

Summer Farm Walk

All WVG clients welcome

On Monday 11th July well-known ram breeder and FG columnist, Will Case will be giving us a tour and talk on his farm in Ulverston. He will be sharing the triumphs and tribulations of breeding and selling rams whilst running a large poultry unit and a Saler herd.



You can meet on farm for 6.30pm, or meet at North West Auctions J36 at 5.30pm, ready to leave at 5.45pm.

Jacquie will be providing a buffet for everyone

Book your place before Monday 4th July

Phone: 01539 722692

Email: bridget.cottam@westmorland-vets.co.uk

Address:

Plumpton Cottage Farm
Ulverston
Cumbria
LA12 7SH

Richard Knight

Kendal Surgery

Monday to Friday 8.30am—7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12noon
Tel:01539 722692

Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery

Monday & Thursday 8.30am-7.00pm
Tuesday 8.30am-6.00pm
Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12 noon
Tel:015242 71221

Clostridial Challenges

When we talk about clostridial disease, it's often a differential for an unexplained, seemingly 'sudden' death – whether it be in sheep or in cattle. '*It could have been clostridial disease?*'

Clostridial bacteria are found everywhere and persist for a long time in the earth and organic matter which is why all livestock are at risk. Some of the bacteria lives peacefully in the gastrointestinal tract of the animal but when the body is damaged, they multiply and release their toxins, and disease occurs.

Cattle	Sheep
Blackleg	Lamb dysentery
Tetanus	Pulpy kidney
Botulism	Struck
Black's disease	Tetanus
Malignant Oedema	Braxy
Bacterial redwater	Blackleg
Gangrene of abomasum	Black's disease
Enterotoxaemia	Clostridial metritis

There are many types but generally we either get presented with a very sick animal or a dead animal. And there is little we can do when the animal is very sick to avoid them dying which is why prevention is the key.

If you've had any of the above diagnosed on farm before there are individual risk factors to each disease that can be controlled such as:

Blackleg: spores are embedded in the muscle through skin wounds or contaminated needles. When the muscle becomes damaged due to injury the spores are triggered to activate. Turning cattle out or moving them can also be a risk.

Black's disease: is triggered by the damage of the migration of fluke through the liver, therefore appropriately controlling fluke is key to preventing black's disease.

Pulpy kidney: when lambs experience a change in diet such as, access to a large amount of fermentable carbohydrates such as creep feed or very lush grass which allows the bacteria to multiply. Rams are also susceptible when on an increased plane of nutrition before tupping. So changing diets slowly is important for prevention.

But not all of these things are within our control, so it's better to vaccinate against the disease.

Vaccination

The vaccines available are multivalent and work against a combination of the diseases, each one does a different combination however so discuss with your vet which is best. All but botulism are covered across the vaccine range.

The primary course of the vaccine consists of two doses, 4 - 6 weeks apart and then a booster every couple of months or a year depending on the risk on your farm.

Ben Harvey

Sheep News

So now we are at the start of July, all of our flocks are at different stages. Some are already selling fat lambs to a buoyant market, some just starting to wean lambs and dry off ewes. So what is there to think about this month?



Shearing time is a great time to get a handle on ewe condition. AHDB work has shown how important ewe condition at this time of year is for production in the next lambing year. If ewes are lean now, we still have time to get condition on them ready for tupping in the autumn or if they are in better condition we can maintain CS. It takes 6-8 weeks on good grazing for a ewe in poorer condition to put on a condition score. Think about manipulating weaning time and grazing quality/stocking rates to optimize ewe condition. It does look like this might be a 'growy' summer so that we will get away without any difficult choices about feeding ewes or growing lambs.

Avoiding any checks on lamb growth will be important so make sure that if you are in a cobalt deficient area you get supplementation in early – again AHDB work has shown that low cobalt will have a deleterious effect from 6-8 weeks of age and the lamb's requirement is much higher than for adult sheep. You can opt for drenching, boluses or B12 injections (Cobalt is required in the rumen for the production of Vitamin B12 which is what the lambs need!). Give the surgery a phone if you want to discuss what might be best for you.



Another perennial issue in summer is when to worm and what with! Avoid unnecessary worming doses by monitoring worm egg counts. It is likely that every farm will have some degree of resistance to some if not all worming products. Check where you are by doing drench checks after worming. Take samples from the group at worming and depending on the worming product 7-14 days after treatment to see how effective your treatments are.

Judith Lee