

- “Blind-ending” pipes.
- Rubber connectors.
- Low spots.

An assessment of the wash cycle should also be performed to ensure that:

- Appropriate concentrations of cleaning chemicals are being used and mixed correctly.
- The hot cycle is beginning and ending at high enough temperatures.
- Chemicals are being sucked up properly in automated systems.

When assessing cooling of the milk it should enter the bulk tank at no higher than 18°C and be at no higher than 7°C three hours after milking.

Liners

Old liners can be a major source of infection. Most manufacturers recommend changing liners every 2,500 milkings. When rubber becomes older it starts to pit and allows bacterial colonies to form. When changing your liners it is a good idea to cut them to inspect the insides. By looking inside each liner it will allow you to see if the individual jettors are cleaning the liners effectively. The liners will have straight lines on the inside if the jettors are not

If you would like help with your Bactoscan please ask any of our team members.

Ben Harvey

Please place your orders for your spring vaccines (BVD, Lepto, IBR and Husk-vac) ASAP to ensure that you are ready to turnout.
See right for our super spring offer.




Spring Offer

10% OFF all BVD vaccine when ordered with Spirovac




Please contact the surgery for further information
Valid for orders placed between Feb, March and April

As I write, the weather seems to have perked up even more, after a few calm weeks, with ground drying out nicely and the prospect of some healthy grass growth for all these sheep, with lambs suddenly in abundance too. These are comforts against the sobering news and continual reports of the war against Ukraine, which is still raging with full force.

The economic impacts we will face are plain for all to see and well documented, even down to the shortage of neon gas from Ukraine, essential for the manufacture of computer microchips. Thoughts of our disruptions pale when set against the real and emerging human tragedies that we can all see unfolding, albeit several thousand miles away, yet right in front of us.

We all have different abilities, whether to help directly or indirectly, publicly or privately. Of the many things I've learnt about farming over the years, the desire to nurture all that we are able to care for looms largest of all. Now we need to extend that care as far as we can.

On the animal health front, everyone seems to be coping well with the reduction, and in some cases absence, of oral antibiotics to control watery-mouth in lambs. It's now common to hear that lambing has either completely, or in large part, passed by with no use of watery-mouth antibiotics. This is through a combination of increased diligence with regard to ensuring timely colostrum intake, improvements in hygiene practices, and disinfection. Admittedly weather conditions have helped too, however take a moment to feel some pride in the successes! Going forward, Spectam has indeed been discontinued, so these improvements in management that folks are now starting to do more generally will stand them in good stead for the seasons to come.



Fertility in dairy cows has generally been very good this winter, so hopefully a good mowing season is around the corner to keep up the good work!

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

Nematodirosis warning

Were fast approaching that time of year when we have to start thinking about worms in lambs. Given the spell of good weather of late Nematodirus needs to be at the forefront of our minds as waiting too long to act can have significant impacts susceptible lambs.

In order to hatch nematodirus eggs have to go through a cold snap followed by a warm spell (temperatures over 10°C for 10 days). If these conditions occur, it can trigger a mass hatch of eggs left on pasture by last year's lambs. When this coincides with lambs starting to eat significant amounts of grass (e.g. around 6 weeks old), poor growth rates, significant scour and significant lamb losses in some cases. Nematodirosis can strike very quickly and as the damage is done by the large numbers of immature larvae, faecal egg counts cannot be relied upon as an indicator of risk as the larvae are too young to be producing eggs.

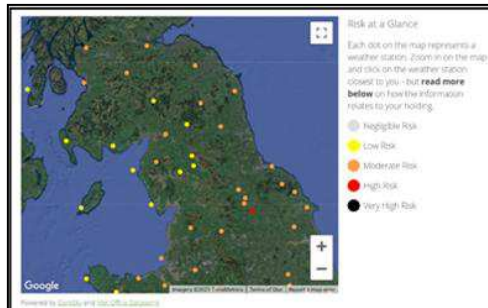
The SCOPS Nematodirus forecast is a useful online tool that uses weather data around the country to predict the risk of this hatch occurring. The exact timing will depend on the conditions on each farm and indeed each field; south facing fields tend to have an earlier hatch and an increase of 100m in altitude will delay hatching by about seven days. Furthermore, pastures that were grazed by lambs the previous year will be high risk vs pastures that were grazed by other stock or silaged will be much lower risk.

Within the last week APHA have reported the first two confirmed cases of nematodirosis, one in South West England and the other in the Borders of Scotland and this is predicted rise significantly in the coming weeks. SCOPS current recommends moving at-risk lambs to low-risk pasture (pasture that was not grazed by lambs last spring) or treating with an appropriate anthelmintic. For the majority of farms white drenches are effective against nematodirus as there is very little resistance reported nationally, however it is encouraged for farmers to speak to their vets for more specific advice and especially if there is suspicion that the treatment was not effective.

Depending on the severity, affected lambs may need supportive care while they recover. Scouring lambs should not be taken off milk as this is a great source of energy and supports the lambs' immune system, allowing the gut to heal. Oral rehydration products can be of help in supporting lambs; there are numerous products, many of which should be fed separate to milk as they can cause milk not to clot properly while can be given directly into the mouth via a dosing pump if a lamb is suckling.

Please get in contact if you are needing any advice on dealing with scouring lambs.

Bethany Collins



Bactoscan Breakdown

We are all aiming to produce the most hygienic milk possible. One measure of milk hygiene is Bactoscan. Bactoscan is an automated process where individual bacteria in milk are stained and counted. Milk is a superb source of food for bacteria. When milk is at 35°C the numbers of bacteria can double every half hour meaning 1,000 bacteria can become 1,000,000 within 5 hours. Therefore it is vital milk contamination with bacteria is limited and the milk is cooled quickly.

Where is my high Bactoscan coming from?

The first thing to do when you have a high Bactoscan is to figure out where the issue is coming from. This can be done by requesting a differential bacterial count from your milk buyer. The differential count will include standard bacterial culture, coliform count, psychotroph count and thermoduric count. If it is spikes in Bactoscan you are experiencing, it is worthwhile taking a bulk tank sample every day and freezing them until a high Bactoscan result comes back and then submit the corresponding sample.



I have my count, what does it mean?

The table below summarises potential sources for an increase in each bacterial count.

Bacterial Count	Potential Sources
Thermodurics	Contamination of the plant and/or bulk tank. Cleaning protocol should be assessed.
Coliforms	Environmental contamination from teats. Can also be cows with mastitis. Udder prep should be assessed.
Psychotrophs	Ineffective milk cooling and/or bulk tank cleaning.
Pseudomonas	Most likely from contaminated water. Can also be from mastitis (cows would be sick). A water test is recommended.
S. Aureus	Mastitis caused by S. Aureus. There are often high cell counts seen too.

Common things are common

The most likely cause of a high Bactoscan is a build up of milk residues due to improper milking plant cleaning. Your eyes are the best tool to help you asses where residues may build up. Whilst inspecting the milking parlour particular attention should be paid to:

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