

February 2026

Medicine course

Last February Red Tractor updated their standards implementing the new rule that the medicine course must be renewed every 5 years. At least one person on each farm must have completed the medicine course in the last 5 years. Because of this we will be holding a group medicine course for anyone needing to renew theirs.

This will be held on Wednesday 25th February 6:30pm at the practice.

Bluetongue Update

We have had an increase in the number of confirmed bluetongue cases in the last month. These animals were suspected due to the birth of "dummy" calves. Dummy calves are calves born with **neurological defects** resulting in **poor suck reflexes, blindness, ataxia** and sometimes **still births**. These calves usually need to be euthanased, and samples should be taken from the brain and sent off to check for bluetongue. Dummy calves occur if the dam is infected with BTV between 60-150 days of gestation. Bluetongue can also result in abortions at any stage of pregnancy and reduced fertility.

Please get in contact with one of the vets if you suspect blue tongue on your farm.

Pre lambing checks:

Pre lambing you should be checking your ewes body condition score regularly to ensure they are at the optimum weight for lambing. Ewes that are over weight can result in difficult lambings due to large lambs and can result in prolapses, those that are underweight can develop hypocalcaemia and twin lamb disease. Ewes should be at a BCS of 3-3.5 coming up to lambing

Another way to assess ewe nutrition is by taking bloods 3-4 weeks pre lambing to test BHB's, calcium, albumin and urea. BHBs indicate energy levels allowing for feed to be adjusted prior to lambing to eliminate twin lamb disease. Detecting low calcium levels early will allow for supplementation and reduce the risk of hypocalcaemia. Both albumin and urea indicate protein intake and status which if low can impact colostrum quantity and quality.

Ideally 10 ewes carrying multiples of varying body conditions should be blooded. Please get booked in for your pre-lambing bloods to allow enough time for feed adjustments prior to lambing if needed.

Worm egg counts are particularly important prior to lambing, be sure to drop in your faecal samples for your lambing ewes to ensure that worms are not the cause of poor body condition!!

Score 3

Need moderate pressure to feel short ribs. Back muscle becoming rounded.



What to do when faced with Ewe Abortions:

Practice good personal hygiene

Isolate any ewes that have aborted for at least 3 weeks

Keep aborted foetuses and any placenta

Call us to bring in samples

If ewe becomes sick call us for treatment advice

Mark ewes that have aborted to blood test later on

Ensure not to foster any ewe lambs intended to be kept as replacements onto any aborted ewes

Consider signing up to the MSD subsidised blood sampling scheme to pinpoint the cause of abortion and put in a vaccination programme depending on results

TBAS

TBAS is a free TB advisory service available to any cattle farmer. The free on-farm advice consists of an initial visit where we go through a survey to discuss all things TB and put in recommendations to best prevent TB on your farm. A free follow up visit is then booked in 6 months after the initial to discuss the impact of the recommendations and how these have been implemented.

If you are interested in signing up for a TBAS visit, please contact one of the vets.

Increased fundings AHWP

The funding for the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway has increased as of 22nd January 2026

This funding gives you a chance to discuss the health and welfare of the animals on your farm alongside testing to eradicate BVD in beef herds and battle anthelmintic resistance amongst your sheep. Follow up funding is also available to apply for within 10 months of the initial review.

To apply for funding you must have 11 or more beef cattle or 21 or more sheep. If you are interested in signing up for the pathway please contact one of the vets.

Initial Funding

Sheep - £574, Beef - £647

Follow up Funding

Sheep - £658, Beef with no BVD found - £258, Beef with BVD present - £954



FerAppease - New Product

FerAppease is a synthetic version of the pheromone that is naturally secreted by the skin of the mammary gland of lactating animals which reduces stress by reducing the production of cortisol. FerAppease is applied topically to the skin above the muzzle and in the divot above the poll. Results can be seen after 30 minutes and can last up to 14 days.

This product can be used in any period of stress e.g. Calving, Weaning, Dehorning, Castrating, Vaccinating and TB testing. You can buy FerAppease from us at Approx £3 a dose.

New Products for lambing

As we are coming into lambing the practice is well stocked with a few new products to make lambing as smooth as possible:

Ewe-Go:

A form of oral calcium and propylene glycol used to combat twin lamb disease and hypocalcaemia. Both of these conditions can cause recumbency and can result in death if not treated promptly.

Ewe-Go can be used both preventatively and as treatment. Ewe-Go should be given to those ewes carrying multiples or older thinner ewes that you are concerned about developing these problems. 100ml of this product should be given daily for 5 days. If needed it can be repeated every 8 hours for those requiring treatment. You can buy this from us at £27.06 for a litre bottle.

ArkGuard

ArkGuard is an oral solution given to newborn lambs to prevent watery mouth. Watery mouth can cause dull depressed lambs with distended abdomens and can result in death. ArkGuard should be used alongside good colostrum management and good hygiene to provide lambs with additional antibodies to prevent watery mouth. ArkGuard should be given to new born lambs on farms where watery mouth has been a proven problem or for those lambs that colostrum quality or quantity is doubtful. Each lamb should receive 2.4ml as soon as possible after birth.

For those that have used ArkGuard in the past, new improved pumps have been developed to ease administration. ArkGuard can be purchased from us at £44.23 for 100ml bottle.

NoBacz Navel

An alternative navel product that is longer lasting, lick resistant and has a quicker drying time. This product has been proven to be superior to iodine and shown to improve weight gain in lambs.

Product available to buy from us for £30 for a 500ml bottle.