

Mastering Medicines Course - online

When : Friday 4th February, 2pm, approx 1.5 hours
Cost: £40 per farm

Attending a medicine course is now a requirement for all red tractor accredited farms.

We are holding an online medicine course that satisfies the requirement for the accreditation and will help you to get the most out of using medicines on your farm.

A certificate of completion will be provided for all attendees.

Once signed up we will send you a link for you to attend, please let Bridget know if you can make it.

Email - bridget.cottam@westmorland-vets.co.uk
Tel: 01539 722692



Lambing Course at our Kendal Surgery

10am - 12pm on 1st February 2022

We will cover:

- lambing techniques
- abnormal lambing presentations and what you should do
- new born lamb care
- stomach tubing
- intraperitoneal injections
- amongst other topics



£50.00 per person.

Tea and coffee provided. Tel 01539 722692 or
email office@westmorland-vets.co.uk



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

Well that bit of extra daylight at either end of the day is certainly welcome, and in places the grass certainly seems a bit greener than it did. Don't be fooled that there is much energy in the grass yet, though- mostly with respect to sheep which are due to lamb. We have a few ways to assess what's going on with them- from a computer spreadsheet, to metabolic profiles and even sheep-side energy balance testing. Talk to the farm vets to suss out your options. The bird 'flu' situation seems serious but relatively stable at the moment, and we all hope that we're not on the cusp of a resurgence in case numbers. For those of you that do have birds, please continue to keep them housed, and also be aware of any folk that are coming onto your premises that have had other contact with poultry. The recommended time to become 'clean' for a person is to allow 96 hours between visits to premises. They should also wear protective clothing which has been disinfected with a DEFRA approved avian influenza disinfectant both before and after entering a premises, only visiting when essential.

Chickens and turkeys are termed 'indicator' species in that they usually have a high illness and death rate. Hunching, trembling, falling over, swollen wattles and combs which are often blue are usually found. Geese and ducks are 'non-indicator' species, which means that they show lower rates of illness and death than chickens and turkeys. Game birds are not so well understood- sometimes showing that they are indicator species and sometimes not. It may be that if they are suffering from another infection at the same time (such as a concurrent infection like mycoplasmosis), then illness and death rates from bird 'flu can be very high. Other animals such as pigeons, ratites (emus, rheas, ostriches and the like) and wild birds are still susceptible to infection but don't often show many clinical signs.

Be vigilant and if you're not sure pick up the 'phone and give us a call' as there will always be somebody here to reassure you or give you advice.

Richard Knight

Before long spring should be appearing on the horizon. Please place your orders for your spring vaccines (BVD, Lepto, IBR and Huskvac) ASAP to ensure that you are ready to turnout when the weather comes good. See right for our super spring offer.

Westmorland Veterinary Group
www.westmorland-vets.co.uk

Spring Offer

5% OFF all BVD vaccine when ordered with Spirovac



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

Prevention Is Better Than Cure With Bacterial Calf Pneumonia

Although vaccination against viral pneumonia is widespread, due to the fact that bacterial pneumonia can be treated with antibiotics, vaccination against bacterial pneumonia is relatively rare.

Having said that, treatments with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may not always be successful when used against calf pneumonia. Best case scenario, they may stop the disease getting worse but at this stage there will probably be damage in the lungs. Worst case scenario, there will be deaths and calves will not thrive. Also some calves may not show signs of the disease but will have subclinical disease, which may lead to a reduction in their growth rate, therefore reducing productivity and profitability. Not to mention the cost of these treatments and the welfare issues associated with calf pneumonia.

There are three main bacterial that cause pneumonia (*Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Histophilus somni* and *Pasteurella multocida*), generally following trigger factors that debilitate lung defences related to housing, weather, humidity and other viral infections.

Mannheimia haemolytica is traditionally considered the most important bacteria involved in pneumonia causing severe disease associated with lung damage.

H.somni is generally present and multiplies before animal shows any clinical signs, and when they do they tend to be sudden, acute and often leading to death. For this reason it is called 'silent pneumonia' and can be hard to treat conventionally as a result of the sudden disease. This pathogen is also quite hard to grow in the Lab, so it is believed to be quite underdiagnosed (recent data using novel Lab techniques has shown a significant increase in findings of *H.somni*).

Luckily, this problem can be easily solved now as Hipra has recently launched a vaccine to give protection against *Histophilus* and *Mannheimia*, Hiprabovis Somni LKT ®. A two ml injection given under the skin at two months of age followed by a second dose twenty-one days later will give ten months protection. The vaccine has demonstrated a reduction of 50% on the pneumonia clinical signs, 50% less lung damage and 5 times less antibiotic treatments.

This is another novel tool protecting calves against pneumonia, but it is still paramount to follow best practices with housing, ventilation, vaccination against the respiratory viruses, etc. So if you are having constant issues with bacterial pneumonia, losing animals, having reduced productivity and an increased use of antibiotics, please ask your Vet how Hiprabovis Somni LKT ® can help in your farm.

Rebecca Howard



How To Prevent Watery Mouth?

As products such as Spectam and Orojet are no longer available, we must pay attention to our preventative strategies to avoid problems with watery mouth.

Reduce the challenge that the lambs face
Maximise their immunity – COLOSTRUM IS GOLD!

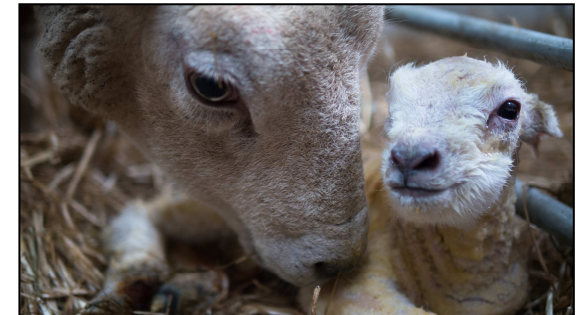
Before lambing

Ensure ewes are in the correct body condition to lamb and are getting enough energy and protein in the last six weeks of pregnancy to make plenty of good quality colostrum. Getting forage analysed is a worth while exercise as it allows you to choose a quality cake to match it to ensure that the ewes needs are met. Of course it is vital that ewes have adequate access to the diet; make it easy for all ewes to eat forage and concentrates by ensuring that they have at least 15cm rack space for forage and 45-50cms trough space for concentrates. You can 'floor feed' or use TMR rations which helps ensure everyone gets what they need.

As muck on a ewes fleece is a major source of E coli for lambs, dag out ewes and clip tails to reduce contamination. Cleaning and disinfecting the lambing shed/pens/buckets etc before lambing starts is also key to prevent any infection being carried over. Buying a good quality colostrum replacement to top up lambs that haven't had enough from the ewe is a worthwhile investment.

At lambing time

Keeping lambing pens as clean as possible is vital to controlling watery mouth. After cleanliness is colostrum! Wherever possible check lambs are full 1-2 hours after birth and spray navels with iodine. Whilst it is a convenient time to ring and tail lambs straight after birth it may prevent the lamb from sucking as well as it needs to, so it is best to wait until after they have had a good feed.



If you have any doubt that lambs have had enough colostrum, strip the ewe and tube them. If you cannot strip the ewe, use a quality colostrum replacer. A lamb needs a **minimum** of 50mls/kg bodyweight of colostrum within 2-3 hours of birth and then 200mls/kg bodyweight within 24hrs.

Bethany Collins