

## Opening Hours Jubilee Weekend

As always our team will be on call for emergency's throughout the weekend.

The office will be open as follows

Thursday 2nd June: Closed

Friday 3rd June: Closed

Saturday 4th June: 8.30am—12 noon

Sunday 5th June: Closed

Monday 6th June: 8.30am—7pm



10 days to apply! The [#BPS2022](#) application deadline, with penalty, is midnight on 10 June. Already applied? Check your application status shows 'submitted' in the Rural Payments service on the 'Apply for BPS' screen. Find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/.../how-to-apply-online-for-bps-in-2022..>



### Kendal Surgery

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

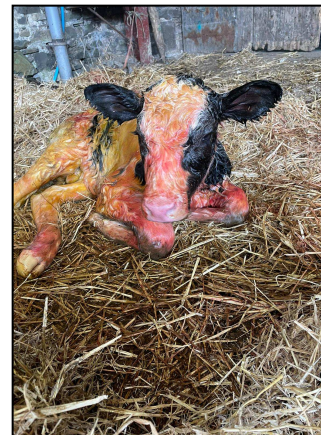
### Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery

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](http://www.westmorland-vets.co.uk)

At least there's more daylight in the day, even if it doesn't feel that there's any more warmth at the moment! The optimist in us all knows that warmer weather must be around the corner, but in the meantime, we can enjoy the longer days. Unseasonably cold weather may be having some impact on cattle health too. We are still seeing quite a few calf pneumonia cases, and some in lambs too.

Remember to vaccinate lambs against Clostridial disease and Pasteurella pneumonia, as it's a risky period for them. Incidentally, have a look at the datasheets of these products as you buy them- many of these vaccines are able to be used from 3 weeks of age, so good cover can be had well before the risk period in future.



Cows seem to be holding their own in most cases, with relatively few difficult calvings, when compared to past years when we have had quite a few rotten (or "fizzy" may be a more polite term) calvings. A few cases of adult cattle pneumonia have cropped up and serious mastitis cases too. Another thing that has reduced dramatically is the number of cases of displaced abomasums (twisted stomachs). The vast majority of these cases that we are getting are responding well, but it's a good chance to chat through transition cow management, as pressure on a management system seems to take a while to build up before problems occur.

Despite the time of year, we have also had several outbreaks of calf scour too, on well run and clean units. We can test for most of the common pathogens at the boot of our car now (excluding coccidiosis and Salmonella), with many coming back with Cryptosporidia. This condition is not usually fatal, or long lasting. However, the scour that it leads to can occur from a few days of age and be very rapid in onset. Dehydration can occur very rapidly and lead to a calf which is on the edge of survival and requires intense fluid therapy either orally, or commonly through a drip. If the calf is visibly sunken-eyed, cannot rise, or is very easy to tip over (no matter how easy or difficult it was to catch), then it's time to at least call for advice and see what the best plan is. Happy Calving!

*Richard Knight*

## Is Billy ready?

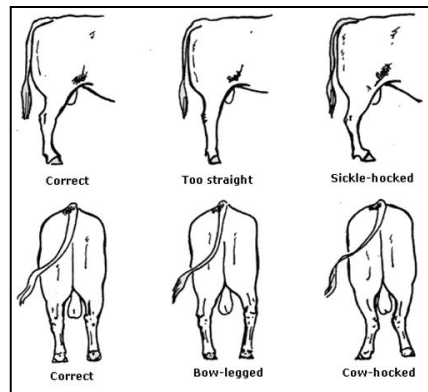
If you've never been told about the birds and the bees, Billy Bull is a vital part of the equation that results in the happy arrival of calves. Spring calving 2022 is most definitely underway, and although it is not finished for many, it is definitely not too early to be thinking about calving 2023.

### **Get him fit, not fat!**

It is not uncommon for bulls to be overly conditioned for sales or for them to pile on the pounds over winter. To prepare a bull properly you should think of him as an athlete, he needs to be ready and able to serve cows and consume enough calories to do so. Housing bulls in larger areas in the run up to turning them out will help up their activity levels and prepare them for the amorous task ahead of them. They should be transitioned on to a diet similar to what they will be on when with the ladies; abrupt changes should be avoided as this can lead to acidosis and cause poor sperm quality for 60 days or more. Remember that over conditioned bulls will struggle with the rigorous demands of the mating season and too much scrotal fat warms the testes which reduces sperm quality. On the other hand, a thin bull won't have sufficient energy to serve cows and will struggle to produce decent quality sperm.

### **Feet and legs**

A bull's feet and legs are as vital as his testicles. Any lameness should be investigated and treated appropriately as this can drastically reduce a bull's ability to get about and serve cows due to pain and discomfort. If this happens over a prolonged period of time a bull can become adverse to breeding cows because of the negative association. Using bulls with poor conformation should be avoided as they are at an increase risk of injury and lameness issues.



### **Fertility Test**

Around 1 in 4 bulls are either infertile or sub-fertile, meaning that they may struggle to get as many cows in calf as quickly as we would like them too. This can lead to a prolonged calving period or high barren rates; both of which contribute to inefficient production. A breeding soundness exam will help identify bulls that are likely to underperform and therefore help avoid disappointment later on. A breeding soundness exam should be done **60 days prior to use** as sperm production takes this long to recover from anything that has negatively impacted it such as a high temperature or bout of lameness.

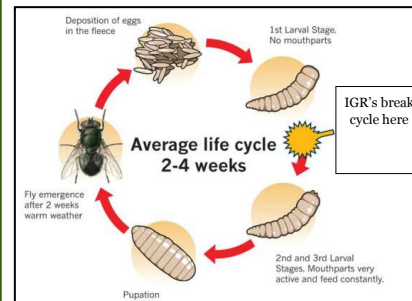
*Bethany Collins*

## Sheep news

As we have already treated lambs with flystrike this spring- control of external parasites was at the forefront of my mind when talking to Flock Health Club this month.

Flystrike in sheep is initiated by green bottles and then, attracted by the smell of the larvae, the rest of the flies join the party and lay eggs on their chosen victim. As each female fly can lay hundreds of eggs a day and these can hatch within 12 hours it doesn't take long for sheep to come under serious attack. As you will be aware, the first signs of flystrike are twitching, uncomfortable sheep. Patches of discoloured wool can also give the game away as can the distinctive smell. Although apparently healthy sheep can get flystrike, any dirty or lame sheep are particularly vulnerable. Prevention therefore includes effective worm control, daggging out dirty sheep and treating lame sheep properly.

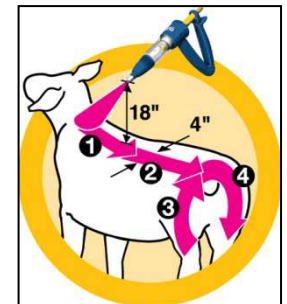
Products that can be used to prevent fly strike fall into 2 categories: Insect growth regulators and pyrethroids. Only pyrethroids can also be used to treat affected sheep and some are also licenced for prevention but not all as some don't have any persistence. That is why it is so important to choose your product correctly. There have been issues with flies developing resistance to pyrethroids so it is important not to use these products all the time.



Insect growth regulators work by breaking the flies' lifecycle at the point that the first stage larvae which have no teeth become second stage larvae which

have teeth and can damage the sheep. This means that they can't be used to treat flystrike when 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stage larvae are already present.

The products spread through the lanolin in the fleece which means they persist in the fleece so the longer acting products shouldn't be used within 3 weeks of shearing. It is important to apply the products using the 4 stroke method; dividing the total dose into 4 and applying each quarter as shown in the picture. This makes sure that the sheep gets full body protection especially around the vulnerable crutch area.



OP dips extend protection against flies as well as treating scab lice and ticks.

Flystrike is distressing and a significant welfare issue on most farms so getting control in early will pay dividends.

*Judith Lee*