



Farm First Newsletter December 2018

Increase in Pasteurella in Ewe Lambs

SAC in Scotland have recently reported a sudden increase in diagnoses of Pasteurellosis in ewe lambs. November is traditionally the month of peak diagnoses of systemic pasteurellosis due to *B. trehalosi* both in Scotland and in this area. The findings locally so far this month, suggest that this may be a high - risk year. If several lambs are found dead consider submitting more than one carcase as often the gross findings are more obvious in one, particularly as autolysis can mask changes.

In all the Scottish cases the histories accompanying carcases have contained factors that predispose to outbreaks of disease e.g. mixing and transportation, a recent move to better grazing/brassicicas, or introduction of concentrates. The recent very wet weather may also have played a role. Another contributing factor could be the concurrent high worm burdens which have been identified in some cases, and at Farm First we have seen vitamin B12 deficiencies in several cases.

Farming Connect Clinic funding could be used to cover the costs of the post mortem and tests for underlying causes (see information below). It is not possible to vaccinate for all types of Pasteurella, so addressing underlying causes is important, but as outbreaks of systemic pasteurellosis usually continue throughout November and December, administration of a pasteurella booster vaccination should be considered if groups of ewe lambs are being handled, mixed or moved.

Lamb and Calf Deaths

AHDB and several UK universities are looking for British beef and lamb producers to complete an online survey to help us to understand what the main risks are for disease and mortality in new born suckler calves and lambs. This in turn, will inform the development of an industry wide control plan to improve productivity, by reducing losses during this critical time. If you are interested in participating in this work then please click on the following link to complete the survey:

<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/calves-lambs>

£150 FREE Animal Health Clinic

Farming Connect have launched a new round of Animal Health Clinics which provide funding for sampling, testing and vet feedback. Blood testing for trace elements or disease, parasite testing, fertility testing, sheep scab tests, post mortems and mastitis bacteriology are all examples of procedures which would qualify. The farm must be registered with Farming Connect and funding is on a first come, first served basis. To find out more or register please ring us and speak to Tracy or one of the vets.

BVD Stamp it Out

We will be inviting our clients on the English side of the border to a meeting on the new national "BVD Stamp it Out" campaign in the New Year. There is funding available for a FREE visit and FREE blood testing to screen your herd for BVD and then to do a PI hunt, but you have to attend a meeting to access the funding. The meeting will be at the Crown Inn, Longtown on Monday 21st January at 7 pm.

Closantel Flukicides

Products which contain closantel include **Closamectin** for sheep and cattle and **Solantel** for sheep only. These flukicides are widely used at this time of year as they are effective against late immature fluke. However, these products tend to settle out like paint when left to stand. Solantel needs a good shake before use, to make sure it is less viscous and easier to use. This is labelled now on the bottle top and on the product insert. In addition, like closamectin injection, it is much easier to use if it is kept indoors at room temperature the night before use. Lastly, do not leave the product in the dosing gun for long periods of time (like overnight), as it is very difficult to shake once in the gun. Squirt it back into the bottle so it's ready for when it's next going to be used.

These rules would also be valid for other parasiticides, so are well worth following each time you dose. Very low (and high) temperatures can affect the active ingredients in any medicine, so always store them at room temperature, or in the fridge as indicated on each product.

1. **Shake well**
2. **Keep indoors at room temperature before use, preferably the night prior**
3. **Always empty the gun after use**

Farming Connect Meeting – Responsible Use of Medicines

Come and find out what all the fuss is about and get a FREE certificate of attendance to the meeting which can be used for those all -important Farm Assurance requirements, at your next farm inspection.

Farming Connect are running a Responsible Use of Medicines campaign, and as part of this Farm First are holding a meeting for all livestock farmers where we will discuss medicines use (and abuse!). At the meeting, we will be talking about the different kinds of medicines available, so antibiotics, vaccines, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and wormers. We will also talk about how they should be used on farm safely and effectively, and what the legal and farm assurance requirements are for their use.

The meeting will take place on Monday 10th of November at the Beaufort Arms Raglan, starting at 6pm. Supper will be provided. Please phone the Farm First Office on 01873 840167 to book your place.

Party Update+ Awards

We were delighted with the turnout to our 10th Anniversary Party at the Hogs Head. Everyone seemed to have a good time, particularly those who were persuaded to participate in the party games. For those who couldn't make it, some awards were made on the night to clients (or their animals) which we felt were deserving of recognition.

Best lunch – Val Cooke	Most uncooperative cow – Alun Thomas
Smiliest Farmer – Bev Baker	Fittest Farmer – Ian Whistance
Sleepiest Farmer- Peter Jones	Most hung over Caesarian assistant – Trevor Bowen

Joke Some advice from Rob - as displayed in his kitchen!

“If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you!”

Merry Xmas+ Opening Times

Our opening times over the festive season are as follows:

Monday 24th December- 8.15am – 1pm

Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th December – CLOSED

Thursday 27th & Friday 28th December- NORMAL HOURS

Monday 31st December – 8.15am – 1pm

Tuesday 1st January – CLOSED

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients a
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

