

Farm First Newsletter May 2017

Lamb Worm Egg Counts We are getting a lot of queries about scouring lambs now, which is earlier than usual. On some farms nematodirus or trichostrongyle worms are responsible, whilst on others it is coccidiosis. The only way to get a proper diagnosis and treat correctly is to carry out worm egg counts (WEC). In scouring lambs, ideally individual faeces samples should be tested. In a flock where the lambs are not scouring, but are not thriving, or where you want to check whether it is time to worm before severe gut damage and scour occurs, we would advise doing a mob test, where 10 samples are collected from a group of lambs for pooling and testing at the surgery. The cost of an individual WEC is £12.56 +VAT for the first and £7.99 for extras; first mob test costs £19.57 with extra groups costing £13.70, all of which are a lot less than treating with the wrong product or losing lambs. If you register for the Farming Connect Clinic below, we will be able to do 3 mob tests through the coming season under the scheme.

Farming Connect Funding Don't forget that there is some funding for lab testing such as trace element tests, ram and bull fertility tests, scour tests, sheep scab, mastitis bacteriology etc available through Farming Connect. Interested farmers must confirm their interest with Farming Connect before any sampling/testing takes place. Please call us for more information.

Make fly control dead easy with Deltanil® Fly numbers are on the rise, and with them the negative effects on our livestock. Significant fly populations interfere with the ability of animals to graze, leading to decreases in weight gain and milk production. Cows kicking at flies can also make it tricky to keep the clusters on at milking time. One adult fly can lay up to 1000 eggs in her lifetime, meaning that fly numbers can increase very rapidly in the spring/early summer. Preventing a large population of flies developing on your farm relies on an integrated pest management strategy. A vital component in this strategy is controlling the fly population that come in contact with your animals.

Deltanil® from Virbac is a pour on deltamethrin-based solution with a zero-day milk withdrawal period in dairy cattle and sheep. It is effective against flies and lice in dairy and beef cattle, against ticks, lice, keds and blowfly strike in sheep and can also be used against lice and ticks in lambs. Easily applied along the mid-line of the back, with a simple 10ml dose for cattle. Deltanil comes in a 2.5L Flexibag® designed to be used with the innovative Farmpack® dispensing system. The Farmpack is a light, robust backpack, giving freedom of movement for the farmer, whilst the Flexibag is a multi-component bag adding the flexibility of a two-year proven stability period after opening. Deltanil is also available in 500ml, 1L and 2.5L bottles. This product is competitively priced, and all new farms will receive a Farmpack & gun free of charge which work with the 2.5Litre pouches of Deltanil and all sizes of Neopriniil. Speak to us today about how Deltanil can help make fly control dead easy.

Worm Control in Suckler Beef Cattle at grass As the grazing season progresses, the risk of parasite infection typically increases because of the accumulation of the infective stages of gut worms and liver fluke on pasture, and weather conditions that favour the rapid development of lungworm larvae. Generally, older cattle that have grazed previously for at least two full grazing seasons (>4 months) will have acquired immunity to gut worms and lungworms (although immunity to lungworms is dependent on exposure and is of short duration). Therefore, in general, healthy adult beef cows do not need worming for gut worms and lungworms, so the focus for parasite control falls mainly on youngstock in their first and second grazing seasons. However, there is no effective age-related immunity to liver fluke,

so it is important to realise that cattle of all ages can be infected and suffer losses from this parasite.

In a typical spring-calving beef suckler herd, while calves are at foot, there is little need to treat for worms as the relatively low herbage (and hence larval) intake, and the protective effect of cow's milk mean that the parasites have little impact on calves. The cattle should nevertheless be inspected daily as lungworm can sometimes affect suckler calves before weaning. They will need to be wormed and possibly treated for fluke when they are weaned/housed later on in the year.

Ram Vasectomy Day Increasingly, sheep farmers are using teaser rams to achieve a tighter lambing block and more uniform lambs. Running a vasectomised ram to get a tighter lambing block can help with:

- Easier lambing management
- Improving appropriate ewe nutrition intake
- Easier ewe grouping
- Reducing labour costs
- Controlling coccidiosis in lambs

As a vasectomised ram may still be fertile for up to 2 months after the snip, for most farms, we recommend vasectomising soon. We can perform ram vasectomies on farm during a visit **OR** you can SAVE the visit fee by bringing your ram(s) to us. On Tuesday 12 June, we will be undertaking ram vasectomies in the surgery for a 5% discount i.e.£73.39 + VAT. Please call us as **prior booking is essential**.

Future Meetings

Imrestor - On 21st June we will be holding a meeting about a new product for dairy cows called Imrestor. Please look out for your invitation in the post.

Cidr Ovis There is now a licensed alternative to sheep sponges which is a product called CIDR Ovis. These implants had several benefits over the sponges and we are planning to hold a meeting in the very near future to inform sheep farmers about this innovation. If you want more information in the meantime, please call and speak to one of the vets.

Dairy Calf Health We have now been running our Calf tracker programme for a year and we will be holding a meeting at the beginning of July to discuss how things are going on participant farms and the introduce the next stage. If anyone else wants to join the Calf Tracker scheme, please let one of the vets know and we can explain what it entails.

Joke An airplane was about to crash.

There were 4 passengers on board, but only 3 parachutes.

The 1st passenger said "I am Stephen Curry, the best NBA basketball player. The Warriors and my millions of fans need me, and I can't afford to die." So, he took the 1st pack and left the plane.

The 2nd passenger, Donald Trump, said, "I am the newly-elected US President, and I am the smartest President in American history, so my people don't want me to die." He took the 2nd pack and jumped out of the plane.

The 3rd passenger, the Pope, said to the 4th passenger, a 10-year-old schoolboy, "My son, I am old and don't have many years left, you have more years ahead so I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute."

The little boy said, "That's okay, Your Holiness, there's a parachute left for you. America's smartest President took my schoolbag."