

ISSUE 78 Summer2022

# Livestock NEWS

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farm

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VETERINARY GROUP



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Welcome to our summer newsletter!

After a busy spring period with a record of 5 cow caesarians in one night we've finally managed to get a breather over the last few weeks. We're delighted to welcome a few new faces to the team along with an exciting new foot trimming service.

We've also got a round up on the latest in lungworm, tup testing and fly control.

Enjoy!

Phil Wilkinson

### Staff News

Emma Stuart

Many of you may have already met Emma as she joined us at the end of May. Emma graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2014 and has worked in the local area for the last 6 years. Before that she has worked in Ireland and New Zealand. She has a keen interest in ruminant nutrition, calf health and mastitis. Outside of work she is a very accomplished fell runner have just completed the Kong Lakes ultra - an 80KM route— finishing 1st female and 2nd overall!



Peter Cullen

We are delighted to welcome Peter Cullen to the team as a full time foot trimmer. Peter has trimmed feet for the last 5 years on farms in our area and brings a wealth of experience to this role. He is looking forward to getting involved in a vet lead approach to lameness control on farms and helping improve the mobility of the animals that we service. Outside of work his interests lie in football and darts—unfortunately he also confesses to be a Manchester Utd supporter!



Goodbye Matt

Unfortunately Matt has decided that the draw of deep fried mars bars and haggis is too great and has decided to move up near Glasgow to be nearer his partner. We wish you well in your new job Matt!





## Stop the Spread of Disease with an Effective Fly Control Plan



Flies can be a costly nuisance to the UK's cattle and sheep population. In addition to the irritation caused, flies can also transmit a number of diseases including mastitis, causing both financial and welfare concerns.

Fly problems can occur any time between March and November, depending on weather conditions and geography, so it is important that farmers, in conjunction with their vet/animal health advisor discuss their fly control plan



**Speak to us today to discuss your Summer fly control.**

### Blowfly

### 'Strike now before you are Struck'



Blowflies are one of the most widespread ectoparasites affecting sheep in the UK, with surveys suggesting 80% of flocks will have one or more cases of blowfly strike every year.

The high risk fly strike season was historically reasonably predictable - beginning in May and ending in September. Lately we have seen the season for blowfly strike beginning as early as March and ending as late as December when Winters have been mild.

**Contact us today to order your season cover at pre-season prices.**

**Buy 4 x 5Ltrs get a free applicator**

- **6 – 8 week blowfly strike prevention**
- **Treats and prevents blowfly strike & head flies**
- **Treats ticks & lice**
- **8 day meat, 5 day milk withhold period**
- **Can be used any time of the year, including off-shears**

# Lungworm warning

Watch out for the signs and call us if you need advice or testing



Jemma Reed

Lungworm or 'husk' is caused by a parasite *Dictyocaulus viviparus* that typically affects young cattle during their first grazing season. Financial losses in severe lungworm outbreaks in growing cattle can average £50 - £100 per head. In certain situations, infection is found in older cattle, and lost milk production in adults may reach £3 per cow per day.

The parasite has a complicated life cycle, the speed of which is affected by temperature and moisture levels in the environment. Infection is acquired by ingestion of infective larvae whilst at pasture. **The prevalence of infection therefore depends on the time of year, hence why symptoms are most commonly seen in late Summer and Autumn but can occur earlier in the year.**

Clinical signs range from an occasional cough to severe respiratory disease and death which reflects the number of infective larvae ingested during a relatively short period of time. Lab testing to confirm the diagnosis can include faecal analysis for larvae and blood testing for antibodies; however timing can be difficult as larval shedding and antibodies in the blood do not occur until animals are already presenting symptoms and have a high level of infection.

Vaccines are an effective way of controlling lungworm, as they limit the clinical effects and allow the animal to build its own immunity. However a vaccine programme needs to be planned in advance of the grazing season. Calves should be at least 8 weeks old when dosed and have 2 doses 4 weeks apart. Calves should not be exposed to any potential source of lungworm infection (grazing) for at least 2 weeks after the second dose. During subsequent grazing seasons exposure to lungworm infection reinforces this initial immunity.

Vaccinated stock should not be grazed with unvaccinated animals or follow behind unvaccinated stock in a grazing system since any increase in pasture lungworm burden may cause an overwhelming of immunity. Only healthy calves should be vaccinated. Careful consideration should be given to calves suffering from respiratory disease before dosing. It is advisable not to use any other live vaccine for a period of 2 weeks either side of vaccination.

**DO**

- ✓ Speak to us about starting a preventative vaccination programme for 2023!
- ✓ Watch out for signs of lungworm
- ✓ Treat all youngstock as needed - speak to use to discuss treatment options
- ✓ Quarantine bought in youngstock

**Don't**

- ✗ Delay if you see any signs (speak to us to discuss treatment options)
- ✗ Mix vaccinated and unvaccinated calves

**Benefits of Boluses**

Cosecure Cattle Bolus is a unique, soluble glass trace element bolus for cattle, which delivers rumen-available ionic copper, ionic cobalt and selenium to the animal at a controlled and constant rate for up to six months.

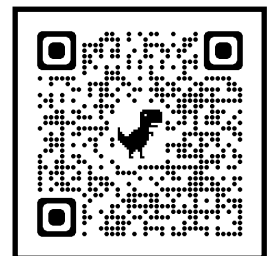
- No guesswork – delivers exactly the same amount of copper, cobalt and selenium every single day, at levels compatible with animal’s daily requirements
- Delivers trace elements which are essential for ongoing health and fertility



Don't just take our word for it! see what one of our Clients says. Scan the QR code to see what Stephen Lyall has to say.

*'I would recommend that any farmer who is experiencing unexplained health, fertility or calving issues carries out an investigation with their vet which includes a trace element / mineral analysis'*

Hover over the QR code with your phone camera to read the full article.





## Ram fertility testing

Carrying out pre-breeding checks on rams ahead of the breeding season can be really beneficial to improve the profitability of your flock. It can help to identify issues that may reduce their fertility, the result of which is likely to be less lambs born in spring. Waiting until ewes repeat or scanning time to realise there has been a problem is too late to rectify the problem for that season.



**Shona Mouncey**

A physical exam and semen evaluation are carried out to help ensure the rams are fertile and ready for the breeding season. Ideally these should be done at least a month ahead of when the breeding season starts.



Paragon are offering ram testing at a reduced rate at the Newbiggin practice on Monday 22nd August. Please give us a call to discuss further or book your rams in.

## New foot trimming service!

We are now able to provide a complete hoof care service to all our clients.

We know that lameness is one on the big three issues on all farms and the one that has probably been least focused on over the years. Being such a visible disease and with more and more scrutiny being placed on lameness prevention and the treatment of lame cows we are delighted to be able to offer this service as of 4th July to all our clients.



We have vets trained as AHDB mobility mentors, all our vet techs are ROMS (mobility score) trained or in training, we have an experienced foot trimmer in Peter Cullen having just joined us and all our vets are experienced in treating more major lameness conditions including digit amputations for end stage cases.

If you feel that lameness prevention is something that needs more attention on your farm or you'd like to find out a bit more about our trimming service please speak to one of the vets or contact the practice for more information and pricing.

## Bringing in replacement ewes?

Toxoplasmosis and Enzootic abortion are both common conditions, however the impact on farm can be costly. Fortunately there are effective vaccines to prevent both conditions. Putting in place a vaccination programme for your flock prior to the next tupping is an effective and sustainable way to control both conditions. Ewes must be vaccinated a minimum of four weeks before tupping and most only need a single dose to last their time in the flock.

At Paragon, we can carry out blood sampling to screen your flock as well as vaccinations.

## Abortion rates of 2% or more during lambing?

This could indicate an infection, such as enzootic abortion

Act now to protect your ewes



## Have you tested your tups?

Fertility test your Tups ahead of this breeding season

Contact the Practice today to book your tup MOT

## Mastering Medicine Course

Thursday 14th July at Paragon Veterinary Group, Dalston

£50 + vat



Call to book your place

LIVESTOCK NEWS

# Dalston Show

After an unfortunate absence of two years, Dalston Show returns on  
13th August 2022.

Please make sure you come by our stand for light refreshments.

We wish all our Clients exhibiting at Dalston show good luck.

Dalston Show 2022



Saturday 13th August 2022

Find us on f

Schedule



Register  
interest

## DIY AI & Cattle Fertility Course

**Next course date 26th—28th September**

Please contact the practice today to confirm your  
place.

## Foot Trimming refresher course

**10th August 2022**

Please contact the practice today to confirm your  
place.



Book your  
place now



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