last month at the show. It was well worth asking Sarah to reflect on those 25 years so here we go...

I qualified from Edinburgh University in 1996, spent 3 years in mixed practice in Malton and Barnard Castle, and moved to Highgate Vets in Kendal in 1999. This means I am entering my 25<sup>th</sup> year in the area with the practice that then became Farmgate. This was recognised at the County Show as Mark and Jim kindly nominated me for a Long Service Award. I didn't know these existed until I opened the letter, so it was a lovely surprise. Chris and I were wined and dined in the posh tent on show day and the certificate was presented during the grand parade.

I had wanted to be a vet from as early as I can remember, probably 5 or 6 years old. I still haven't had a day when I didn't want to be.... I was asked at the show what had been my career highlights so far. One was after a successful but difficult calving for the late Edward Bindloss at Grayrigg Hall. As I was getting cleaned up he said "Hell lass, you would've made a useful fella!!" Praise indeed....

In a similar vein, I once foaled a mare for the late Thomas Capstick, haltered to a fence post up a hillside in the Howgills, very early on a lovely summer morning. We had lost the foal but the mare was fine; realistically the best outcome we could have hoped for. I got a text message from Thomas as I drove home that simply said 'Top job. Top lady.'

I guess these stories show that I love working in the real world with real characters, in a beautiful place where I can call my clients my friends. As a new graduate, I would have imagined that by the time I was 28 years qualified, I would know most stuff. Now, with our new graduates not much older than my kids, I still don't feel like I know enough and the world moves forward faster than I do. However, I haven't lost my passion for the job, my drive to keep learning and to keep applying that to the real world.



**Sarah Harker**

## Please Return Cool Bags

This is Jeanette, reluctantly having her photograph taken in a request to kindly ask that if you have any vaccine cool bags lying around at home, please can you return them to the practice as we are running low? Many thanks in advance.



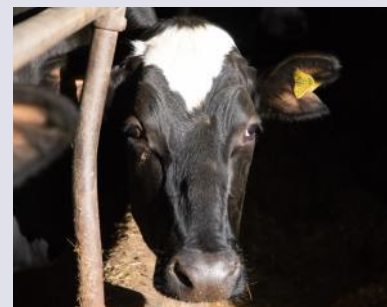
## Orf Vaccine

Even though mostly far too late for this season, we do have Orf vaccine back in stock with reassurances from the manufacturer Zoetis, that supplies will be consistent for next season. Please have a chat with one of us regarding the best way forward for sheep that missed vaccine this spring.



## Johnes Declarations

Johnes reminder for dairy clients! Your milk buyer will require a vet signed Johnes declaration to confirm you have a disease and testing plan in place and this has been reviewed in the last 12 months by 31st



December. If you haven't had a review or require a 30 cow screening kit now is the time to contact us. Results can take at least a week to come back so being prepared will avoid the last minute rush.



**Hannah Tatham**

## Westmorland Show 2023

Thank you to everyone who came to see us over the two days, what a fabulous busy show it was. Our Holme Farm Ice cream ran out both days as the sun, unusually for this year, shone!! Thank you to all those who entered the competition to Win a Farm, the answers were as follows—1) Jim was holding the best cure for calf scour what was it—**A Muck Fork** 2) The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway how much money can be claimed for each sector - **Dairy £372, Sheep £436, Beef £522**. The Answer to the tie breaker question - **How many calves our Vet Techs disbudded in August was 205**. We had 3 entries at 200, which then went into a prize draw and the **WINNERS** are Henry and Martha Ayrton, Ouzelthorne Farm. Congratulations!!

### Warm welcome to Sol

**Sol Elliot** graduated as a Vet from Nottingham University in July this year and joined the Lancaster team at the end of August. She grew up on a beef and sheep farm in the Midlands and spends her spare time with her 20 year old pony. Sol is particularly enthusiastic about and looking forward to taking part in our Farm Gate Christmas Song this year!



## Dates For Your Diary



**Understanding Veterinary Medicines—Red Tractor Approved Course.** If nobody on your farm has completed this course then you will get a non compliance during an inspection. As the majority of clients have been through now, the dates we provide will become fewer, so please get booked in and the job sorted on— **Wed 1st November 2023, 1.30pm—3.30pm at our J36 practice.** Course cost is £35 plus VAT which includes your course book and certificate.



**Healthy Heifer Members Meeting** - Our next meeting for members will be held on Farm, Wednesday 1st November and kindly sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, the makers of Bovalto and Fencovis vaccines. Venue and times TBC



**Lantra Foot Trimming Courses. Two Courses Available— Run by Finbarr and Tim Carter**

**1) Monday 13th November 2023— Lantra First Aid for Feet** 1 day Course 9am—5pm, at our J36 practice.

**2) Tues 14th—Thursday 16th November 2023— Lantra Intermediate Hoof Trimming** 3 day course. Day 1 at the practice (J36) days 2 and 3 on farm. Please see article on page 2 for details. To book or express interest please call the office or e mail [linda@farmgatevets.com](mailto:linda@farmgatevets.com)



### 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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