



FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER



MAY 2022

FARMING CONNECT FUNDING AND GRANTS

Apply for up to 80% funding towards training courses! The window to apply opens on Monday, 2nd May until 27th May. Contact Lisa Powell on 07772 694952 or email Jane Anscombe: jane.anscombe@farmfirstvets.co.uk. PDPs and applications will be done over the phone; you just need access to your email address. You can find the list of courses here: businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/skills-and-training/training-courses

Also, for many farms registered with Farming Connect there are still clinics that can be applied which provide £250 of funding towards testing for disease e.g. worm egg counts, post mortems, blood samples, bull and ram fertility. **Please contact us to see if you are still eligible – funding available is for those who have not already claimed three clinics since 2020.**



FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO
08456 000 813

Alert Update ... Nematodirus Risk Alert Update ... Nematodirus

Based on local weather conditions, Nematodirus risk status is predicted to be: HATCH



HATCH: Egg hatch is likely to have either occurred or be imminent.

Air temperature is estimated to have been within the development range for Nematodirus (11.5 – 17°C) for at least 7 days since the beginning of the year. Therefore eggs have had chance to fully develop and hatch. It is likely that lambs grazing high risk pastures are now at risk of disease.
Disease occurs 1-2 weeks after peak hatch.



SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN YOUNG LAMBS (6-12 weeks):

- * Sudden onset, profuse watery diarrhoea with 'dirty back ends'
- * Lambs are dull and depressed, stop suckling with rapid and obvious dehydration and condition loss (develop a gaunt appearance)
- * Deaths due to dehydration (in early outbreaks death can occur without obvious signs of scour)
- * Weight loss in the remaining lambs

**FOR OPTIMUM TREATMENT TIMING AND PRODUCT CHOICE OR
TO REGISTER FOR FREE PARASITE ALERTS FROM NADIS PLEASE CONTACT US**

Alert Update ... Nematodirus Risk Alert Update ... Nematodirus

WEDDING BELLS FOR CONSTANCE!

Some of you may already know that one of our vets, Constance Lesnianski is marrying her partner, Jules, at the end of May. The ladies from the practice enjoyed a lovely 'hen party' for Constance which included canoeing down the Wye and some delicious food at The Pig and Apple.
We wish them both every happiness for their future together.



Do you want antibiotic-free hoof and skin care?

Intra Repiderma is a NON-ANTIBIOTIC protective hoof and skin spray that gives visible results after the first day and is safe to use for the farmer, the animal and the environment.

6 reasons to choose Intra Repiderma for hoof, udder cleft, dehorning navel and skin treatments:

- Micronised powdered organic minerals (chelated organic copper and zinc)
- Patented antibiotic-free product
- Protective layer for the hooves and skin
- Strong adhesion, for at least 3 days
- Sprays at every angle, even upside down
- Cost similar to antibiotic sprays



... STAFF NEWS ...

Welcome to George Ciubotariu, our new Locum Veterinary Surgeon, who has joined the practice for the summer months ahead. We also welcome back Fabian Kielb, our Locum TB Tester to rejoin the busy team. Finally, we say a fond farewell to Olivia, one of our popular Practice Receptionists who is leaving for an exciting new post in mid May. We wish her all the best for the future!

What is Ketosis?



Ketosis is a metabolic disorder rather than a disease, that mainly affects dairy cows early in their lactation. At this stage of lactation, there is a massive demand in the energy required to produce milk. Ketosis occurs when the cow cannot eat enough to meet this increased demand and she falls into a metabolic state known as negative energy balance. If we prioritise good transition cow management, we can optimise rumen function and increase dry matter intakes (DMI) from the dry period and into early lactation. This will help us to reduce negative energy balance and to reduce mobilisation of fat reserves in the body, which predisposes cows to ketosis. Fat mobilisation occurs when the cow breaks down her own body reserves of fat, and this occurs if she does not take in enough good quality food to meet her increased energy demands. When body fats are broken down, they cannot be used in the body for energy in the same way as carbohydrates and protein. Fats are broken down into non-esterified fatty acids (NEFAs) These are converted in the liver to ketone

bodies. It is ketone bodies that can be used as an energy source, but only in very small amounts. When in negative energy balance, a cow has excessive amounts of ketone bodies in the blood, and this is the cause of her ketosis.

Clinical signs associated with ketosis are a reduction in the cow's appetite, poor rumen fill, weight loss due to fat mobilisation, lack of appetite, lethargy, nervous twitching, and a drop in her milk yield. In a herd with underlying (subclinical) levels of ketosis, we will see related diseases, such as increased rates of metritis, mastitis, lameness, displaced abomasum, poor fertility and retained foetal membranes (cleansing). Increased levels of these problems in a herd will indicate a need to investigate why they are occurring.

We can screen animals for ketosis by checking blood samples from suspicious cows, measuring NEFAs and ketones in the bloodstream. When monitoring herds, we target transition cows and those in early lactation. The aim is to check whether cows are entering lactation with a negative energy balance so we can address problems as soon as possible.

One of the ways to prevent ketosis is to ensure that cows stay in ideal body condition score (BCS) during their lactation cycle. The target BCS for drying off and calving is 3.5. Fat cows are higher risk of ketosis, as they will have a reduced appetite and mobilise more fat in early lactation. Managing transition cows to maximise their DMI is especially important, and they should be on a transition diet for a minimum of 3 weeks before calving. Dry cows should have unlimited access to highly palatable food and fresh water. If there are signs of potential ketosis in your herd, it is advised that you speak to us as soon as possible. We will be able to investigate and guide you through increasing your herds' health, welfare, and productivity.