



Lanes  
FARM VETS

# Newsletter

July 2020

Happy July!

Our planned series of meetings are still on hold thanks to Covid-19 although we are making plans so that as soon as permitted we will be able to move quickly. Those of you that have been requested to attend a medicines course for your red tractor assurance, we have started compiling a list and will contact you with a date as soon as we can safely host one. Please add your name if you want to be contacted once we have a date organised.

In the meantime we have continued our Cow Signals series. This month, heat stress in calves is under focus (- guess when we started writing this!)

Can we take the opportunity to encourage those of you that have not signed the NFU food standards petition to sign it. The petition has attracted well over a million signatures already and if this continues it will be impossible for the government to ignore. The publicity it is attracting also raises awareness with the public. It is important that our customers are aware of current standards of food production within the UK and how these compare to cheaper imports.

The link to the petition can be found online at:

<https://www.campaigns.nfuonline.com/page/56262/petition/1>.

If you wish to sign the petition and are experiencing any difficulty signing online please feel free to ask us and we may be able to help.

Take care.



**Check out our facebook page for up-to-date news and please send us pictures of your innovative handling successes allowing social distancing whilst safely treating animals. Prize for the best!**

**Lanes farm vets on facebook or email: [farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com](mailto:farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com)**

*'A local practice committed to delivering outstanding service'*



**Green Lane Vet Centre, Garstang PR3 1PR Tel: 01995 602468**

## Cow signals—part 4—Controlling heat stress in calves

This month's cow signals is all about helping calves thrive in hot weather. Generally calves experience heat stress at temperatures of 25 degrees and above, however this can vary, especially in humid weather, so it's important to be able to read 'calf signals' and take action if needed.

Look for signs of heat stress, such as:

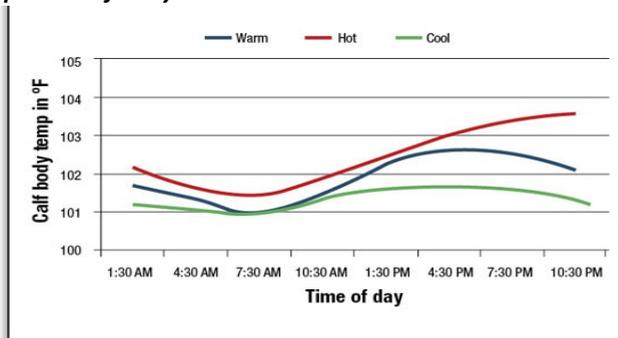
- Breathing quicker and sweating
- Drinking less milk and eating less hard feed
- Drinking more water
- Spending more time standing and less time lying

These signs can be subtle, so having a max/min thermometer in the calf housing is recommended, especially check temperatures of home-made calf hutches.

Think about the negative impacts of heat stress on calf growth rates and immunity. Feed conversion is most efficient in younger animals, so we really don't want a growth check at this stage.

- Feed more milk or increase the concentration to maintain energy intakes.
- Provide access to shade and increase air flow in buildings.
- Concrete pads are great for hygiene but can become very hot. Keep an eye out if hutches are sited on concrete in full sun and be prepared to take action, such as re-siting them or adding shade.
- Don't slack off on hygiene. Algae, mould and bacteria love the surfaces of buckets and grow really well in the heat.
- Change water regularly and make sure the buckets get a thorough clean.
- Plan handling activities for early morning when the calves are coolest.

*The graph below shows how calf temperature changes through the day in 3 different periods of the year.*



In all three time periods observed, the body temperature of the calves was lowest early in the morning and rose throughout the day.

Offering an electrolyte alongside fresh water between feeds helps calves maintain hydration.



## BLOW FLY ALERT

Looking out of the window at the moment it seems unlikely, but the risk for Blowfly strike has risen. Over the weekend our small animal team even saw 2 cases in dogs! Wet fleeces, soiling around the back end and increased fly activity are all factors.

Actions:

- Inspect stock daily for evidence of fly strike.
- Management of fly populations early in the season through fly traps and prompt removal of dead stock can significantly reduce their numbers.
- Prevention of diarrhoea through good parasite control greatly reduces the risk.
- Dagging, crutching, shearing and treating lame sheep promptly can help to limit the effects of flystrike.

A number of products can be used to aid in the prevention of blowfly strike.

- These should be used in conjunction with the management points listed above.
- Many of these products can also be used to treat blowfly strike where it occurs.
- Some synthetic pyrethroid products and dips also carry a licence for use against common tick species in sheep.

TYPE	CHEMICAL	ACTION	DURATION / COMMENT
Plunge dips	Diazinon	Protection	8 weeks protection
Pour on	Pyrethroids	Most protection & treatment. Some treatment only.	Many products available—all slightly different. Read the label.
Pour on	Dicyclanil	Protection only	3 different duration products available (8, 16 & 19 weeks)

## Help progress knowledge on Joint Ill in sheep.

The University of Liverpool and Moredun Institute are calling for sheep farmers to take part in a short survey on Joint Ill in lambs. To collect meaningful data they would like as many sheep farmers as possible to take part whether you have or have not experienced joint ill in your flock. The survey is online (link below), is completely anonymous and only takes 20 mins. All participants are entered into a prize draw to win one of several great prizes: an Apple iPad, an Android Tablet or a Luxury hamper!

Link: <https://liverpool.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/joint-ill-risk-factors-survey>

## Welcome back Liv

Liv returns from her maternity leave on Wed 1st July after the arrival of her and Sam's gorgeous boy, Rafael, who is little brother to Luca. She will resume her routine fertility visits and take on a few new ones. She is working Monday to Thursday plus her on call share.



## Simon's impending arrival

Its babies all the way here!

Simon will be taking 2 weeks off from Thursday 2nd July as his wife is expecting their first child. Simon will then return to a part time post whilst juggling his new family, his family farm and veterinary work. Simon will be working Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and will eventually be taking over some of Alan Pearson's export work as Alan plans to take life a bit easier.



### Enzovax and Toxovax

We are coming to that time of the year again for abortion vaccines! We are experiencing a slight delay on Toxovax orders, which are made specifically to order, that can be taking around 10-14 days to arrive to us. Toxovax is the short dated vaccine which usually has about a weeks expiry date on it. Enzovax is currently on next day delivery but we will hold your stock here until the Toxovax arrives. Enzovax is currently only available in 20 dose and 10 dose packs.

### Contact numbers

Mike Bevan	07930 498158
Janet Horsfield	07737 938559
Tom Lyons	07850 713914
Lora Fryars	07946 627801
Harry Collas	07563 985756
Janis Blair	07835 253100
Emmie Bland	01995 641000
Simon Wilson	01995 641000
Liv Cartmel	01995 641000

### Lanes Farm Vets

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