

# Livestock NEWS

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Farm

## Staff News

### Karen McNeil

Many of you will already know Karen as she has worked with us for 3 years as a coordinator. We are pleased that Karen has taken up the role of VetTech/administrator and is currently training to be a farm SQP (suitably qualified person). Karen has experience of working on dairy farms and is enjoying her new role. Once qualified as an SQP Karen will be able to advise and supply VPS products such as wormers, flukicides and fly control. Some of you will also have already seen Karen out and about on farm 'stress free' disbudding and mobility scoring as part of her VetTech service.



### Jenna Hickson

Sadly we have said goodbye to Jenna who has gone to pursue a new career with an animal health company. We wish Jenna good luck for the future.

### Shona Mouncey

We are happy to say Shona will be returning to work from maternity leave at the beginning of September working 2 days a week.



### Hayley Gray

Hayley has recently joined us as a part time coordinator based at Dalston and also supports the Equine yard at Newbiggin. Hayley was brought up on a dairy farm nr Skelton and lives in the surrounding area with her partner and daughter. In her spare time Hayley is kept busy with her own horse.



## Lameness in sheep - stamp it out

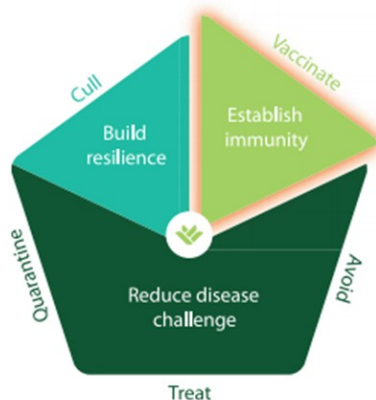
There has been progress made in reducing lameness prevalence but there is still work to be done to reach the government target of less than 2% by 2021. The Lameness Reduction 5 point plan incorporates both preventative and therapeutic approaches and gives a clear framework for managing sheep lameness effectively.

The 5 points are:

1. **Treat clinical cases early.** As soon as clinical cases are noticed they should be treated for a better chance of success.
2. **Vaccinate animals to stimulate immunity.** Footvax is an effective aid and needs to be used in conjunction with the rest of the plan to reduce overall incidence. Now is a good time to be thinking about Footvax vaccination before the breeding season commences.
3. **Cull badly or repeatedly affected animals.** If a ewe has to be treated for foot rot more than once in a season she should be culled to prevent further circulation of disease. Culling is likely to be higher in the first year of doing this but it will even out.
4. **Quarantine incoming animals.** Any brought in animals should be kept separate from the rest of the flock for 4 weeks and running them through a footbath is also a good idea. Try to buy from a source which already has a lameness protocol in place to avoid buying in a problem.
5. **Avoid spreading and infection at gathering and handling.** Improving cleanliness and drainage of handling areas such as lime around water troughs and gravel around entrance to handling facilities/gates.

Given long term commitment and correct implantation; the 5pp reduces disease challenge on farm, builds natural resilience and improves flock immunity through vaccination. A lameness plan can be drawn up specifically to Your farm to identify the main risk factors. Speak to one of the vets for more information.

**The Five Point Plan for Lameness Reduction**



Vaccination is an integral part of the Five Point Plan for Lameness Reduction



**By Annie Kerr**

## Fly Control

Uncontrolled fly populations can lead to decreased milk yields and reduced calf weaning weights. Fly strike in sheep can have a huge economical and welfare impact as it can lead to weight loss and even death if left untreated. In addition to being a nuisance to livestock and farmers (particularly towards the end of the summer as biting



**By Paul Kirkwood**





flies become more prominent), flies also play a role in conditions such as contagious “summer” mastitis and eye infections (New forest eye). Fly numbers are determined by factors such as temperature, moisture of breeding habitat and humidity. Fly activity can begin as eggs can start to hatch when ground temperatures rise above 7°C meaning that the control of fly populations needs to start in Spring, even before adult flies are seen. One female adult fly can produce 3000 eggs so by the time lots of adults flies are circulating around livestock, starting to control them is usually too late.

Along with the chemical products (pour-ons, injectables, ear tags and plunge dips) effective control of flies depends on reducing their numbers at the source by removing the organic material in which flies breed. Clearing up manure and storing it away from the farm buildings, removing waste feed and ensuring good water and slurry drainage will help reduce insect breeding sites.

In order to minimise the impact flies have on your flock or herd, a multi-modal approach to fly control is essential. Chemical treatment on a regular basis will help keep existing and future emerging fly populations under control. An appropriate choice of fly treatment will vary according to the length of period of activity required and the management policies on the farm. Plunge dipping for sheep may be better reserved for autumn treatments and scab control. Pour on treatments with pyrethroid and insect growth regulators have advantages in requiring less handling and these products provide varied lengths of protection.



## Spotinor®

			
 250ml	25	50	100
500ml	50	100	200
1L	100	200	400
2.5L	250	500	1000

\*Lambs (under 10kg weight or 1 month of age)

## Lungworm disease in dairy cattle



**By Jemma Reed**

Cattle lungworm disease or 'husk' is caused by the bovine parasite *Dictyocaulus viviparus* (*D.viviparus*). This is not a new disease but over the past few decades the epidemiology of the disease has changed as well as the prevalence of the disease having increased. This is disappointing as a good vaccine has been available for over 50 years and no resistance of *D. viviparus* to any of the most common wormers has been (officially) reported. Historically it was a disease associated with coughing in young cattle in their first grazing season but it has also become a disease of adult cattle and we now commonly see it in milking cows during the Summer months.

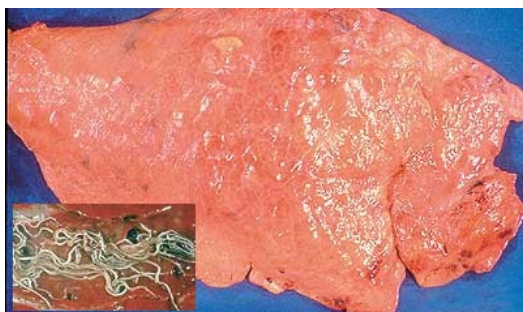
Lungworm disease most commonly presents a persistent cough, increased respiratory rate, reduced exercise tolerance and milk drop. In advanced cases animals can be open mouthed gasping for breath or sudden death can occur. The costs associated with lungworm outbreak in a dairy herd are high with 50% of the total costs associated with milk production loss of up to 4kg/cow/day and the remaining costs associated with the disposal of dead animals, lab fees, treatments and fertility costs due to extra days to conception/costs of extra inseminations. This has been estimated at £140 per adult cow in a herd.

*D. viviparus* has a direct life cycle. Cows eat infective larvae that are on the pasture. These larvae develop in the cow travelling from the gut to the cow's lungs. At day 15 after ingestion of the larvae, young adult worms have formed and start to migrate from the cow's lungs to the cow's airways - causing coughing. These worms are highly fertile and can produce up to 7000 eggs a day. These eggs become larvae and 25 days post infection the cow will then start to pass these larvae in its faeces where these are then able to infect the pasture and be ingested by other animals.

Lab testing of individual faecal samples or blood samples to confirm the diagnosis of lungworm in a single clinically affected animal can be frustrating for both vet and farmer due to what's known as the 'diagnostic gap' when an animal will present as coughing from day 15 but larvae will only be found in faecal samples from day 25 post infection and a blood test will only be positive for lungworm antibodies at roughly the same time post infection. This means that the lab tests can come back negative despite the presence of the lungworm disease. In order to make the testing more effective it is better to sample multiple animals in the affected group in order to increase the likelihood of identifying disease. In a milking herd that is coughing, the most likely animals to carry the highest worm burden are first lactation heifers as their immunity to lungworm disease is likely to be less complete.



For example: a dairy herd that rears it's own replacements and doesn't buy in any other stock may see an outbreak in milking heifers when they join the main herd. One of the reasons behind this is that the heifers have been over protected with wormers as youngstock so have not developed natural immunity to lungworm e.g. the use of long acting wormers that cover the whole grazing period. A way of establishing immunity is using the lungworm vaccine Huskvac. It is very effective at what it does but needs planned well ahead as it involves two doses that need to be given 4 weeks apart and completed 2 weeks prior to turn out. Wormers should not be given during and until at least 2 weeks after the course is completed as they will interfere with the development of immunity to the vaccine.



## ibTB

Want to buy an animal but worried about the TB history of the area you are buying from? ibTB is a good place to start because you can look at the history of an area not just the holding you are buying from. Using the +/- buttons or scrolling on the map allows you to zoom in a specific

area and see how many active outbreaks there are. Clicking on each outbreak button shows the date that a farm was declared infected (TB2) and when restrictions were lifted (TB10). You can also look at resolved cases in previous years using the drop down menus on the left of the screen. Using this information in conjunction with the herd's own TB history and date of last clear test will give a much clearer picture of the risks involved.



**By Anne Abbs**

## Genomics in action

Come along and hear a farmers perspective on genomic testing and see how your herd Genetic profile measures up to the other UK farmers



**CLARIFIDE Plus**, the simple test that offers you the opportunity to increase health and profitability on your farm.

Join us to find out how **CLARIFIDE Plus** farmers are making up to **£1,029 more per cow.**

Date: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019  
Location: The Shepherds, Rosehill Estate, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 2RW

**Lunch on arrival @ 12pm**

Guest speaker

**Tom Oesch, Swisslane Dairy, Alto, Mich.**

Herd Genetic Report Analysis - All milk recording Paragon clients will have their own Herd Genetic Report Analysis.

**Dinner @ 5pm**

Anyone interested in genomics is welcome but places are limited so it is essential to book.  
Please RSVP Karen McNeil on 01228 710208



**We look forward to you joining us in our hospitality marquee situated by the main ring.**

**Refreshments served throughout the day.**

**Alcohol by invitation only.**

## Dates for your diary

**Dalston Show**

**Clarifide Meeting**

**Agri Expo**



**10th August 2019**



**22nd August 2019**



**1st November 2019**

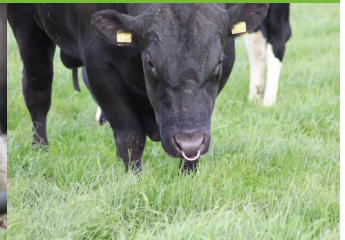
## Courses

**3 Day DIY AI AND CATTLE FERTILITY**

**2 DAY FOOT TRIMMING COURSE**

**MASTERING MEDICINES COURSE**

Please get in touch to register  
your interest.



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