



FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2022

FARM ASSURANCE STANDARDS CHANGE FROM 1st MAY



There will be new FAWL standards in place from Spring 2022. **Farmers in Wales who are members of the FAWL scheme will need to have the calculation of their antibiotic usage per farm species completed by their vet on the WLBP AMU Calculator.** Our practice

management software has been updated so that we can easily do this when we carry out the annual Health and Welfare review. We have been carrying out a similar process on the dairy farms for a few years and the progress they have made in reducing the amount of antibiotics used from one year to the next is very easy to see.

**SHEEP SCANNING
NOW AVAILABLE
CALL FOR DETAILS**

Spring Opening Hours

The practice will be open every Saturday from 5th February until 30th April 8:30am to 12:30pm

**FOR EMERGENCIES
CALL 01873 840167**

Streptococcus dysgalactiae is the most common cause of joint ill in UK lambs and is also an issue in other countries. There have been some recent publications that add some interesting information about this condition – although it should be noted that the research was carried out in different climates and management systems.

New Zealand: An outbreak in a large outdoor lambing research flock allowed some data to be collected. This showed that: Mortality to weaning in affected lambs was 14.5% compared to 4.6% in unaffected lambs; affected lambs were 4.5kg lighter than unaffected lambs at weaning; lambs born between days 13 to 18 were 5.6 x more likely to be affected than lambs born in days 1 to 6, and lambs born in the worst affected paddocks were 7.7 x more likely to be affected. So, this demonstrated that there were major production effects, lambs born later in the lambing period were more likely to be infected and infections were more likely in certain paddocks i.e., contaminated ones.

Norway: Indoor lambing flocks were monitored and samples collected for S. dysgalactiae PCR testing. The results in the table are for 24 flocks, 9 of which had an outbreak (>5% of lambs affected) during the study.

Sample	Outbreak flock % of samples PCR +ve	Non outbreak flock % of samples PCR +ve
Ewe vagina	48	20.5
Udder skin	70.8	30.3
Environment	81.5	37.9
Navel	92.6	34.3
Ear tag site	100	34.6

This study shows that the bacteria that cause joint ill are present in the vagina, on the udders, in the environment, on the navel and at ear tagging sites, and more sheep tested positive in these sites in flocks with problems. **To prevent infection to limit environmental bacterial challenge, improve navel and skin hygiene at tag sites, particularly as lambing progresses,** so cleaning pens between ewes, using teat wipes before the lambs suck, disinfecting ears and tagging equipment (or delaying tagging) and double dipping navels may all help.

Time to think about Fly Control

The slightest rise in temperature can see fly populations increase rapidly; if left untreated fly populations could:

- Reduce milk yield by up to 20%
- Increase incidence of summer mastitis
- Reduce sheep reproduction and downgrade wool

A strategic plan to tackle these parasites will be to treat cattle and sheep early in the grazing season, before insects reach their peak levels of breeding. This could be as early as March in some regions.

Other Benefits of Spotinor: Simple dosing - no need to weigh animals, easy spot-on application and for use year-round; effective for up to eight weeks.



JOKE TIME!!!

There's a fine line between success and failure in international rugby. It's called Hadrian's Wall.

WALES BADGER FOUND DEAD PROJECT

Farm First Vets are part of the network of veterinary practices across Wales which act as drop-off centres for dead badgers which are sent for post-mortem. The results are used to provide useful information on the nature of Bovine TB within the badger population across Wales.

Let us know if you see a dead badger.

BCVA have released the following guidance on using Hip Hoists.

Move cow onto soft, clean bedding. Deep straw, deep sand (20cm minimum) in a confined space, so the cow cannot drag herself around. Provide good quality feed and clean fresh water at all times. Roll, turn or lift cow every 3-4 hours to prevent, or at least reduce, the onset of tissue damage. A hip hoist can be a useful tool to lift 'downer' cows to prevent them from suffering pressure related injury. The criteria for use is:

- The cow must be free from injury such as broken leg, dislocated hip or other joint damage.
- The cow should be checked for signs of illness or metabolic disease e.g., toxic mastitis, milk fever and treated accordingly.
- Whenever possible, only lift cows over a soft surface e.g., straw bed or pasture.
- Ensure adequate height over the cow for her to be safely lifted using a loader.
- Attach the hip hoist firmly around the tuber coxae as indicated by the red area in the diagram:
- Lift the cow slowly with a loader or tractor as vertically as possible until in a normal weight bearing position. The idea is just to help the cow to stand, not to lift her up in the air.
- If the cow will stand, leave her with the hoist on for 15-20 mins. If she won't bear weight, lower her down again after 2-3 mins.
- If she is unable to support her front end, she may require additional support of her front legs. Consider using a strap behind her front legs in her girth area.
- Don't remove the hoist from the cow in a standing position unless you are certain she is fully weight bearing and there is no risk of her staggering onto concrete.
- Ensure the primary cause of recumbency has been rectified or is under an effective treatment regime.
- Consider the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, such as Metacam (2.5ml per 100kg s/c), Allevinix, if no retained afterbirth (1ml per 25kg IM) or Rimadyl (1ml per 35kg s/c) as indicated.

