

# Celebrate SCARSDALE'S

# 70<sup>th</sup>

## BIRTHDAY BALL

**SATURDAY**  
3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER  
7pm 'til late

at

*The Marquee*  
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Cricket Club

*Festivities include a sumptuous 3-course meal,  
live music and much much more!*

**£50**

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**farm  
news**



AUGUST 2015



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Please note that telephone  
calls are recorded for quality  
and monitoring purposes.

## Liver fluke control in sheep

**Carolyn Baguley**  
MA VetMB CertAVP (Cattle)  
MRCVS



As summer marches on, it's not only us vets and farmers that are enjoying the warmer weather - mud snails start their breeding season, and the warmer and wetter the summer, the better they enjoy it.

Mud snails are a vital part of the liver fluke life cycle, and anywhere that is suitable for the mud snail to live is a risky area for fluke infection. Mud snails prefer damp, slightly acidic conditions, such as pond edges and the banks of streams. The snails can even set up temporary habitats in puddles, hoof prints or wheel ruts after heavy rain or flooding. Climate change has meant that liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*), traditionally a problem in wetter, western areas, has become more common in the Midlands in recent years.

Clinical disease in a few animals can be the tip of the iceberg, with serious subclinical losses in the whole flock. (See the different types of disease on the next page).

Fluke don't respond to most of the usual wormers, so specific treatments need to be used. There are a limited number of products available, and different products treat different ages of fluke (fluke take 12 weeks to reach maturity). Albendazole and oxcyclosanide will only treat adult fluke, nitroxylnil and closantel will treat fluke that are 7-10 weeks or older, and triclabendazole will treat all ages of fluke, even the very immature larvae.

There are growing concerns about triclabendazole resistance, so it needs to be used appropriately. Animals shouldn't be underdosed, and triclabendazole should only be used when really necessary. It can be hard to avoid using it, but other products should be used to treat chronic infections in spring, or if dosing post-housing, use closantel or nitroxylnil can be used 3 weeks post-housing for the winter dose.



In general, combination fluke/worming products are probably best avoided, since often either the flukicide or the wormer isn't really needed or is an inappropriate choice, and can lead to resistance.

If there's a history of fluke infection on your farm, treat your flock, but monitor carefully if not, and don't treat if there's no need to. Think about your farm's history, its geography and the weather, and keep an eye on regional fluke forecasts and the latest advice at [www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk). Each year is different in terms of risk, and strategic drenching can be a useful control method - for example, in very high-risk years, four triclabendazole treatments (October, November, January and February) and one adulticide treatment (May) might be necessary, whereas in lower-risk years, two triclabendazole treatments (October and January) and one adulticide treatment (May) might be adequate. (Continued...)

**70 YEARS ScarsdaleVets**  
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[www.scarsdalevets.com](http://www.scarsdalevets.com)

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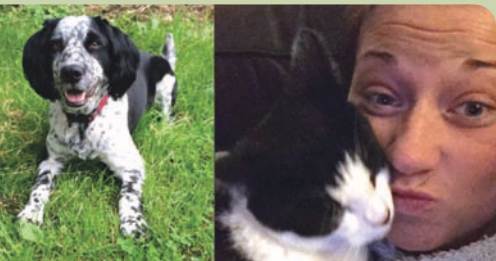
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# Liver fluke control in sheep continued...

Acute disease					
Time of year	What's happening inside	Clinical signs	How to diagnose	Treatment (whole flock)	Comments
Aug - Oct (Jul - Dec in bad years)	Migration of immature fluke through liver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sudden death</li> <li>Dullness, anaemia, breathing difficulty, swollen abdomen, abdominal pain</li> <li>Lethargy, reduced grazing activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk forecast</li> <li>Blood samples (liver enzymes)</li> <li>Post-mortem: Immature flukes in bile ducts/gall bladder</li> <li>Faecal coproantigen test</li> </ul>	Triclabendazole	Move to clean/lower risk (drier) pasture after treatment OR re-treat every 3 weeks for next 3 months if high risk.
Subacute disease					
Time of year	What's happening inside	Clinical signs	How to diagnose	Treatment (whole flock)	Comments
Oct - Jan (usually Dec onwards)	See above and below -combination of the two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced growth rates</li> <li>Weight loss (despite adequate nutrition)</li> <li>Poor fleece quality</li> <li>Depression, weakness, inappetence</li> <li>Anaemia</li> <li>Sometimes bottle jaw/swollen abdomen</li> </ul>		Triclabendazole	If possible, move sheep to lower risk pasture, if not retreat after 5-8 weeks.
Chronic disease					
Time of year	What's happening inside	Clinical signs	How to diagnose	Treatment (whole flock)	Comments
Jan - Apr	Adult flukes (at least 12 weeks after initial infection) living in bile duct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very poor body condition (especially if also pregnant/lactating)</li> <li>Poor fleece quality</li> <li>Bottle jaw</li> <li>Anaemia</li> <li>Diarrhoea</li> <li>Swollen abdomen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluke eggs in faecal samples</li> <li>Post-mortem: Mature flukes in bile ducts and gall bladder</li> <li>Abattoir report</li> <li>Faecal coproantigen test</li> </ul>	Product active against adults - don't need triclabendazole	Move to clean pasture after treatment. Improve nutrition.

## Meet the Team: Charlotte Atkinson

Charlotte started working for Scarsdale Vets in 2012. She works full-time on reception, and enjoys meeting and greeting clients on a daily basis. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her friends in the local pub and taking her dog Milo on walks. Milo is a cocker spaniel cross border collie, so takes a lot of tiring out with three walks every day! Charlotte also has a little cat called Alfie who likes to sleep in some unusual places!



It's not just about treatment - some people choose to drain fields in an attempt to eliminate snail habitats, or fence off the riskiest areas. Simply keeping stock off the wettest, riskiest fields in autumn/winter can often make a big difference. Monitoring abattoir reports for liver damage can be a good way of keeping an eye on the fluke levels on the farm.

If your farm has suitable habitats for mud snails but no fluke, you need to be very careful about bringing fluke onto the property via bought-in animals. Ask one of us for advice on quarantine treatment strategies.

If you'd like to find out more about liver fluke, the SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) website is a great source of information - go to <http://www.scops.org.uk> and hover over the 'endoparasites' link.



# Feeding Whole Milk vs. Calf Milk Replacer

Rose Jackson BVSc DBR MRCVS



Whole milk or calf milk replacer (CMR); convenience vs calf health? This is an ongoing debate, but what is the science behind this important choice?

There is a wide range of CMRs on the market which vary in price and quality although, as a general rule, you should choose the best you can afford. Something we don't always consider is that whole milk is also very variable in composition; especially waste milk from sick cows. Unpasteurised whole milk can pose a risk to the calf in the form of bacterial contamination including E. coli, Salmonella and Campylobacter. Feeding whole milk is also a major risk factor for the spread of Johne's Disease, even in pasteurised whole milk. In addition, whole milk can be deficient in certain key vitamins.

**Consistency** is extremely important when it comes to feeding baby calves. Whether you chose to feed whole milk or CMR, it should be warmed to 40-42°C before feeding. Feeding at the same time of day is also important. Calves should be fed at least twice a day; 3 times or ad lib is even better.

### Feeding Heifer Calves for Accelerated Growth to calve down at 24 months.

The aim should be to get calves up to 900g of Calf Milk Replacer (CMR) per day as quickly as possible after their colostrum, and then to tail off towards weaning at around 8 weeks. If making up the CMR by hand, this means 150g/850ml water to make up a litre of milk. Calves should be fed 6 litres today at this 15% inclusion rate. Note that with automatic calf feeding machines, the powder is added to a litre so it is important to up the powder inclusion rate accordingly.



## Whole Milk

### Pros

- 100% dairy protein
- Rich in fat therefore high in energy
- Contains immunoglobulins not present in milk replacers

### Cons

- Can be a carrier of disease from cow to calf (vertical transmission)
- Contains pathogens (particularly raw waste milk, but also pasteurised milk)
- Transmission of Johne's disease
- Low in certain vitamins and trace elements
- Can contain antibiotic traces contributing to resistance
- High fat content can actually cause scouring and can impede rumen development after weaning

## CMR

### Pros

- Has a constant composition
- Is processed to minimise contamination and disease transition
- The composition is tailored to the nutrition program and calf's needs
- Easy to verify DM and feed amount
- Can be used to achieve accelerated growth when associated with an appropriate feed rate

### Cons

- Is less digestible when the formulation is high in vegetable protein
- Lower quality CMRs can have low stability, causing scouring
- Less reputable suppliers may use degraded or damaged milk ingredients

Adapted from nutreco, available from lifestart.nutreco.com



## Tour de Scarsdale

To celebrate 70 years of Scarsdale Vets, we have organised a 'Tour de Scarsdale' around the 10 Scarsdale practices.

**Sunday 13th September 2015**  
Starting at Pride Veterinary Centre and finishing at the farm & equine practice on Markeaton Lane.

We are raising money for:

- Help the Street Animals of Morocco
- Send a Cow
- Hounds for Heroes

Find out what route we will take, more about the charities we are supporting, and how to sponsor us!

[www.scarsdalevets.com/tour-de-scarsdale](http://www.scarsdalevets.com/tour-de-scarsdale)

And, you will also be able to help us throughout the summer add mileage to our total. We will have exercise bikes at Markeaton, Springwood and Pride Veterinary Centre, where you can help us raise money by adding your own mileage to our total. We aim to gain 2,800 miles throughout the summer by any means not using an engine. Some ideas that our staff will be doing are:

Horse riding, running, rowing, scuba diving, swimming, cycling, space hoppers!! If you have any great ideas as to how we can achieve our 2,800 miles, please email us and we will see what we can do!