



Lanes  
FARM VETS

# Newsletter

August 2020

Hello!

We are starting to host Medicine Courses again. Most of those who expressed an interest in attending one should have been contacted to discuss options. Anyone else interested please contact the office on 01995 602468 asap.

If you wish / need to attend a medicines course we have 2 options available:

- 1) we are hosting restricted number (up to 4 attendees) and socially distanced meetings at our Green Lane surgery (weather permitting under a gazebo in the garden).
- 2) or we can deliver the content on farm. This is particularly useful to teams so they can devise their own treatment protocols specific to your farm.

The cost remains at £75 per attendee to the surgery (£50 to additional staff members) or visit fee plus £75 for on farm with unlimited attendees.

### Medicine course dates:

Thursday 13th August 1.30-3pm at Green Lane Surgery, Garstang—this is now full.

Thursday 20th Aug 1.30-3pm at Green Lane Surgery—limited spaces available

(Unfortunately we are not in a position to offer refreshments at this time.)

As these meetings are restricted number please make sure you have booked.



**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 5—Cow mobility

This month we're discussing bovine lameness: The best known cow signal of all – used by anyone who keeps cattle, whether they've heard of cow signals or not.

Most of the time when we talk about lame cows we're referring to cows with an obvious lameness (score 3). We all know how to spot these animals and generally they're easy to find as they lurk at the back of the herd.

As they are a prey species, cows with milder lameness (score 2) will try to conceal this from us, and often do so with considerable success. They hide amongst the herd and tend to show more subtle changes, such as asymmetric body posture, lowered head carriage, shortened strides or abnormal foot placement. Detecting these cows requires a trained eye, and dedicated time needs to be put aside to ensure they are found and treated promptly, before they progress to a score 3.

Red tractor data shows the average lameness reported by dairy farmers is about 10%, so it may come as a bit of a shock to learn that studies have found the actual figure in the UK is more like 30%!

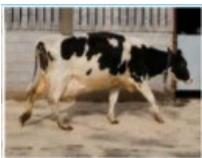
### AHDB Mobility scoring system



**Score 0 (sound )**  
Walks with long fluid stride.  
Even weight bearing on  
all 4 feet and flat back



**Score 1**  
Steps are uneven or stride  
shortened  
Affected limb/limbs not obvious



**Score 2**  
Uneven weight bearing  
on an identifiable limb,  
usually with an arch in  
her back



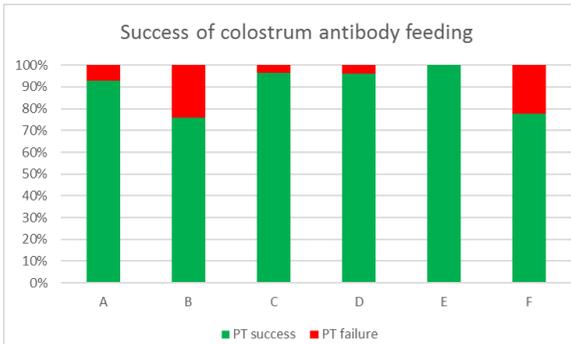
**Score 3**  
Unable to walk as fast as the herd.  
Lame leg easy to identify. May  
barely stand on lame leg/s.  
Arched back when standing &  
walking. Very lame

Try to put aside some time this month to perform a really strict and honest mobility score and if you use a foot trimmer then email their reports to your routine vet. By discussing the causes of different types of lameness we should be able to help find out which of these is a factor on your farm and help keep your girls on their feet for longer.

If you want Helen (our Vet Tech & qualified mobility scorer) to carry out a mobility score on your herd, call her on 01995 602468 to arrange. She is happy to come at milking time (as long as it is daylight!) so it doesn't disrupt your day (or your cows'!).

# Calf Health Club

The Calf Health Club has been running for over 2 years now. Hundreds of calves have been blood sampled and weighband measured by our Vet Tech on the six member farms. Results are reported quarterly and compared against each other and benchmarked against national averages.

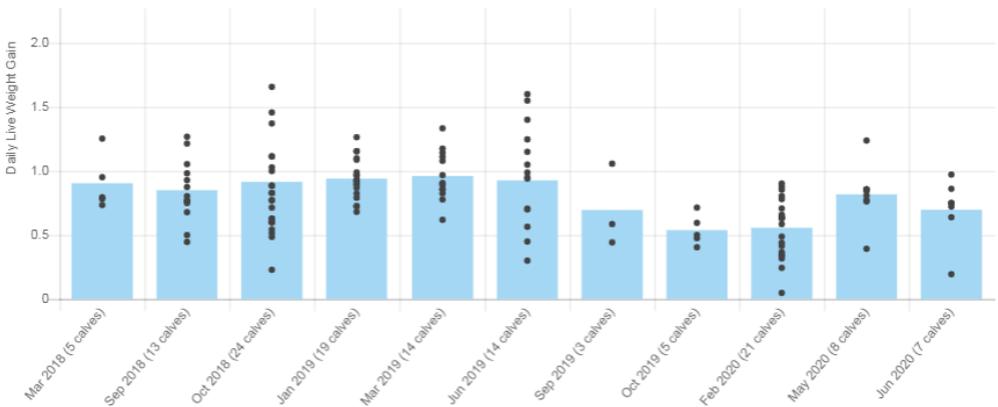


Serum total protein is used as a measure of colostrum antibody each calf receives. A summary of success for each farm is shown.

One club member (anonymous farm E) has managed to provide every calf with sufficient levels of protective antibodies from colostrum since recording began.

## Example of growth rate monitoring on one farm:

On this farm you can see that growth rates were fairly consistent at around 0.85kg / kg until the measures taken in Sept 2019 when they dropped to around 0.6kg/day.



On investigation this coincided with a change in milk powder. Results like this can also occur with changes in health (pneumonia or scour outbreaks) or changes in personnel or protocols. It is an helpful tool to ensure your calves get the best start in life.

If you are interested in achieving the best start for your dairy calves ask us about the Calf Health Club.

## New backyard poultry treatment against red mite (& other creepy crawlies)

**Exzolt** is a new treatment available for the treatment of debilitating red mite infestation in chickens. It is given orally via drinking water and we can dispense just the amount you need. It requires 2 treatments 7 days apart. Just count the number of chickens you have and estimate their weight and we can work



### Cow tubes update

Noroclox DC tubes are unavailable until end of September.

Mastiplan milking cow tubes are back in stock.

### Protect against sheep abortion with Enzovax and Toxovax—order early!

Toxovax takes up to 10 days to arrive after ordering as it is manufactured to order. It is a live vaccine and is short dated (it usually has about a weeks expiry date on it). Enzovax is currently on next day delivery but we can hold your stock here until the Toxovax arrives. Enzovax is currently only available in 20 dose and 10 dose packs.

Enzovax should be given no less than 4 weeks before tups go in (Toxovax no less than 3 weeks). They can be given at the same time and a single injection is sufficient. Immunity lasts at least 2 lambing seasons (usually vaccination of just introduced stock to a previously vaccinated flock is sufficient). Ewe lambs to be retained for breeding can be vaccinated from 5 months old. Don't vaccinate culls though as Toxovax carries a 42 day meat withdrawal (7d for Enzovax)!

### 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
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### Lanes Farm Vets

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### Beacon Farm Vets

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