

**Westmorland County Show—Stand
G265**

Call in and see us for a drink and one of
Jacquie's wonderful cakes.



**Just a reminder to order your sheep hormones and sponges asap as supplies are
challenging this year.**

Abortion Vaccines – Place your orders now.

With tupping season getting closer on the horizon, now is the time to get your abortion vaccines ordered if you know your requirements and injected if you have your breeding replacements selected or sourced already. Don't forget that Toxovax needs to be given at least 3 weeks pre-mating and Cevac Enzootic Vaccine at least 4 weeks pre mating.

We aren't aware of any supply issues at the moment but as we know from previous years Toxovax supply can be fickle and due to its short shelf life demand can often exceed manufacturing supply capacity in peak weeks. If you know what your needs are then please order your Toxovax for your desired delivery date asap to avoid disappointment. (Orders are non cancellable once placed).



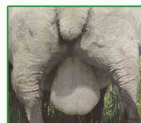
Kendal Surgery
Monday to Friday 8.30am—7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12noon
Tel:01539 722692

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

www.westmorland-vets.co.uk



**Getting ready
for Tupping?**



Special Offer
£70 for the first,
£50 for any
subsequent ones

Tup Fertility Testing - Why test?

Fertile tups get -

- 1) More ewes in lamb
- 2) Tighter lambing period
- 3) Improved efficiency

Every tup should be tested
every year, approx 2 months
prior to tupping.

Tup Vasectomies - Why use a teaser?

- 1) Tighter lambing pattern
- 2) Earlier lambing season
- 3) Higher twinning rate.

When? - At least 6 weeks prior to use. 12-14 days pre
tupping

To book a test or vasectomy please call 01539 722692 or 015242 71221



PRACTICE NEWS

KENDAL ○ KIRKBY LONSDALE ○ ULVERSTON

September 2021

Well, the last couple of weeks of sunshine have certainly allowed folk to get a cracking crop of third-cut silage in (plus those that will have got a fourth cut!) Suffice it to say that as I write this there are still plenty of folk dashing round with balers and muck-spreaders making the most of a dry spell with dry fields.



We've had a varied month just gone by. Quite a lot of calvings, bringing with them a variety of problems. Plentiful grass has certainly helped sucklers and heifers thrive, so it might be an idea to do a quick maintenance check on the calving aide.

One problem that has reared up has been pneumonia in youngstock. One of the main culprits is lungworm, which can increase in severity each year on farms where the same fields tend to be used for first grazers year-in year- out. These calves go downhill over the course of a week and really look like they've had the stuffing knocked out of them, with dramatic weight loss especially over the back and spine. A soft wet sounding cough is often there, with the head and neck commonly extended. Mildly affected animals can respond well to deworming very quickly. However, severely affected animals can get much worse after deworming especially with ivermectin based products or equivalents. These animals can need treating for a secondary pneumonia precipitated by the dead lungworms clogging up the lungs. Careful consideration should be given as to what to treat them with and the best advice would be to speak to one of our farm vets about the best course of treatment for coughing calves. Vaccination of next year's crop twice before turnout is the way forward for next year. Cows, especially dairy ones, can be affected as adults too, to complicate the picture. Signs of lungworm in adults and other conditions such as IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis) can look very similar, but the treatment is very different. If something doesn't look right, give us a call and we can work through it with you.

At turn in time, thoughts go to liver fluke control, too. This is an area of medicine where folks can easily get tied up in knots and the advice needed can vary from year to year. With a carefully thought-out plan, the outcome is more likely to be successful than winging it!

Richard Knight

Do your cows have the energy?

The most challenging time for a dairy cow is the transition from being a dry cow to getting back into milk production. This ramp up in production requires large amounts of energy. If these energy demands are not met cattle may become ketotic.

What is ketosis?

Ketosis is the response by the cows' metabolism to a lack of energy. She begins to break down her own fat reserves which results in ketone bodies in the blood. Beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB) is one of these ketone bodies and can be measured cow side. A BHB reading of over 3.0 is considered a clinical case whilst a reading over 1.2 is a sub-clinical case. BHB levels can also be measured in milk using dipsticks.



Is my cow ketotic?

There a wide range of symptoms associated with ketosis. These include:

- Reduced milk yield
- Body condition and weight loss
- Reduction in appetite (initially stopping eating cake)
- Dull, stary coat
- Firm, 'waxy' dung
- Acetone (pear drop) smell on breath or in milk- this is not always detectable
- In severe cases nervous signs including excess salivation, licking, incoordination and aggression can be seen.



Alongside the reduced milk production ketosis increases the risk of metritis, mastitis, left displaced abomasum, fatty liver disease and poor reproductive performance.

How is ketosis treated?

The basis for treatment of ketosis is providing the cow the tools to keep up with the glucose production required for lactation. For cows with subclinical ketosis drenching them with propylene glycol for three days is the treatment. Cows which do not respond to the propylene glycol or have higher BHB levels may require a steroid injection.

How do I prevent ketosis?

1. Aim for a body condition score (BCS) of 3.0 at calving. Try to avoid the need for cows to gain or lose weight during the dry period.
2. Maximise dry matter intake (DMI) around calving. Allow dry and fresh cows plenty of space at the feed face and provide fresh, highly palatable feed which is available throughout the day.
3. Prevent other disease around calving. Cows with difficult calvings, retained membranes, endometritis, milk fever, toxic mastitis and hypomagnesaemia are all at an increased risk of ketosis.
4. Reduce stress around calving. Keep group changes to a minimum. Targeted use of medicated boluses. Speak to us if you would like advice on these.

Ben Harvey

Sheep Lameness

The drier late summer months are a good time to implement a flock lameness reduction program that can reduce the cost of this disease in your flock. A lame ewe is estimated to cost around £89.80 per affected ewe in reduced performance, longer finishing times, additional labour, and treatment.

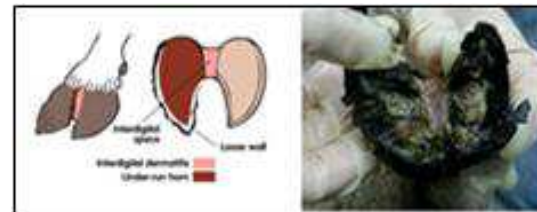
Use of the unique FOOTVAX® vaccine as part of the industry-supported five-point lameness reduction plan can help cut these costs. The five-point plan builds flock resilience to disease, reduces the infection challenge on the farm, and establishes immunity. The result is a significant reduction in the number of lame sheep on the farm.

Vaccination with FOOTVAX® is an aid to preventing lameness in a flock by stimulating immunity to (and reducing lesions caused by) *Dichelobacter nodosus*, the bacteria causing footrot. Vaccination should be on a whole flock basis and timed to coincide with times of high disease risk on the farm.



Five Point Plan

1. Culling repeat offenders
2. Prompt treatment of infected animals
3. Quarantining bought in or infected animals
4. Preventing the spread of infection
5. Vaccinating



For more detailed advice on how to implement the five-point plan in your flock, contact the surgery for further information.

Rebecca Howard