

White Muscle Disease in lambs

White muscle disease is caused by vitamin E and selenium deficiency in lambs. WMD can develop in two forms: the congenital form that affects newborn lambs. Lambs are often born weak, are still born or die within a few days. This form is caused by severe selenium deficiency in the ewe during late pregnancy. The delayed form which affects lambs at 3-8 weeks old resulting in stiff legs, abnormal gait and often swollen hindquarters. If you suspect this in any of your lambs, please contact us to discuss treatments.

Heptavac Timings

As lambing is coming to an end many of you would have given your ewes their Heptavac P booster 4-6 weeks pre lambing this will provide lambs with up to 4 weeks of protection after birth. Any lambs that you are planning on keeping as replacements should start their initial Heptavac P course from 3 weeks of age then another dose should be given 4-6 weeks later. Lambs to go as stores can be given Ovivac P from 3 weeks of age again with a second dose 4-6 weeks later. If you have had a known *Pasteurella* problem on your farm you should consider boosting lambs with Ovipast P 2-3 weeks prior to known seasonal outbreaks. If you are unsure on vaccine timings please give one of the vets a call.

AHWP

This year is the last year that the animal health and welfare pathway is running. If you have 11 or more home bred cattle or 21 or more sheep you are eligible to apply for funding. As we are coming into the summer months the worm burdens in your lambs will start to increase. This is the perfect time to get onto the pathway and check for resistance on your farm

Bull MOT

As spring calving is coming to an end now is the perfect time to get your bulls checked over before putting them back in with the cows this summer. Bull MOTs involve thorough clinical exam, testicle inspection and semen testing. If you would like to get your bulls checked please contact Becca and Kathriona to get booked in.

Pelvic Measuring

Pelvic measuring heifers is an effective tool used to pick out breeding replacements. It allows you to stop breeding from heifers that have small pelvic areas or abnormally shaped pelvises. Pelvic measuring can be done from a year of age and is a simple inexpensive way to reduce calving issues in the future. If you are interested in measuring your heifers please give the office a call.

Fly Strike

As the weather is warming up we are seeing some early cases of flystrike in both sheep and alpacas. As many sheep and alpacas are yet to be sheared the option of applying Clik is limited so here are some tips to help prevent flystrike:

1. Managing worm burdens resulting in less scouring and resulting dirty fleeces
2. Regular dagging out to prevent faecal buildup
3. Reducing and treating early scald and footrot attracting flies
4. Ensure any wounds are promptly treated to avoid attracting flies

Bluetongue Update

There has been a rise in confirmed cases in 2026 caused by both BTV-3 and BTV-8 serotypes. Many of these cases were linked to the infection of pregnant dams resulting in abortion or the birth of weak non-viable calves. As we come into the midge season there is a higher risk of infection as midges cross over the channel from France and spread the disease in Britain and Ireland.

Vaccines are available for both serotypes however those for BTV-8 are in low supply due to the lack of treatment for blue tongue vaccines are essential in prevention for both cattle and sheep.

Now is the perfect time to get your animals vaccinated for sheep only 1 dose of the vaccine is required and for cattle they require 2 doses 3 weeks apart. It is essential to get the primary vaccination course finished before pregnancy.

Please contact us to discuss vaccinations and get your orders in.

NorCal Vets

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