

Three Peaks Challenge

At the end of May Jennie, Bryan, Helen L and Steph completed the national Three Peaks Challenge. This gruelling challenge saw them climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon with half the team completing the challenge in just under 24 hour and the other half just over, all including the driving in between! Not only was it a bank holiday weekend but it was also one of the warmest weekends of the year so far so an even bigger congratulations is deserved.

They have followed in the footsteps of a previous W&M team who took on the walk in 2012 so who knows we may see the challenge attempted again in a few years!

The Just Giving page is still open for donations if you wish to congratulate them all. They have been raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support so it will be gratefully received by the charity.



Preparing for Unpacking!



Many llama and alpaca herds will be 'unpacking' (giving birth) over the coming months of June and July. Are you ready for unpacking? Some actions to consider before cria arrive:

- Pregnancy scanning – do you know who is (or isn't!) pregnant?
- Clostridial vaccination boosters for pregnant dams - we are experiencing stock issues with many clostridial vaccines so please ring us for advice if you are unsure what to do
- Nutrition for dams in late pregnancy
- Unpacking kit – obstetric lube, ropes, iodine navel dip, glove and more
- How to spot when an unpacking isn't going to plan or a newborn cria may be sick.
- Colostrum supplies – powdered colostrum, source of plasma if required

Preparation in advance will aid a stress-free unpacking period. For more advice on preparing for arrival of cria specific to your farm, speak to Yasmine on 07816 958 011 or on 01477 571 000.

YFC Calving Course



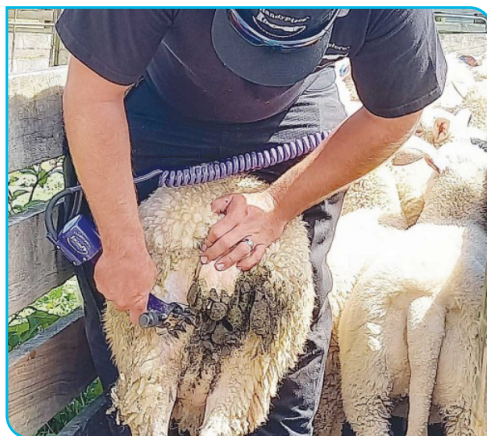
We recently hosted Congleton Young Farmers for a taster calving course session. Everyone got properly stuck in asking lots of questions and testing out our calving simulator. We really enjoyed running the session and will be putting on some more of our full length calving courses in the near future.

If any other YFC want us to run a session just let us know by contacting Janis on janis.blair@wmvets.co.uk

Fly Strike

As the warmer weather has finally started to arrive with it we have noticed an increase in cases of fly strike having attended multiple this past week alone. It is vitally important to check sheep daily at this time of year looking out for signs of mucky fleeces, discomfort or isolation from the flock.

If the shearers have not yet been or are not due for a few weeks it is worthwhile dagging/ crutching (as shown in the photo) the back end of the sheep and performing worm egg counts to ensure the muck is not getting too loose. Fly control products should be applied to minimise the chances of fly strike taking hold. If you do notice any signs of fly strike give us a call as soon as possible and we can decide the best course of action.



Phone Numbers

We thought it would be useful to have regular reminders of the phone numbers of our vets, TB testers and hoof trimmer. These are all work phones so feel free to save them in your phones and contact the vets directly when needed.

Helen W	07733 121536
Jennie	07773 221944
Matt	07816 440306
Janis	07977 243328
Yasmine	07816 958011
Ash	07816 202715
Nottingham Uni Vet (Emily/Vicki)	07890 425800
Bryan	07506 139047
Nieves	07733 121530
Mirel	07807 474024
Laura	07733 121529

Heat Stress

As temperatures annually are rising, heat stress in livestock is something we now need to consider more often. I'm sure all of our clients had lots of challenges after last year's record temperatures; some of you may have even sadly had deaths due to heat stress. Hopefully this focus can start preparing you for any hot summer days and nights this year; by explaining why heat stress is problematic for your animals, how to spot the signs, and how to treat and prevent it.

Critical Temperatures

The upper critical temperature (UCT) is the minimal environmental temperature at which an animal starts using energy to keep cool. When energy is used in this way, it reduces the energy available for other functions such as growth and maintaining a healthy immune system and reproductive system. For example, when temperatures in the environment exceed 25°C, a heifer will start using energy to stay cool, which therefore impacts daily growth rates, and reduces fertility success.

Heat stress is cumulative. This means that prolonged periods of hot weather, where the nighttime temperatures do not drop significantly for animals to recover, the risk increases when followed by another hot daytime.

Species	Upper Critical Temperature (°C)
Cattle	25
Calf	25
Sheep	29-31 (lower if full fleece)
Lamb	25
Goat	26
Pig	22
Alpaca	20 *based on other camelid data

Symptoms of Heat Stress

When animals are not able to stay cool despite modifying their behaviour and internal body systems, they risk developing a fever, which is when they have an increase in their core temperature - we call this heat stress. A high increase in the core temperature affects all the systems of mammals; who require a very stable temperature for enzymes and hormones to work. When temperatures exceed these UCT, you may start to see individuals or even groups of animals displaying these clinical signs:

- Rapid breathing - often the first sign
- Very high rectal temperature
- Lethargy
- Drooling
- Drinking more
- Signs of dehydration - sunken eyes, prolonged skin tent
- Eating less (approximately 10% reduction in dry matter intake)
- Standing more
- Coma, collapse, death

Risk Factors

- Dark coloured hides (less heat loss via radiation)
- Lactation (due to higher metabolism, and therefore higher heat production)
- Neonates
- Animals close to finishing weight (small lung: body ratio, with often larger fat deposits)
- Animals that are clinically unwell, particularly if suffering with pneumonia (less able to blow off hot air to stay cool)

Preventative Measures

Ideally record ambient temperatures, at the level of the animal. If the weather forecast is predicting temperatures above the upper critical levels, consider the following measures:



- Provide adequate cool water with appropriate trough space. You can look up requirements for your species at <https://ahdb.org.uk>. **Water intake can increase up to 20% when temperatures are high.**
- Avoid direct sunlight; shade should be provided especially at feed and water access areas.
- Improve ventilation, therefore reducing humidity in your housing- opening fronts of sheds, consider installing fans
- Reduce stocking densities
- Avoid transportation and handling where possible- ideally move TB testing or vaccine administration to cooler days.
- Shearing alpacas and sheep prior to hot weather.
- Nutrition - Theoretically animals will have higher energy requirements in order to stay cool once outside the UCT zone, however heat production will increase following digestion and metabolism, contributing further to heat stress. Animals will reduce their dry matter intake as a result. To maximise intakes, ideally feed at the coolest times of the day (early morning/late evening)
- Where possible feed high roughage diets, with low energy value to minimise the increase in temperature from digestion and metabolism
- Remove feed more often to avoid spoilage
- **Speak to a vet at your next visit, to see how we can tailor preventative measures unique to your farm set up.**

Managing Heat Stress

If you are concerned that any animals are suffering with heat stress, action must be taken immediately

- Move to a cooler area, if this is safe to do so.
- Drench with oral fluids if not taking them in voluntarily when offered. Ideally add in some re-hydration electrolytes for example calf scour sachets.
- Cold hosing to cool animals down
- Monitor! Continue to monitor the animal - you want to see a decrease in rectal temperatures and the breathing rates.
- **Collapsed animals that are not able to have oral fluids administered safely or if they do not appear to respond to these measures, will require vet attention.**



FARM OFFICES

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