



Lanes
farm vets

Newsletter

May 2023

Dates for your diary...

Flock Health Club—annual trip out! Tuesday 27th June. 1.30pm at Richard Carruthers, Rawfoot Farm Nr Shap. In conjunction with AHDB, Richard is hosting this event (as an AHDB strategic farm) discussing his successful grazing strategies and reduction in fertiliser use whilst improving grass utilisation.

Transport can be provided leaving Brock at 12 noon—please book your place. It is possible we can take a few extra if anyone not a member of the Flock Health Club is interested.

Next 'Shed loads of opportunity' meeting will be focusing on improving fertility in the dairy herd. June 2023—watch out for venue and date to be confirmed soon.

Next Ignite Agri-forum—27th September 7.30 for 8pm

Garstang Golf Club—Nicola Green presenting 'Rosy Goat' ice cream. Watch out on facebook for more details nearer the time.

DIY AI training—we are now an approved AI training practice and can offer AI training on your own farm or look out for one of the organised training sessions throughout the year. Contact Emmie for more information on 07552122819.



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Shed loads of opportunity meeting—The game's afoot

Glorious sunshine greeted attendees of the first in our dairy series of talks on Wed 26th April. The topic was small improvements that can make a big difference to reducing lameness. Those gathered at the very tidy Mowbreck Hall (courtesy of the Pickervance family) discussed the top causes of lameness and different approaches to treating them- all approaches start with the Dutch 5 step method (trim length of the inside claw, match them out, dish them out, relieve weight from damaged claw and finally remove loose horn). Emmie added a 6th step - **giving pain killers**.



Anti-inflammatory use with digi derm makes a cow 10x less likely to be lame 7d later (after treatment), and cows needing a block given a painkiller were significantly more likely to recover, for every £1 spent on painkillers you will get £1.60 back through better milk yields and by preventing future lameness. We also talked about the promptness of treating a lame cow and not waiting for the next foot trimmer visit. This is because as a foot swells and becomes painful the bones at the base can start to grow painful spurs, meaning the success of treatment is lower. The importance of the timing of routine foot trimming is important. Around calving ligaments slacken, you see it in the hips but the same happens in the feet, and the fat cushioning that softens impact in the foot also changes making lameness more likely- so **making sure the foot is a good shape before calving is key**.

Northern Dairy Equipment were also on hand to show us the iBath, a footbath that ensures every cow gets two good foot dunks and changes chemical automatically. Footbathing is a key part of reducing digi derm spread, to reduce the amount of bacteria in the environment. Keeping the feet dry and skin healthy is also vital, its better to use 2% formalin every milking then try to compensate with 4% every other.



Lastly Harry & Richard led us round for a insightful farm walk, looking at stresses and cow tracks.

Big thanks to Zoetis and the Pickervance family for supporting the session.

Toxovax—early bird discount

MSD are offering a **5% discount** again on any toxovax orders made between 1st May and 31st July. This is to help them spread the manufacturing of the product, hopefully ensuring good availability.

Call us if this is an offer you can take advantage of. Be aware it is a live vaccine therefore the shelf life is short (usually approximately 1 week) so you need to be in a position to use it soon after delivery.

Toxoplasmosis abortion is one of the main causes of infectious abortion in sheep. The single dose of toxovax vaccine gives protection for at least 2 lambings, ideally given at least 3 weeks before first mating to maintain flock immunity. It can be given at the same time as Enzovax to protect against Enzootic abortion, the other main cause of infectious abortion in ewes). Enzovax needs to be given a minimum of 4 weeks prior to tupping.

Parasite forecast

Nematodirus risk is here with the recent warmer weather. We have diagnosed our first case this year in lowland conditions in lambs showing that significant hatching of over wintered eggs has occurred. Dosing of any lambs at grass over 6 weeks old is advised unless on clean pasture not grazed before by sheep.

Haemonchus contortus in cattle & sheep is becoming a more significant problem locally. These gut worms were historically more prevalent in the south but we are now seeing an increase in cases. The main symptom is anaemia (pale conjunctiva and gums) as the adult worms ingest significant volumes of blood from the lining of the sheep abomasum, severe infestations can result in death.

Please don't hesitate to call Helen on 01995 602468 to discuss a worming regime for your farm.

Goodbyes to...

Alan Pearson. After 45 years of service to Lanes Vets (formerly Thompson, Pearson & Callery before the merger) Alan has finally hung up his stethoscope (for good this time he assures us!). Alan has been working primarily within the export department for the last 10 years but many will have been entertained by Alan on your farm over the years.



We wish him well in his retirement and send a heartfelt thank you for all his hard work helping to establish Lanes Vets into the practice it is today. We're sure he will be back, even if only for the socials!!

Laura Parkinson. Laura's internship comes to an end at the end of May. Laura joined us as a new graduate in August 2021. She has worked as a mixed vet in small and farm animal since joining us and we are truly grateful for her hard work and contribution to the farm team. She will be very much missed but we wish her well on her next adventure in New Zealand.



Check out our Facebook page for up to date information on meetings, news and topical updates. Search for Lanes Farm Vets and give us a like!



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