



**Lanes**  
farm vets

**Newsletter**  
January 2022

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Dates for your diary:**

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Flock Health Club - Feeding the ewe**

12-2pm at Garstang Surgery, lunch included

Interested in joining? Call 01995 602468 for details

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Jan - Medicines Course (suitable for Red Tractor)**

12-2pm at Garstang Surgery, lunch included

£75 per person (£50 additional staff from same farm)

Booking essential, call 01995 602468

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jan - Ignite Agri-forum meeting for members**

**Young dairy farmer of the year, Emma Redfern, discusses her dairy farm journey with a focus on nutrition and efficiency**

7pm Crofters Hotel, Garstang (food 7.30pm)

Register via Facebook

Interested in joining? Call 01995 602468 for details

**Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Jan - Transition Cow Management**

11am-2pm by kind invite of the Fryars family

At Summerer Farm, Singleton FY6 8NQ.

Lunch included sponsored by Elanco.

All welcome, call 01995 602468 to book your place & food



**Lanes Farm Vets, Green Lane West, Garstang, PR3 1PR.**

**Tel: 01995 602468**

## **Pneumonia problems?**

We've seen quite a few pneumonia cases recently and with the current weather spell that's upon us its worth a quick reminder that cold weather stress is a big risk factor for young calves.

Whilst ventilation above calf level is important, to help remove the bugs circulating in the air, over-ventilated buildings and draughts down at calf level must be avoided.

### **Management practices that can really make a difference:-**

- ⇒ Deep, dry bedding (bugs love damp environments)
- ⇒ Calf jackets when weather drops below 10oC prioritising calves under 3 weeks old
- ⇒ Remember to wash jackets in between calves to prevent spread of disease (at least 40°C)
- ⇒ Thermometer in the calf shed to monitor building temperature
- ⇒ Increasing milk feeding as the temperature drops
  - Feed extra 50g milk replacer or 0.33l of whole milk per day for each 5°C drop below 15°C
- ⇒ Smoke bombs will help identify areas of stagnant air flow and draughts. Small changes can be tested to see how they affect air flow (we can help with this).
- ⇒ Reduce spread via buckets (saliva and mucus are common routes of transmission) - clean buckets and keep the same bucket for same calf.
- ⇒ Vaccination will reduce severity and spread of disease

In terms of treatment the most important medicine to use is an anti-inflammatory (such as Recocam, Keloprofen or Finadyne). This will reduce fever, make the calf more comfortable (and therefore more likely to eat & drink) and reduce damage to the lungs. Antibiotics can have a role to play in reducing secondary bacterial infections and less common primary bacterial causes although as most pneumonia-causing agents are viral, supporting the calf to overcome the virus is most important. Keep a thermometer handy to check in contact calves and ask us if unsure.

## Current parasite considerations

Acute fluke disease was fairly uncommon this year but with recent wet and warmer weather chronic fluke is likely to be a problem on those farms grazing wet land or buying in stock. Mature fluke will be producing eggs now so a faecal egg count from 10 animals will give a quick screen as to whether dosing is necessary. Avoid triclabendazole products at this stage to reduce resistance. Selecting a product with closantal or oxclozanide will be effective against the mature fluke. A post drench test (3 weeks after dosing) will inform you about levels of resistance.

The other main worm to consider at this time of year is *Trichostrongyles* (black worm scour), particularly in store lambs (8-10 months old). Encysted worm larvae in the gut wall can also cause severe scours in late winter/early spring as they emerge (these are not detectable by faecal egg counts).



Mites and lice are most commonly a problem in winter when animals are in closer contact when housed or fed at troughs and immune systems may be challenged with poorer feed and pregnancy.

## Drunken lamb syndrome and treatment

Drunken lamb syndrome is the term given to lambs usually around a week old which stop drinking milk, become lethargic and go wobbly or drunken, with no obvious cause eg no naval ill, scour, hypothermia. It is a condition resulting from the build of lactic acid in tissues and damage to kidneys (nephrosis) with the ensuing acidosis.

If all other causes of 'off colour lambs' are eliminated then a simple trick that can revive these lambs is to give them just under a level teaspoon (4g to be precise) of sodium bicarbonate (ordinary baking powder is fine) mixed with 50ml of warm water orally. A 50ml syringe is perfect for dosing (we can supply if you need one).

Recovery is usually fairly rapid if your diagnosis is correct—don't keep giving it as it could result in alkalosis which can be fatal. Give a long acting penicillin at the time of treatment to protect against bacteria from the gut entering the blood stream (eg Bimoxyl LA).

## Selekt pump servicing

We have a drop in servicing clinic for all clients and vets for those with Selekt pumps on Wednesday 26th January . Please drop off your pumps beforehand.



## Barren ewes?

Scanning appears to be down slightly on multiples this year but fewer barren ewes around. If you have scanned empty ewes don't forget we can screen for toxoplasma and enzootic abortion on 6 blood samples from empty ewes. The lab work is subsidised so well worth using the service. Call us for more details.

**Spectam Scourhalt**—there is a manufacturing problem with this product and we currently cannot get hold of any. The use of antibiotics as a blanket treatment for prevention of watery mouth is very much under scrutiny as a significant contributor to antibiotic resistance. Please get in touch to discuss measures which can be taken to reduce the risks of watery mouth. These include:

- Feed ewes good quality protein ration in last 3 weeks to produce good colostrum
- Ensure lambs are sucking within an hour of birth
- Multiples (especially triplets and above) may need topping up with good colostrum from another ewe or artificial (look out for next month's newsletter on colostrum supplements—spoiler alert—none are as good as the natural product!)
- Keep teats, beds and pens as clean and dry as possible

### Contact numbers

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### Lanes Farm Vets

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