



**Lanes**  
farm vets

**Newsletter**  
March 2022

## **Dates for your diary:**

### **Ignite Agri next meeting:**

**Wednesday 13th April 7pm (for 7.30pm) at the Crofters, Garstang**

Henry Cooke from Clotton Hall Clotted Cream is the guest speaker.

Register now to book your hot buffet on 01995 602468

This is a members only event for the next generation of farmers.

**Ignite Agri-Forum** is a new agri-business discussion group for young people in their 20s and 30s in agriculture or related industry. The group is founded and sponsored by Lanes Vets, alongside Armistead Barnett and Alta Genetics, with the aim of providing a platform for young people to generate ideas and socialise whilst learning from guest speakers on their journeys to successful business.

### **Everything you ever wondered about worm control (well, maybe!)**

**Wednesday 25th May 12-2pm at Brock Auction surgery (TBC)**

Interested? Register your interest now for a place and hot lunch (supplied by Auction Eats café). Numbers limited.

This provides an informal setting to discuss worming issues including medicine choice, timing, resistance issues and sustainability. You will have the opportunity to discuss your own worming regime and create a bespoke plan. Free to attend.



**Lanes Farm Vets, Green Lane West, Garstang, PR3 1PR.**  
**Tel: 01995 602468**

# Hip hoists

A quick review of the use of hip hoists in light of the recent media attention. The primary reasons for 'downer' cows generally fall into one of three categories:

- ⇒ Toxic eg mastitis, dead calf, wire, twisted gut, peritonitis
  - ⇒ Metabolic eg milk fever, staggers, phosphorus deficiency, acidosis
  - ⇒ Traumatic eg pelvic or leg fracture or injury, hip dislocation, calving injury
- Other less common reasons for recumbency may include infection and high temperature, tetanus or botulism and even severe foot lameness/foot injury.

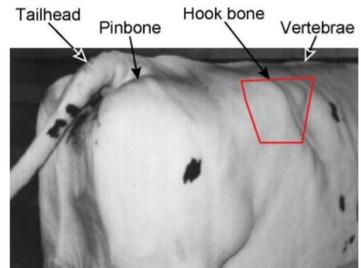
The underlying causes to be addressed first, but if the cow is not responding to treatment then the situation starts to become gloomier. Cows down over 24 hours develop significant secondary muscular and nerve damage to the larger muscles of the back legs, leading to an ever-reducing ability to rise and recover successfully.

Managing downer cows:

- ⇒ Move cow onto soft, clean bedding (deep straw, deep sand (20cm minimum) or ideally out to grass if weather allows).
- ⇒ Provide good quality feed and clean fresh water at all times.
- ⇒ Roll, turn or lift cow every 3-4 hours to reduce the onset of tissue damage.

A hip hoist can be a useful tool to lift downer cows to reduce pressure related injury. The cow must be checked to be free from injury and treated for underlying disease before lifting and lift over soft bedding when possible.

- Attach the hip hoist firmly around the tuber coxae as indicated by the red area in the diagram:
- Lift **slowly** with a loader or tractor as vertically as possible until in a normal weight bearing position. The idea is just to help the cow to stand, not to lift her up in the air.
- If the cow will stand unaided, leave her with the hoist on for 15-20 mins. If she won't bear weight, lower her down again after 2-3 mins.
- If she is unable to support her front end, she may require additional support of her front legs eg a strap behind her front legs in her girth area.
- Anti-inflammatory medicines should be used.
- **If no improvement is seen within 48h or the cow deteriorates euthanasia should be considered.**



## Diverse Swards

There has been a lot of talk recently about herbal leys and so we asked James Bretherton, of AgScope, and is our NW region BGS rep, to explain more about them in our zoom meeting this week. James is happy to discuss in more detail with anyone who is interested. The main points that were covered are as follows:

**There are three main groups of plants in a herbal ley:**

Legumes (white clover, red clover, sainfoin, lucerne, birds foot trefoil, alsike clover)

Grasses (perennial rye grasses, timothy, cocksfoot, fescues)

Herbs (plantain, chicory, sheep's parsley, burnet, yarrow)

**The main benefits of laying pasture to herbal leys:**

- A more even growth curve over the season; legumes and herbs tend to grow at peak in mid summer as grass growth lulls
- Their deep root system improves soil structure
- Legumes mean less fertiliser needed (nitrogen is the big gain)
- Improved mineral uptakes from soil
- Increased carbon sequestration per hectare
- Better parasite worm control due to condensed tannins

**Herbal leys are not new - we use 80% less legumes than we did 60 years ago. With prices as they are now is the time to consider reducing fertiliser and use legumes!**

**Getting your soil ready for herbal leys:**

- 1) Test your soil (pH and calcium are key).
- 2) Calcium is key for clover (and all legumes) and is the only mineral which improves soil structure.
- 3) Lime is the best investment you may make this year!

# Huskvac

Bovilis® Huskvac is a live vaccine, made from irradiated lungworm larvae, which are incapable of causing disease. Vaccination should be completed at least two weeks before the herd is turned out to grass (2 doses 4-6 weeks apart). Wormers should not be given until two weeks after the final dose of vaccine.

Relying on long-acting wormers in replacement animals mean that no natural immunity is developed during the grazing period. If exposure then occurs at a later grazing period milk loss, slower growth rates and even deaths are likely.

The vaccine allows a small number of lungworm from natural infection to complete their life-cycle, this means there is a continued development of natural immunity throughout the grazing season. Over-reliance on wormers does not allow this natural boosting to occur.

Vaccination with a pre-turnout course of Bovilis® Huskvac is the most reliable and cost-effective way of ensuring the development of immunity to lungworm.

Faecal egg counts can then be used to determine when (& if!) gut worm treatments are necessary.

We have sent out some first Huskvac orders this year and the next batch is due around mid-March. Order your doses now to ensure sufficient stock is available. Call 01995 602468 to place your order or if you have any queries.

## Contact numbers

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## Lanes Farm Vets

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