



Welcome

Children back to school and the sun comes out, or was it that we put our big duvet back on?? This welcome bit of weather will hopefully see everyone get their grass. Quality will be questionable but it is better than feeding fresh air!!!

September is the start of autumn and we will start to get asked do I need to fluke my sheep? The answer is yes but probably not just yet. We will be doing sampling of some flocks and will keep up to date with national forecasts. I think the dry May and June will have hurt the snail population so if there is any fluke, we will see it in the late autumn. Blood testing lambs is a great way to see if the flock has seen some fluke infection and then we can treat if needed. We can also test for scab as this is starting to cause problems as well. **Jim**

Pneumonia in Cattle

It is that time of year when we talk about pneumonia prevention as it used to be a backend problem. Things have changed as we see pneumonia all year round now as stock are housed all year. We see more and more adult dairy cows with pneumonia which is not helped by lung damage when the animal is a heifer. Autumn with its cool, damp days and cattle just getting housed can lead to problems.

Here is what you can do

- Sort ventilation out in buildings to get stale air out and fresh air in
- Don't overstock buildings as one animal is another animal's worst enemy
- Treat animals for lungworm at housing as low-grade lungworm infection will lead to pneumonia
- Vaccination. What is the best? Vaccinate for as many things as possible to cover as many diseases as possible. Most are 2 doses so it is best to get them fully immune before housing when they need the protection.
- Clip out backs of animals to help them sweat. It also improves uptake of pour-on wormers.

Please have a word with one of us for more information. We will always get some pneumonia but if we can reduce the severity of it and the numbers involved in an outbreak then a bit of planning is worth it.

Jim McKinstry

Included this month

- **Pneumonia in Cattle** - Jim McKinstry
- **Water and Feed Access in Dairy Sheds** - Charlotte Chapman
- **Defra Building Grants**
- **Gaining Immunity to Gut Worms** - Charlotte Chapman
- **Kennel Cough & Gun Dogs** - Rebekah Carling
- **News and Diary Dates**



Hopefully we'll have a dry September and an extended grazing season, however it's time to start planning for the housing season now.

Pneumonia vaccines in stock.



Water and Feed Access in Dairy Sheds

It is recommended that at least 10% of a herd should be able to drink water at any one time with at least 2 water sources available for every group. Adult cows consume 15-20 litres of water per minute during their 'peak drinking times' which is after milking. Limited water access will restrict milk yields.

Likewise, feed restriction will also affect yields. Cows should not have to compete to gain access to a feed face for food. Red Tractor set out feed space requirements depending on whether a ration is being fed or if a self-feed system is in place. For dairy cows on a ration-based system, having a feed space of less than 60cm/cow has been linked to increased levels of herd lameness.

Why not take the opportunity to during your next brew break to work out your currently feed and water supplies. Already know your feed space is lacking but can't afford a building renovation? Could a covered feed trailer at the end of the cubicle shed be a temporary solution? Feel free to brainstorm with us cost-effective solutions.

Trough Space - Cattle (cm per head)

Weight (kg)	Ration fed	Ad-lib / self feed
200-299	40	15
300-399	50	12
400-499	55	19
500-599	60	24
600-699	67	28
700-799	70	32
800 and over	75	32

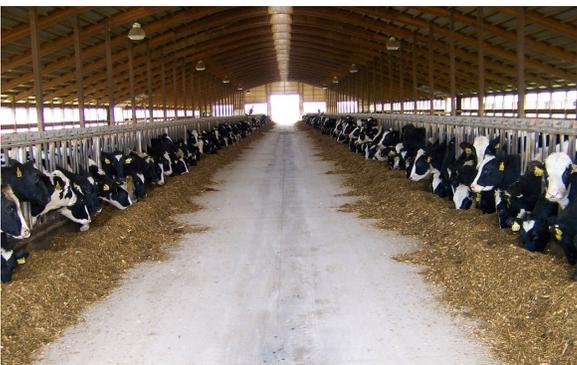
Red tractor (2021) requirements for feed space



The value of feed space cannot be underestimated.

Charlotte Chapman

Defra Building Grants



On the subject of farm buildings, Defra have just made available a fund to replace or upgrade ageing cattle buildings. Grants will be from £15,000 to £500,000 to co finance cattle infrastructure projects, prioritising calf housing. Certain requirements should be met which include -

- Calves not being kept individually after 7 days.
 - It must be designed to maintain an ambient temperature for calves and have sensors to record this.
 - Calves must not share airspace with older cattle.
 - A minimum area per calf and a concrete, sloped floor.
- Must use cereal straw bedding and have enrichment items e.g. hanging brushes or balls.
 - Have permanent calf height walls to exclude drafts.
 - Have fitted artificial lighting.

For further information please have a read on the Government Defra Website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/calf-housing-for-health-and-welfare-2023/calf-housing-for-health-and-welfare-grant-specifications#what-the-grant-can-pay-for>

Foot Trimming Courses

W/C 13th November 2023 we will be offering Hoof First Aid and approved Foot Trimming courses which meet the requirements of supermarket contracts. To register an interest in attending, please let us know.

Finbarr

Gaining Immunity to Gut Worms - Youngstock

With August rainfall up by 170%, farmers are feeling the pressure of this unusually wet month. But this weather hasn't just slowed down harvest, it has affected the lifecycle of parasites meaning there is a higher and continued risk of parasite burdens in our stock coming into autumn.

Parasite eggs (shed by livestock and present in muck pats) can take anywhere from 1-6 weeks to turn into larvae which can reinfect stock. This warm wet weather drops this time frame to just a week. This coupled with the physical force of rain propelling larvae onto grass swards ready to be eaten means pasture contamination can be rife. Do not forget oral worm drenches only kill

what is in the animal at drenching time, do not presume your animals will not be wormy 3 weeks later.

Immunity to worms takes time and depends upon multiple factors, most importantly exposure. Normally immunity will be acquired over 1-2 grazing seasons but 'SCOPS' say that youngstock need to be grazing for at least 8 months (on pasture grazed by cattle the previous year) to sustain enough exposure to develop immunity. Spring born calves will be at greater risk of worms in their second grazing season and autumn born calves could still be well at risk of worm burdens into their third grazing season.

Performing worm egg counts and/or routinely weighing stock can be useful tools in determining exposure and deciding when to worm youngstock.



Charlotte Chapman

Kennel Cough and Working Gun Dogs

I've seen a couple of gamekeepers out and about and it won't be long before we're dodging pheasant poults left, right and centre so now is the time to talk about Kennel Cough.

Kennel cough is essentially dog flu and so a shoot bringing dogs together from different places is one

of the fastest ways this can spread. Most of the time Kennel Cough doesn't cause too many problems, a cough that sounds like they're about to vomit and off food and down in the mouth for a few weeks. However, nobody wants this to be at the time you want your dogs at their best and if your dog is older or something else is pulling at it, it can turn into something more serious.

Thankfully, there is a vaccine that is available that covers most of the Kennel Cough bugs, only needs one dose and lasts for a year. It takes 3 weeks to get into their system, so start thinking about getting your dogs booked in now, to make sure they're fighting fit and more likely to stay that way as they enter what is bound to be their favourite time of year.



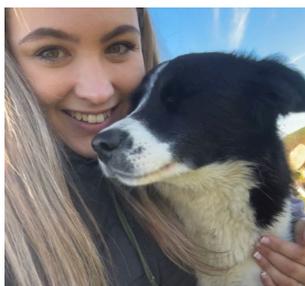
Rebekah Carling

#farm24

Our staff were once again happy to take part in this national media campaign to promote all that is good about British Farming! Thank you to all our clients who got roped in and thank you for all the "likes" on Facebook and Instagram.



Warm welcome to our new faces!



Claire Capstick Claire joined our Sedbergh practice in May as a Registered Veterinary Nurse. Claire's main clinical areas of interest include, hospitalisation nursing, dental care, wound care, and consults which include weight management clinics, and dental care. When not

nursing, Claire can be found helping her husband with their sheep, or found training/trialing her sheepdogs. Claire also has two young sons who also keep her very busy !

Naomi Capstick Naomi is Registered Veterinary Nurse who joined our Sedbergh branch at the start of August. She did her training at Myerscough College and qualified in 2017. Naomi loves the variety the role has to offer, but her main

interest is anaesthesia. Outside of work Naomi enjoys art, running and walking in the countryside with her labrador Devon. She also enjoys getting involved with her local church and loves spending time with her friends and family.



Thom Leman Thom graduated from the University of Nottingham as a Vet earlier this year and joined us last month. Working mostly from Kendal , some of you may have met Thom already. Outside of work he loves playing rugby, cricket, tennis and if not playing having a beer while watching! He also enjoys surfing and walking which he hopes to be able to do plenty of up here in the lakes.



Cartmel Show 2023

Despite the slightly damp conditions, we had a great time chatting to clients at Cartmel Show last month. Thank you to those who came to see us on the stand and also those who came along to the education tent to test your knowledge of cow anatomy. Hannah's artwork once again proved very popular and managed not to wash off!



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— **Thursday 2nd November 2023, 1.30pm—3.30pm at our J36 practice.** Course cost is £35 plus VAT which includes your course book and certificate.



Westmorland County Show Wednesday 13th September & Thursday 14th September 2023

Looking forward to seeing you at the show, please join us for a brew, cake and ice cream.

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

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