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SCARSDALE'S
70th
BIRTHDAY BALL

{ SATURDAY }
3RD OCTOBER
 7pm 'til late

at **{ The Marquee }**
 Derbyshire County
 Cricket Club

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

£50

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 Farm & Equine Practice,
 Markeaton Lane



01332 294 929
 to book your place

All proceeds will be donated to



in conjunction with...

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Reminder for Arla Farmers

From 1st October 2015, the UK will be implementing Arlagården, Arla's quality assurance programme, alongside the current Red Tractor scheme. As part of this, all Arla farmers will be required to discuss and agree with his or her vet the use of antibiotic dry cow therapy.

The key points include the following:

- Preventative antibiotic use should be avoided, and antibiotics must be used responsibly.
- Selective dry cow therapy will be encouraged, and the attending vet will be asked to complete and sign off a form relating to antibiotic dry cow therapy use. This will include whether selective dry cow therapy is already used and, if so, the selection criteria for individual cows.
- If blanket dry cow therapy is recommended, then the reasons for this decision must be noted.
- Farmers must commit to reviewing mastitis management practices on farm to move to selective antibiotic dry cow therapy in due course.

Please do speak to your routine vet about this. For many of you, little will change, but we'll do all we can to help and to ensure any transitions are as smooth as possible.



WELCOME TO
farm
news



SEPTEMBER 2015

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

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New faces...

We were sad to say goodbye to Hector recently, who has returned home to Spain, but we have a few new faces on board. Many of you will already know Oli Maxwell, who has now finished his residency at Nottingham Vet School and passed his European Diploma in Bovine Health and Management. Oli has begun working for Scarsdale on a permanent basis, so we look forward to having him on board!

Bobby is the new Nottingham resident, and Jennie our new intern. They both started in August, and introduce themselves below:



Bobby Hyde

I have been working in cattle practice in Wiltshire for the last 2 years, after graduating from Nottingham. I particularly enjoy herd level issues, such as fertility work and disease management. My main interests away from the back end of a cow involve falling off my mountain bike and missing large numbers of clay pigeons. I also have a staffie called Bubba (I didn't choose the name...)

I am interested in the research side of things and hopefully will be looking into antibiotic resistance during my residency.



Jennie Lomas

I qualified from Liverpool Vet School this summer. My parents have a beef and sheep farm in Cheshire, and before heading to vet school I worked as a scientist in a pathology laboratory. In my spare time I enjoy horse riding, cycling and walking with my border collie, Lucky.

Carolyn Baguley MA VetMB CertAVP (Cattle) MRCVS

Lame cows become thin, but do thin cows become lame..?



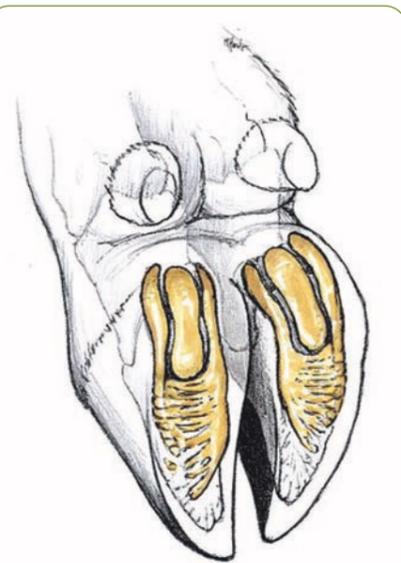
I attended the Cattle Lameness Conference earlier this year, where there was much discussion regarding the link between Body Condition Score (BCS) and lameness.

Recent research indicates that a BCS of less than 2 is associated with a greater risk of lameness in dairy cows, especially from the 2nd calving onwards, and that lameness risk decreases as BCS increases (however, this doesn't mean it's ok to let cows get too fat!). It's thought that the reason behind this lies in the digital cushion, a fatty pad that sits beneath the pedal bone in the hoof. Lower BCS means less fat in the digital cushion, which means less cushioning for the foot and an increased likelihood of claw horn diseases - sole bruising, sole ulcers and white line disease.

This means that we can add low BCS to our list of potential risk factors for claw horn disease, which already includes excessive standing times, lots of concrete, overgrown toes, poor foot trimming technique, and calving. The importance of maintaining correct BCS is vital, not just from a lameness point of view, but also due to the effect of over- or under-conditioning on, for example, difficult calvings, dry matter intake, ketosis, LDAs, milk fever, endometritis...



If you'd like to talk to us about how and when to condition score your cows, and what the target scores are at different stages of lactation, please ask. We often score dry cows, fresh calvers and cows at 60-90 days post calving at routine visits, which can be a great place to start.



System of fat pads making up the digital cushion.

Picture courtesy of Christoph Lischer.



Severe sole bruising.

Picture courtesy of School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham.

Border Disease in sheep

Sandy Jamieson (Partner)
BVM&S MRCVS



At least one third of sheep flocks are thought to have been exposed to the virus which causes Border Disease, also known as Hairy Shaker Disease. Where the virus is present in a flock, it can lead to abortions, barren ewes, and lambs born with low birthweights, congenital deformities and poor survival rates.

One very distinct sign that the Border Disease Virus (BDV) is present is when lambs are born with 'hairy shaker' syndrome. This happens when they encounter infection whilst in the womb. The virus affects the nervous system resulting in a tremor, and also affects the cells which produce the fleece so that a hairy coarse coat develops instead of the normal wool.

Border disease is a world-wide disease of sheep, first recognised in the UK in 1959. Goats are also susceptible. It is closely related to Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV) of cattle, and there can be cross-infection of both viruses between cattle and sheep.

BDV is spread by contact with bodily secretions. When a non-pregnant animal comes into contact with the virus, it causes a transient viral infection. This is unlikely to have any noticeable effects, and the animal should then develop a degree of immunity to the virus.

However, when a pregnant ewe or doe encounters the virus, it crosses the placenta and infects the developing foetus, commonly causing death. Early foetal death will result in absorption of the foetus and this will only be recognised at scanning or lambing when high numbers of barren ewes will be found. When foetuses become infected later on in the pregnancy, high numbers of abortions, stillbirths and non-viable lambs will be seen. Those that survive the birthing process may show hairy shaker signs.

In early pregnancy the foetus' immune system is not fully developed. If a foetus survives infection at this point, its immune system will recognise the virus as part of its own genetic content and so will never produce antibodies to it. These lambs will be born Persistently Infected (PI), in the same way that the BVD virus leads to PI calves.

PI lambs may be born with hairy shaker signs, or may be physically normal. Either way, they will shed the Border Disease virus throughout



their life, infecting the following year's lamb crop, and keeping the disease within the flock. If PI animals are bred from, they will always produce PI offspring.

There is no vaccine for Border Disease in the UK. The cattle vaccines for BVDV are not recommended for use, as although the two viruses are similar, the strains most commonly seen in sheep are different to those seen in cattle.

To investigate whether BDV is present in your flock, blood samples should be taken from the dams of affected lambs. Those ewes that have no antibodies to BDV should then be tested for presence of the virus itself, to see whether they are PIs and should be culled.

Buying in a PI ewe-lamb can have devastating effects on a flock which has not encountered the virus before. So when buying in replacement breeding stock, it is worth carrying out screening tests to ascertain the status of the source flock, as well as your own flock.

In flocks where Border Disease is endemic, check that there are no PIs in the breeding ewes (and tups) and then, prior to breeding, mix the whole breeding flock with affected, recovered lambs. This will ensure maximum immunity within the flock. This approach should be fully discussed with your vet, as it is only appropriate in certain situations.

In Maedi Visna (MV) accredited flocks, it is relatively inexpensive to screen for BDV as samples can be taken at the same time as MV bloods.

Once it is known whether or not BDV is endemic in your flock, a customised BDV plan can be drawn up by your vet.

