

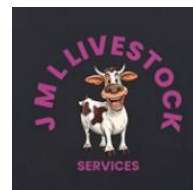
Good Luck Jenni!

Jenni has moved onto pastures new with her business JML Livestock Services.

She will continue to coordinate with us syncing cattle for AI.

Please contact her on her new number 07354306613 to arrange AI
and the office as usual to book in syncs.

We wish her all the best with her new venture!



Getting Rams Ready

It might seem mad with lambing only just coming to an end but now is the time to start thinking about checking if your rams are fit for another tupping season and vasectomising tups!

Semen Testing Rams

Fertility is just as crucial in your rams as it is in your ewes and a simple semen test can avoid disappointing scanning results later. Rams can look healthy and active but still have fertility issues. Semen tests can reveal critical problems like low sperm count, poor motility or abnormalities. These issues often go unnoticed until its too late.

What's at stake?

- Lambing percentages: one subfertile ram can affect dozens of ewes significantly affecting lambing rates.
- Tight breeding windows: fewer fertile rams mean fewer ewes getting pregnant early, leading to spread out lambing and increased labour.
- Genetic goals: if you have invested in good genetics a fertile ram is essential to pass those traits on.

When Should You Test?

Ideally no less than 6-8 weeks pre tupping. This gives you time to address any issues or buy a new tup.

What does it involve?

A full physical exam to check overall health, collection and examination of a sample under the microscope to assess sperm concentration, motility and morphology.

Ram Vasectomies

Vasectomised rams (teasers) are a really useful tool for ensuring a successful sheep breeding season.

Teasers are particularly useful for:

- Early lambing flocks, to encourage ewes to start cycling early in the season
- Ewe lambs, to encourage them to start cycling before the rams are introduced
- Teasers can also be used to synchronize ewes at the start of the breeding season

To be safe to use without risk of unwanted pregnancy, teasers need to be vasectomised a minimum of 6 weeks before they are introduced to the ewes, so the sooner you can get them done the better! Most rams or well grown ram lambs are suitable to be vasectomised - when choosing them consider that although they aren't serving ewes, you are investing in them for the future and their effect relies on them behaving and interacting like rams. It's therefore important to pick sound sheep with good teeth and feet, and adequate bodyweight and testicular size.

Finally, it is advisable to permanently identify (e.g. management tag) teasers as the time of surgery - this will help to avoid the chance of any mix-ups that could be costly!

Kennel Cough Vaccination Discount

Due to excess stock, we are offering Kennel Cough vaccination for dogs at a discounted price of £20 incl VAT until stocks last. This vaccine is a one-off jab lasting a year and should be done at least 3 weeks before risk periods.

Also known as Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis, kennel cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads rapidly in places where dogs gather - hence the name kennel cough.

Clinical signs include a harsh dry cough, sneezing or nasal discharge and reduced energy and appetite. While it is mild in many cases it can lead to complications - especially in puppies, seniors or dogs with underlying conditions.

Haemonchus Event at Stow Ag

On Tuesday evening we were part of Stow Ag's evening discussing Haemonchus at their Thame store. We had a great evening and hope you all enjoyed it and took some valuable information home with you! Thank you to Elanco, Nettex and Crystalux for also hosting some very enjoyable talks showcasing their products.

If anyone would like a copy of our presentation, please email the office thame@norcalvets.co.uk

Reminder to Worm Egg Count Check Your Sheep!

As grazing and weather conditions change now is the time to check whether your lambs and ewes are in need of a worm drench rather than just guessing. Faecal egg counts are a quick and easy tool that can make a big difference to your flocks health, productivity and long term worm control.

This month we have got a new toy in the practice for faecal egg counts. With the Ovacyte machine we can now give more accurate faecal egg count results per gram and results can be emailed to you in a pdf form for your records.

We have also introduced discounted prices for three or more samples brought in to be tested as well as for post drench resistance checks. (£12.50 ex VAT). We hope that by the end of the year it will also be able to speciate *Haemonchus* from other Strongyle type eggs so more targeted treatment can be used helping to fight against resistance which is widespread in your flocks.

To help with more accurate sampling we will be encouraging you all to use simple ice cube trays where a sample from each animal chosen in a group is placed in each cube. You can get these from us or use your own. This will allow us to pool samples more accurately and get better results.

Photosensitivity in Cattle

Unfortunately the sun can cause painful issues for cattle out at grazing which can result in a condition called Photosensitization where the skin becomes extremely sensitive to sunlight, leading to a painful, sunburn-like reaction. Clinical signs of photosensitivity are seen as reddening/ulceration of the muzzle, eyes and teats, jaundice, off feed, severe irritation shown by tail swishing and laying down kicking for example, swelling of eyes and face (looking like they've been stung by a bee!) and high temperature. If left to progress without intervention areas of skin necrosis (death) can occur. There are a few types:

Primary (due to eating plants e.g. St Johns Wort which contain compounds that react with UV rays)

Secondary (due to already present liver damage - liver fluke, abscesses, toxins etc)
A genetic condition reported in Limousin cattle, Blonde d'Aquitane and Holsteins where they lack a specific enzyme.

There is unfortunately no specific treatment similarly to sunburn! Animals should be placed in a dark shed for at least three weeks, anti-inflammatories (steroids if empty, meloxicam/emdocam if pregnant), antibiotics if there are any secondary skin infections and there are also liver support tonics available on the market but these are infrequently used in commercial cattle.

For the sheep farmers - we see the same condition in sheep and it has also been linked to cobalt deficiency, seen especially around the ears!

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets.

NorCal Vets



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