

APRIL 2023

ELANCO TRANSITION VISITS

Looking after the dry cows - why does it matter so much?

Around 75% of all adult cow health problems happen in the period around calving, with around 50% of cows having some health issues at this time. All cows will drop their dry matter intake a few days before calving, but it has been shown that the cows that show the largest drop in intake, and are slowest to recover, are the cows most likely to get sick after calving.

Elanco's Healthy Start Checklist looks at a range of management factors from the cow's point of view, to highlight anything that might impact on the ability of every cow to meet their DMI needs and close the energy gap that always happens as she starts to produce milk. It can help to identify those cows most at risk of ketosis, before they get sick, and allow a targeted intervention to reduce the health risks for the individual and the whole herd.



Elanco

Find out more about the impact of ketosis and using Elanco's at www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/dairy/kick-ketosis.

If you are interested in having a **FREE Healthy Start Checklist** assessment for your herd, please contact us on 01873 840167 and we will make an appointment for you.

Nematodirus

There is a high-risk warning of *Nematodirus battus* cases in some locations. This area is currently **AMBER**, but you can keep up to date with it at the SCOPS Nematodirus Forecast <https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast> which shows that some locations around Southern England are now at high risk, and it is expected to see more lower lying areas moving to high risk soon. A hatch of *Nematodirus* is likely to take place within 7 to 14 days of a change to **RED** if warmer weather persists. Lambs currently most at risk are those born before the middle of February, as they are getting towards six weeks of age. When the weather station in your locality shows a high risk (red or black) you need to carry out a risk assessment to decide whether you need take action, such as drenching or moving lambs to lower risk grazing (that was not grazed by lambs last spring) to avoid a high challenge.



If you would like to sign up for free Alerts and Newsletters from Farm First Vets, which are linked to NADIS, please call us at the office to add your name to the list.

Happy Easter
to all our clients

EASTER OPENING HOURS

Closed - Friday 7th April

Open - Saturday 8th April: 9am to 12.30pm

Closed - Sunday 9th & Monday 10th April

24 Hour Emergency Vet

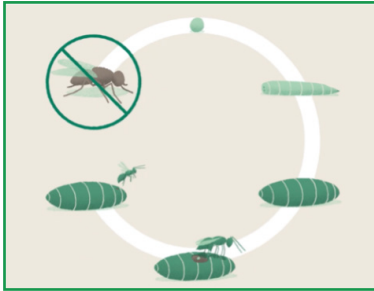
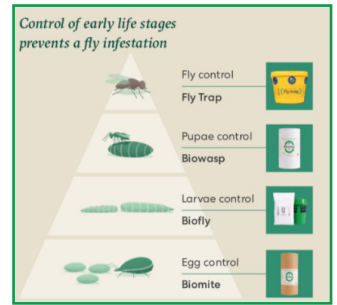
Tel : 01873 840167

FLY PARASITES

An increasing number of livestock farmers have discovered an alternative to chemical pest control. Beneficial insects have proven to be the most effective and environmentally friendly strategy against flies in and around the livestock farm.

Flies cause a serious nuisance to both livestock and humans. They are known vectors of disease, costing the livestock industry thousands in control methods as well as through production losses due to decreased milk yields and growth rates.

During the summer a female fly can lay up to 1000 eggs within 10 days. This rapid life cycle means that an infestation of nuisance flies can happen extremely quickly - therefore it is important to gain control early on in the season. Numbers within the fly population are represented by a pyramid where the youngest life stages are the most abundant, meaning that even when a small number of adult flies are visible, a much larger number of larvae and eggs are already developing on the farm.



The Biowasp is a parasitic mini wasp which controls flies in and around livestock units without the use of insecticides and chemicals. The Biowasp naturally controls flies by targeting fly pupae in and around dairy farm buildings with straw bedding or where dry manure is present. They target the housefly (*Musca domestica*), the lesser house fly (*Fannia canicularis*) and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*). These 3 species represent about 95% of the nuisance flies present on the farm. They work by drilling a small hole inside the pupae of a nuisance fly, where they lay their eggs. These eggs will develop into a mini wasp larva, which will feed on the contents of the fly pupa. A new mini wasp will grow inside the fly pupa about 3 weeks after parasitisation. Once a fly pupa has been parasitised, only mini wasps can hatch from it, breaking the life cycle of the fly whilst increasing the population of the beneficial organisms.

Scan the QR code to see the beneficial insects in action!
Prevent flies from overtaking your farm and start introducing beneficials early.
Please call us if you would like more information.



Dump Days Wednesdays



As we move into spring and summer, we are introducing a new service. For WEC brought in before 12 pm on a Wednesday there will be a 25% discount off the testing fee, with a further 25% off this fee if anthelmintic products are purchased on receipt of the results. Our in-house testing service will give results within 24 hours and will identify worm eggs, coccidiosis and liver fluke.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

MASTERING MEDICINES COURSE

We have 2 provisional dates for these courses, which are essential for farms with Red Tractor Farm Assurance.

If you would like to sign up for 5th May or 25th May, please let us know. Cost £70 + VAT.

SMALLHOLDERS LAMENESS MEETING

20th April at 7pm at Monmouthshire Livestock Market.
Free for Smallholder Club members. £15 non members.

FIRST AID FOR FEET

Lantra Certificate of Competency. Sainsbury's Farms Requirement.
24th April 9am to 5pm. Speakers: Vet Eleri Davies and Trimmer Alan Colebatch. Food Provided.
Church Farm, Llanarth NP15 2LU £280 + VAT