

## BLOWFLY STRIKE



The warmer temperatures over the last few weeks, combined with the (very!) wet weather causing high humidity, makes for perfect conditions for Flystrike. The flies overwinter in the soil and begin to emerge once soil temperatures begin to rise. The adults then lay eggs on damaged skin or dirty fleece, which hatch out into maggots in less than 24 hours. Due to this quick hatching time and the ability for females to lay very large numbers of eggs, Blowfly Strike can occur quickly, and with devastating results. For this reason, prevention is key. This is most commonly achieved by early application of an appropriate insecticide product, taking care to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for dose and application. A range of products are available with different lengths of action and benefits, summarised below:

| Product Name    | Chemical Name | Strike Treatment | Strike Prevention | Other parasites covered | Withdrawal period |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Spotinor        | Deltamethrin  | ✓                | X                 | Lice, ticks             | 35 days           |
| Ectofly/Crovect | Cypermethrin  | ✓                | 6-8 weeks         | Lice, ticks             | 8 days            |
| Clikzin         | Dicyclanil    | X                | 8 weeks           |                         | 7 days            |
| Clik            | Dicyclanil    | X                | 16 weeks          |                         | 40 days           |
| Clik Extra      | Dicyclanil    | X                | 19 weeks          |                         | 40 days           |

Initiating fly control early whilst numbers are low and limiting the ability of the fly population to multiply, will significantly reduce the risk of animals being "struck" due to keeping the number of flies in the local area to a minimum. Other important management strategies that reduce risk and fly breeding include shearing to reduce fleece humidity and soiling, making the fleece less attractive to flies, dagging ewes after lambing, as well as prompt and correct disposal of carcasses. Use of fly traps can also be a useful addition to fly control, especially when employed early in the season. Employing these management techniques means it can be possible to delay treatment of ewes with insecticide until after shearing, as some products pose a risk to human health if handled soon after treatment.

When prevention fails and we see cases of flystrike, rapid diagnosis and treatment are key for a favourable outcome. The areas which are most prone to damage are the shoulders, flanks and the tail area, particularly where faecal soiling is present. The symptoms of blowfly strike range from a moist, discoloured area of fleece, often associated with agitation including foot stamping, vigorous shaking, gnawing or rubbing. These patches spread rapidly if left unchecked as maggots feed on the surface of skin. Flystrike can also occur in animals with foot rot or infected wounds, so good lameness control is very important in the prevention of fly strike.

Treatment must focus on eradicating maggots as well as treating the systemic toxic effects of the damage to the skin. The fleece should be clipped to expose healthy skin, and the lesion cleaned with mild antiseptic. Topical treatment with an insecticide that kills maggots such as Spotinor or Ectofly can then be applied, alongside administering anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. Careful nursing care is required including keeping housed and administering oral fluids if appetite is diminished.

# Haemonchus contortus

Also known as the barber's pole worm, this is a very common parasite and one of the most pathogenic nematodes of ruminants. This parasite is responsible for anaemia, oedema, and death of infected sheep and goats, mainly during summer in warm, humid climates. Haemonchus is most commonly seen in the UK from late spring until autumn; the eggs don't survive well over winter but in warm and wet conditions the eggs hatch rapidly and pastures become highly infective, resulting in very rapid and severe disease. The Welsh Veterinary Centre in Aberystwyth has already diagnosed this in a dead ewe in May, and it is an increasingly common diagnosis in our practice. Signs of Haemonchus are pale gums and conjunctive, due to anaemia, lethargy and weakness, bottle jaw and weight loss. Diagnosis is made by carrying out worm egg counts, which tend to be very high, at post mortem. If your ewes are failing to gain weight despite the good spring grass, please contact us for advice on how to get them tested.



## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

### NADIS - Improving Post-Weaning Lamb Performance

Thursday, 15th June at 7pm  
venue - TBC

Delivered by Constance and Hilary

### First Aid for Feet

Thursday 29th June 9am to 5pm  
Lunch provided

Church Farm, Llanarth NP15 2LU

Instructors: Eleri Davies - BCVA accredited foot health trainer and Alan Colebatch CHCSB approved instructor.

All attendees will receive a Lantra Certificate of Competency.

Farming Connect Funded price: £56 + VAT  
or non-funded £280 + VAT

### NADIS - Sheep Worming

Thursday 29th June 7pm  
venue - TBC

Delivered by Constance & Hilary

Please contact the office to book:  
01873 840167

## New Product for Calf Rehydration - **Hydrafast**



- ✓ Ideal sodium levels for water absorption and rehydration
- ✓ Hydrafast contains a high concentration of glucose, and we know that calves need extra energy to maintain bodyweight and aid recovery from scour. Glucose is the main co-transporter of sodium. Hydrafast's more concentrated solution is physiologically more appropriate than products with a lower osmolarity.
- ✓ Acetate, propionate, and citrate as acid buffers. These also act as sodium co-transporters and further sources of energy.
- ✓ Contains Glycine, an amino acid which facilitates sodium absorption and speeds mucosal regeneration.

**Hydrafast comes in boxes of 24 sachets.**

## \* \* \* STAFF NEWS \* \* \*

At the beginning of June we will be welcoming a new vet, as an additional member of the team. **Beth Williams-Roberts** spent some time with us as a student, and is now returning to work in the area, having worked for a couple of years for the Wood Veterinary Group in Gloucestershire. Some of you will know Beth, as she grew up and has worked on farms in this area, and we are looking forwards to her joining the team.

We are also delighted to announce that **Elinor Bowen** married Jack last week. Elinor has worked for us for a long time as a member of the admin team and a Vet Tech. We hope that she is really enjoying her honeymoon.

## Farming Connect Scheme

There is a new Farming Connect funding scheme available with up to £3,000 available per farm. The farmer can choose which areas of advice they want to claim for and the percentage of funding depends on whether the funding is one to one, or in a group. For one to one advice, up to £850 is available per subject, with the farmer having to contribute 30% of the cost. If there are any areas in which you would like more in depth advice, please contact **Lisa Powell** from Farming Connect, who will be able to explain the scheme and get you registered on it. Her contact details are: mobile 07772 694 952 or e-bost/e-mail: [lisa.powell@menterabusnes.co.uk](mailto:lisa.powell@menterabusnes.co.uk), or have a chat with one of our vets.



## ! JOKE TIME !

A woman visits her husband in prison. Before leaving, she tells a prison officer, 'You shouldn't make my husband work like that! He's exhausted!'

The officer laughs and says, 'Are you kidding? He just eats and sleeps and stays in his cell!'

The wife replies, 'He just told me he's been digging a tunnel for months!'