



Newsletter

January 2019

HAPPY NEW
YEAR!

Lambing Meeting

Wynnstay Country store are putting on a pre-lambing meeting on

Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 7pm start

Topics will be delivered in short presentations by various reps and our vets.

These include:

- Coccidiosis
- Bolusing ewes
- Colostrum
- Parasite control
- Ewe nutrition
- Maximising neonatal lamb survival

It is set to be an informative evening and should set you up for a good lambing season.

Refreshments will be available, all are welcome!

BVD Stamp it Out Meeting

We are pleased to announce we have secured funding to take part in the **BVD Stamp It Out Project**.

This project has been funded by DEFRA through the RDPE. The aim is to achieve engagement in BVD control with 50% of breeding cattle across England.

The programme is aimed at closed/mostly closed herds (i.e. buy in an occasional bull/breeding heifers) both Suckler and Dairy. The funding gives farmers that sign up access to two group meetings and two individual farm visits with one of us. There is also some money allocated specifically towards BVD check testing, with the potential to apply for further funding depending on results if a PI hunt is required.

The initial funding is limited to 15 farms so will be allocated on a first come first served basis on return of a signed form and attendance at the first meeting.

Please speak to Charlotte if you would like a form or more information and she will get you signed up.

The first cluster meeting is going to be held on the **30th January 2019, 7pm start at the NorCal Thame Office**.

Anyone is welcome to attend this initial meeting to get information about BVD regardless of whether you wish to sign up for the scheme. If there are still spaces for funding it will certainly be possible to sign up on the night.

If you have any questions please speak to one of the vets!

INCREASED DISEASE RISK: CATTLE PNEUMONIA

Ask yourself: On a still day how much fresh air will travel through your sheds?

Fresh air movement is vital to remove: --- DAMP --- PATHOGENS (bugs) --- HOT AIR ---

Remember: Fresh air movement and a draft are not the same thing.

A draft at animal level (especially for calves), will very quickly make an animal cold, particularly if they are damp (sweat/ wet bedding) and result in the animal catching pneumonia.

Prompt and appropriate medical treatment is hugely important, but re-evaluating shed layout and management must be considered. Please do ask us for some advice, not all changes need to be expensive.

MAEDI VISNA

Maedi Visna is a viral infection of sheep which has a significant impact on the welfare of the individual infected sheep but also has an impact on a flock level.

It is usually seen in sheep over 2 years old as it is a slow and progressive disease.

- The main **clinical sign** is weight loss, but other signs can include:
 - Pneumonia
 - Mastitis
 - Neurological signs: circling, blindness, paralysis, ataxia
 - Arthritis occasionally.

It is spread via infected respiratory secretions and in colostrum/milk from ewes to lambs.

Diagnosis: Blood test for viral antibodies.

Treatment: Unfortunately, once clinical signs are seen the disease is fatal and there is no treatment for it.

Prevention:

- PSGHS MV/CAE Accreditation Scheme, more information about the scheme, the testing procedure, rules and regulations can be found at
https://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/download/281/mvcae_accreditation_scheme.
- **Alternatively**, if you do not wish to be part of a scheme but still wish to screen for MV we would recommend blood sampling your cull ewes (thinner, older ewes) or any that are exhibiting the above clinical signs. We can blood sample for you at the practice.

WORMING

We have been experiencing a higher worm burden than usual over the last few months particularly in sheep.

Signs to look out for in your animals:

- Rapid weight loss
- Diarrhoea (black scour)
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Dehydration

Diagnosis:

- Drop us a faecal sample which one of the vets can test within the practice, or if worried about fluke as well we can send this off to the laboratory to be tested.

Treatment:

- Dose with the correct anthelmintic (wormer)—if unsure please call us for a recommendation on what type of product to use.
- After dosing them, leave animals on dirty pasture for at least 24 hours until moving them to clean pasture (or leave 5% of strongest lambs un-wormed)
- Take a faecal sample from at least 10% of the flock/herd 7-14 days post treatment depending on wormer used to check treatment is working.

With average temperatures dropping, it is likely that development of eggs being shed onto pasture will begin to slow considerably.

Still, it is important to remember that already infective pastures may continue to be a source of disease, with some roundworm species able to survive the colder conditions present on pastures over winter.

Therefore, it is important to continue monitoring at risk groups of grazing animals for signs of infection and disease.

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