



TB Test Booking

Whilst it may feel like summer is only just behind us, the mince pies are out in the supermarkets and it's time to start thinking about Christmas. The way it falls this year means we have a lot of bank holidays, pretty much wiping out 2 weeks of TB testing. To avoid any issues nearer the time, please give us a ring as soon as you get your allocation if it usually falls around December/early January so we can make sure we get your test in before the end of your window.



AHDB Beef Strategic Farm Event

We would like to extend an invite to our clients to attend a farm walk being held by AHDB and Ian Norbury at Dairy Farm, Mobberley on 14th October 10am – 3pm. Ian has been an AHDB Beef Strategic Farm since 2017 and has made huge strides improving productivity and efficiency on the farm. Ian has worked closely with Hollie to develop the herd's health and productivity to make the most of the forage he can grow.

Ian is nominated for the Farmers Weekly Beef Farmer of the Year 2021 and has been recognised in recent years for the huge improvements he's made to the herd and the farm. The topics being discussed on the day will be:

- Outwintering Suckler Cows
- Rotational grazing stores and finishers
- Improving cow performance by reducing cow mature size and tightening the calving period

This meeting is the final of Ian's stint as a strategic farm and will review all the information gathered and successes of the project. If you would be interested in attending, please visit the website below.

www.bit.ly/NorburyFinal

You can also email AHDB on KE.events@ahdb.org.uk or call 01904 771218 to book your place.

Pneumonia Vaccines for Calves

We have started to see quite a few doses of pneumonia vaccines going out the door over the last couple of weeks. To get the best out of your vaccines, it's important to complete the primary course before the risk period.

The injectable products require 2 doses and aren't fully effective until 2 or 3 weeks after the second dose. The intra-nasal vaccines are quicker to act, with cover starting from 10 days after administration.



These are particularly useful in young calves as it can be used from 9 days old, or if you are buying in. If you

still struggled with pneumonia last winter despite vaccination it may be worth discussing it with one of the vets as it could be that there is a gap in your cover which needs protected.

If you will be needing a lot of doses, it's probably best to ring ahead and we can order it in and have it booked out ready for you. Get in touch with any of the vets if you have any questions about pneumonia vaccines and control.

Our New Clinical Director



Bridget's retirement has created a vacancy for a new Clinical Director. So, after a formal recruitment process, we are very happy to announce that our new Farm Clinical Director is our own Hollie Edwards! Hollie joined Wright & Morten 11 years ago having previously worked in North Wales and has been working hard for the practice ever

since. She holds an RCVS certificate in Cattle Health & Production and was amongst the first to gain Advanced Practitioner status when the award began. Hollie enjoys all Dairy, Beef and Sheep work, but says that beef sucklers hold a special place in her heart!

Hollie will be working alongside our long-standing Clinical Director Helen Worth, with the support of our incredibly awesome team of vets and support staff. We consider ourselves very lucky to have such an experienced, hard-working and loyal team in the Wright & Morten Farm Department, and we hope you think so too. Congratulations Hollie!



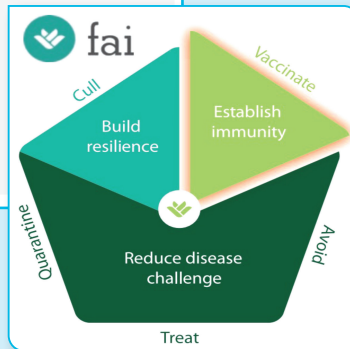
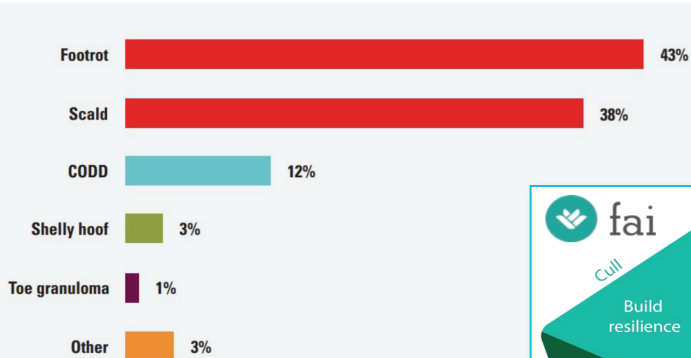
Haemonchus Worm in Sheep

A warning that we're seeing a lot of Haemonchus cases at the moment. Haemonchus is a blood sucking gut worm that can infect sheep, goats and camelids (alpacas and llamas). In the right conditions, the worm burden can increase very rapidly and severe disease may occur very suddenly. Rapid veterinary intervention may be needed, so speak to a vet immediately if you have any animals that appear lethargic, very weak (i.e. falling over easily), weight loss, cases of sudden death or if you are concerned.

Tips for tackling lameness in sheep

Lameness in a flock can seem like a never ending problem - there always seems to be another sheep starting to limp! Flock lameness can have lots of hidden costs including increased labour, reduced performance, treatment costs and culling. Each year, footrot losses alone equate to £6.35 per ewe per year, for flocks with 10% or more lame sheep. Here we'll discuss some aspects of the Five Point Plan, a plan designed to reduce lameness and increase your flock's resilience to lameness.

Most common causes of sheep lameness² (Farmers Weekly Survey 2019)



Culling

- Target ewes to cull by monitoring lame ewes - identify and tag or mark repeat offenders. Ewes which have more than two cases of lameness in one season should be considered for culling.
- Ewes with chronically misshapen feet or persistent lameness should also be considered for culling - these sheep will be ongoing sources of infection for the rest of the flock for disease such as footrot. Also consider - do you want to be breeding from ewes prone to lameness to pass on these attributes to lambs?
- The above also applies for tups!

Treat

- Top tips for treatment for lameness:
- Having the cause of lameness identified by a vet - this ensures you are using the correct antibiotics (if they are required) and other control methods
- Early identification of lameness means treatment can start as promptly as possible - ideally within 3 days of start of lameness.
- Where possible isolating lame sheep from their main group to help stop the spread of infectious causes of lameness such as footrot and CODD.
- Avoid foot trimming when treating lameness. Recent studies have shown this delays healing, can cause further damage and can actually contribute to further spread of disease.

Quarantine

- Ideally new replacements should be kept separately from the main flock for 4 weeks.
- On arrival stock can be run through a footbath and any lame sheep identified, marked and treated or rejected.
- Buying from sources with strict lameness protocols in place.

Avoid

- Perhaps one of the trickier control methods to implement but with careful planning can be done.
- As a general rule wet, poached ground and high traffic areas will be key areas for spreading bacteria that cause lameness.



- If gathering sheep together - aim to use concrete handling areas, or using lime, woodchip or gravel to reduce poaching
- If there are lick buckets, troughs etc in fields that are mobile - move these regularly to avoid ground becoming poached
- At lambing time, particularly if indoors - having lambing areas that are easy to clean out regularly throughout the lambing period (easy to remove and replace bedding, flooring that can be disinfected)
- Isolating lame sheep into a separate group can also help. Planning ahead of busy periods where lame sheep can go helps ensure this continues to be done.

Vaccinate

- Vaccination is currently only available for footrot (Footvax). Starting a vaccination programme for footrot should be discussed with your vet first - vaccination is most effective if other control measures are already in place. It does not tend to work as well as a standalone measure.
- A vaccination programme is tailored to target high risk periods for lameness such as lambing time or tupping.

Foot bathing top tips

- It is better to think of footbaths as disinfection rather than a cure - running through a foot bath after gathering as a prevention measure is more effective. One exception is footbathing with formalin to help control outbreaks of scald in lambs.
- Ewes with clinical footrot or CODD should have injectable treatment instead rather than a footbath as footbath products aren't able to totally penetrate and treat the hoof. Footbathing ewes with severe footrot or CODD can also be very painful.
- Run sheep through water first to clean the feet - some footbath solutions are inactivated by dirt.
- Ensure there is adequate contact time in the footbath for the product you are using - ensure you have the right set up to do this, otherwise product is being wasted (for example 10% zinc sulphate should need 30 minutes standing contact time to work whereas 3% formalin only needs sheep to walk slowly through).
- Antibiotic footbaths are not a responsible use of antibiotics and other foot bath products and treatment methods are deemed to be just as effective - your vet can help with this.
- Allow sheep to stand on clean concrete for 20 minutes to dry off afterwards.
- Turn out onto dry pasture which hasn't been grazed for 2 weeks.

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