



Lanes
FARM VETS

Newsletter

May 2021

Dates for your diary

Thursday 20th May 7.30 – 8.15pm—James Bretherton, soil enthusiast

Linking soil to Animal Health – is soil health having an impact on key minerals and grass quality? Including – easy wins with soil health Everyone is welcome—please register your zoom place (and goody bag!) by phoning the office on 01995 602468.

Wednesday 26th May 7.30-8.30pm—BVD final cluster meeting & progress

For all of you who took advantage of the BVD Stamp it out funding and campaign we are holding the final meeting over zoom to update you on where BVD is currently at, the opportunities BVD control can bring and wrap up the progress the campaign made. Please book your place (& goody bag) on 01995 602468

Medicines courses—we continue to carry these out on farm and the easing of Covid restrictions should hopefully mean we can carry out group meetings soon. Please call to register your interest.

Advance notice— our **annual AI and foot trimming courses** will be running later in the year. DIY AI in September and Herdsman Foot trimming in December. Call for more information or to book a place.

Flock Health Club meeting—Getting the most out of grazing grass. An on farm meeting with speaker Siwan Howatson (AHDB) —places limited to 15 including the speaker (for Covid reasons, this may change depending on situation). Provisional date is 10th June 12-2pm. We are just awaiting confirmation of details—we will be in touch!



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

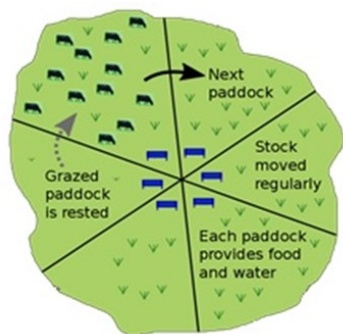
Tips for Improving Grazing Management – Bess Jowsey

(Summary of meeting 22/4/21)

Many of you spend quality time tending crops to their crops, and closely monitoring and managing feed rations. As the cheapest, most abundant and successful feed available – why not put the same care into the management of their grazed swards? Grass can be taken for granted in many ways... here are some key tips that will lift your grass productivity along with your animal productivity from grass:

Target Quality & Quantity

- Ryegrass only ever has 3 live leaves – graze before the fourth leaf emerges to maximise quality (target around beer can height or 2700 – 3000 kgDM/ha on a platemeter for cattle; slightly lower for sheep)
- Aim to graze between 2 ½ & 3 leaves (growing most of the 3rd leaf before grazing will maximise the quantity grown)
- Allow grazed swards to REST & RECOVER – rotate around smaller areas by subdividing fields and using temporary electric fences
- STOP STOCK grazing the regrowth as much as possible (during bulk of the growing season this regrowth will appear and be targeted by stock within 3 days of the initial grazing) – grazing the regrowth severely hampers plant recovery and therefore grass yield



Improving Grass Utilisation – encouraging your stock to want to eat more grass

- Offer optimal pre-grazing covers (2 ½ - 3 leaf grass)
- Offer fresh area more regularly
- Understand your stock's daily DM demands so you can allocate all feed more accurately - challenge yourself to allow them to utilise more grass!
- Reduce feed from other sources – gradually decreasing by a 1kgDM every few days will result in stock substituting this feed with more grass
- Hit consistent and even post-grazing residuals (ideally golf ball height or 15-1600 kgDM/ha) with <10% rejection patches
- CONSISTENT & EVEN post-grazing residuals will help maintain quality on subsequent rotations and improve utilisation across the whole grazing season

Grazing infrastructure such as tracks, fences and more frequent water troughs will help make these management strategies easier and more time efficient.

Further opportunities to improve grass yield and utilisation

- Complete a regular farm walk to assess the situation and review management
- Use a platometer on your farm walk to measure grass on each paddock
- Use the measures on a feed wedge to make good grazing decisions in a timely manner
- Early spring grazing
- Good surplus grass management
- Extra rotation in the autumn
- Join a grazing discussion group!

Every farmer can utilise an extra 1-2 tDM/ha every year just by improved grazing management alone!

Calculating field size: Supply vs demand...

Demand:

No. of stock in group (use a typical or most common flock/mob size for your farm enterprise, could be cows and sheep mixed)

Intake of grass in kgDM/day

Eg. 300 weaned lambs (avg 30 kgs; @ 4% of LWT) = 1.2 kgDM/lamb/day x 300 = 360 kgDM/day flock demand on grass

Eg. 150 dairy cows (requiring total 19 kgDM/day minus avg. 4kg parlour cake) = 15 kgDM/cow/day x 150 = 2,250 kgDM/day herd demand on grass

Supply:

Use ideal pre-graze cover and build in some flexibility (eg. 2800 covers could be grazed at 2600 or 3000 so provides flexibility in mob demand)

Calculate available DM/ha by subtracting the post-grazing residual

Eg. For sheep: 2500 – 1500 = 1000 kgDM/ha

Eg. For cows: 2800 – 1500 = 1300 kgDM/ha

Demand ÷ supply = optimal daily grazing area

Eg. 300 weaned lambs: 360 kgDM/day flock demand ÷ 1000 kgDM available/ha grass supply = **0.36 ha for 24hrs**

Eg. 150 dairy cows: 2250 kgDM/day herd demand ÷ 1300 kgDM available/ha grass supply = **1.73 ha for 24hrs**

Use denominations of this 24hr figure to set field sizes for 12hrs, or 2 days or 4 days etc depending on regularly you will move your stock.

Betamox is back!

We have a good supply of Betamox 150mg in stock and there are no known supply issues going forward.

Questionnaire

Please find enclosed a very brief questionnaire regarding our office locations. We want as much feedback as possible to ensure any changes we make will be positive for all our customers. If you would prefer to complete the paper version please return to the practice or hand to your vet if that is easier. It can be anonymous or you can add your name if you want us to get back to you. The electronic version can be accessed via:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NWTTTB2>

It takes 2 minutes to complete and lets us know how best to proceed with service provision.

Please do feed back your thoughts, your opinion matters to us. Please don't hesitate to chat to us about it. Thank you for your time.

Nematodirus alert for lambs (and young first grazing calves)

The larvae are currently developing (as this is written) and the warmer weather forecast over the weekend will speed this up. Lambs eating significant amounts of grass ie over 4-6 weeks old will be vulnerable.

Contact numbers

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Tom Lyons	07850 713914
Lora Fryars	07946 627801
Harry Collas	07563 985756
Emmie Bland	01995 641000
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