



SUMMER UPDATE

# FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



## CHANGES TO TESCO JOHNES SCHEME

For dairy farmers on Tesco contracts, all farmers should have less than 2% of the herd positive for Johnes disease by 31st July 2021. There are our new rules for dealing with positive cows after this. If you are concerned about the status of your herd please get in touch with us as soon as possible so that we can sort out any problems before the end of July.

## PULPY KIDNEY

This is one of the most common causes of sudden death in well grown lambs, a particularly depressing sight after all the hard work in getting the lamb to this stage. The disease gets its name due to the appearance of the kidney after death. It will decompose more rapidly than other organs and has a spongy or jelly-like feel. The disease is caused by a clostridial bacterium (*Clostridium perfringens* Type D) which is normally found in the lamb's gut. Access to high carbohydrate feeds such as lush grass or concentrates can allow the bacteria to suddenly multiply and produce a toxin that will rapidly lead to death. As the disease is so acute, clinical signs of illness are not usually apparent. Lambs which appeared fit and healthy only a few hours before can be found dead. If affected lambs are seen alive, they may walk in circles, appear blind, show in-coordination and convulsions. Diarrhoea can sometimes develop.

Diagnosis of pulpy kidney is dependent upon a post-mortem examination. Treatment for pulpy kidney with antibiotics is ineffective. In the face of an outbreak, it is advisable to remove the lambs from lush grazing and reduce the amount of concentrate being fed, for at least a couple of weeks.

Lambs can be protected from the disease by vaccination. If the ewes have been correctly vaccinated against clostridial disease prior to lambing, then the lambs will acquire passive immunity from the colostrum. This will help to protect the lamb up to 16 weeks of age. However, immunity after this age will require the lamb to be given its own vaccine. We normally recommend vaccination with a 4 in 1 clostridial vaccine (Ovovac -P Plus) for fattening lambs. If lambs are to be retained for breeding, we recommend using the 8 in 1 clostridial vaccine (Heptavac-P Plus).

## FARM FIRST VETS STAFF STAR IN VIDEO

For those of you who haven't seen it, there is a link to the video we entered into a recent XLVets competition for #Inspirationalteams on our Facebook page which we received a Highly Commended award for and had some fun making it! A thank you to our staff for the last year coping with working through Covid, the building work and new starters. The video will also give you an insight into the work carried out at the premises (nearly there!) which we will open up to our clients when permitted in due course.

## LAMENESS WEEK - MONTH

July is sheep lameness month and we are offering a visit delivering diagnosis, advice and a treatment plan for £65 ex VAT. Contact the office to book your visit on 01873 840167 between 19th & 23rd July.

## OPENING HOURS

MON - FRI

8.15AM - 5.30 PM



Both vaccines can be given to lambs from 3 weeks of age and require two injections to be given 4-6 weeks apart. To provide optimum protection the second vaccine should be administered around 12-14 weeks of age. This will allow immunity to have fully developed before the lambs reaches 16 weeks when the protection acquired from the vaccinated ewe declines.

Pulpy kidney is a very common cause of sudden death in unvaccinated flocks, but it is by no means the only explanation, for this reason we would always recommend performing a post-mortem when sudden or unexplained death occurs. Please call Farm First on 01873 840167 for more advice or to purchase some vaccine.

**OUR OFFICE OPENS  
OPPOSITE THE MARKET AS OF  
MONDAY 12TH JULY - MON &  
WED ONLY 9.30AM - 1PM**

## TB DELIVERY CONTRACT RENEWAL

The delivery of TB testing services has recently been up for re tender and we are pleased to say that Iechyd Da, our existing delivery partner has been awarded the contract for the next five years. David Thomas, Principle Official Vet for Iechyd Da (Gwledig) Ltd said "Iechyd da (a company comprising all of the large animal veterinary practices in South Wales) is delighted to continue its successful partnership with Welsh Government for the delivery of important veterinary services in the area. Collaboration between the private veterinary profession and government is clearly the best way forward in these challenging times for farm animal diseases and the livestock industry in Wales

## CIDR OVIS

Have you considered synchronising your ewes this breeding season? If not, why not?! Some of the key benefits of synchronisation are:

1. More even batches of lambs for easier management during the grazing season
2. Reduced labour costs when lambing a tighter block
3. The possibility of using fixed time AI to improve flock genetics and carcass value
4. Advancing the breeding season to maximise the use of spring grass

Methods to control the breeding of sheep include; Teaser rams, Melatonin implants (Regulin), prostaglandins e.g. Estrumate and Progesterone releasing devices (Sponges/Cidrs). Here we summarise their effectiveness in breeding ewes out of season and in achieving synchronisation:

METHOD	ADVANCEMENT	SYNCHRONISATION
Ram effect	Minimal effect	Variable dependent on stage of cycle
Melatonin (daylight alteration or implants)	Yes	No
Prostaglandins	No	Yes depending on presence of a corpus luteum
<b>Progesterone</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>



CIDR Ovis is a progesterone releasing device available from the practice, which has some significant advantages over sponges containing synthetic progestagen.

- Significantly better pregnancy, fertility, twinning rates, and fecundity as shown in clinical trials.
- Significantly less removal issues and discharge observed at removal.

For further details or to discuss how best to utilise synchronisation on your flock this season please call the practice and ask to speak to one of the vet team.

## MEETINGS

For all the latest information on meetings please keep an eye on our Facebook page. In the next couple of weeks we will be holding the following meetings:

**Thursday 8th July – Sheep Lameness Workshop**

**Tuesday 13th July – Mastering Medicines Course – Red Tractor Approved.**

To register please call the office on 01873 840167 as pre -registration is compulsory

## HIGH HOUSE, RAGLAN PREMISIES

Our premises opposite the market will open Mondays & Wednesdays between 9.30 am & 1pm from Monday 12th July We will stock wormers and fly control products but pre-order is essential for other items as prescription only medicines will not be stored at the premises.

## JOKE

Thanks to Colin Passmore for this classic. - Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?' Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.' 'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?' 'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
PRE ORDER YOUR  
DRUGS  
VIA TELEPHONE  
BEFORE COLLECTION**

**01873 840167**

**INFO@FARMFIRSTVETS.CO.UK**

