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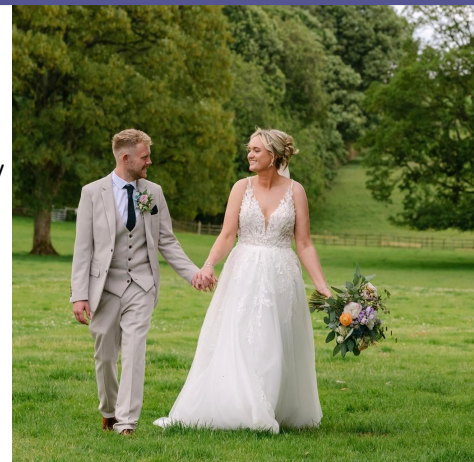
FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - JULY 2025

Congratulations Mr & Mrs Moran

A huge congratulations to our Farm Administrator Louise, who tied the knot with her long term partner Ashley on Saturday 14th June.

The wedding service was held at Hellifield church followed by a marquee down the road at The Peel Park. The heavens opened whilst Louise was making her way into church, but the clouds soon disappeared allowing the sun to shine on the couple's perfect, picturesque venue where their special day continued long into the night.

Congratulations again Mr and Mrs Moran and a big thank you from all of us at Dalehead for inviting us to be part of your special day.



CHOLIVITE PRODUCTS

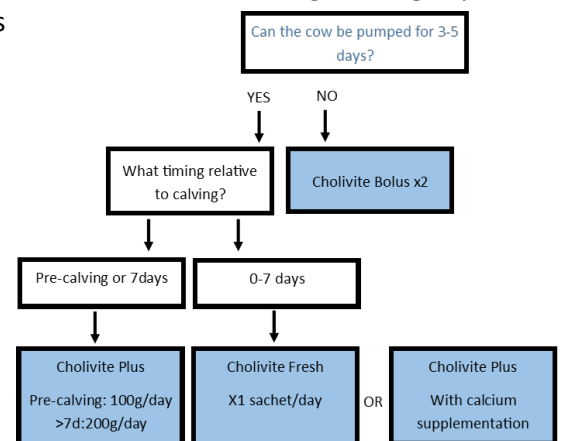
No sign of Kexxtone returning but Choline might just be the next best thing! **Credit goes to one of our biggest Kexxtone fans for this discovery - A Choline and Methionine bolus for fresh cows that are at risk of fatty liver and ketosis.**

Over conditioned cows and 'SOFT' cows in general (Sick, Old, Fat, Twins) are at risk of ketosis after calving with big impacts on health and yield. Kexxtone made the cow more efficient as monensin increases propionate production to reduce ketosis whereas choline and methionine work to help make the liver better at exporting fat rather than storing it or burning it inefficiently.

So are Choline boluses a direct replacement for Kexxtone - definitely not, but are they beneficial? Yes - they will:

- Reduce the risk of fatty liver
- Reduce the risk of immune dysfunction
- Reduce the risk of ketosis
- Increase yield
- Support cows after a twisted stomach operation

To learn more we are hosting a meeting on Cholivite boluses and Cholivite fresh cow drenches on 6th August, 12.30. Please ring the surgery to book your place



NATIONAL JOHNES MANAGEMENT PLAN

As part of the Red Tractor Farm Assurance requirements, all dairy farmers are required to sign up to the National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP). As part of surveillance to find out the level of infection in the herd, there is now a minimum requirement to carry out a 60 individual cow testing of animals selected at random in the herd (previously there was a need for a 30 cow targeted testing of the highest risk cows) to establish an average test value (ATV) for Johnes in the herd with an objective to reduce the ATV year by year and to be below 5.5 by 2030. Many herds tested by the practice already have an ATV of below 5.5.

There is no need to wait until your Red Tractor Farm Assurance is due, we can carry out your Johnes testing and complete your 2025 Johnes declaration at any stage during the year.

HEAT STRESS IN CALVES

As we move into the heat of summer it's important to be aware of the risk of heat stress in calves as it can lead to **reduced growth rates and suppressed immunity**. Heat stress in calves **typically occurs over 25°C** but in humid conditions it can cause issues from 21°C.

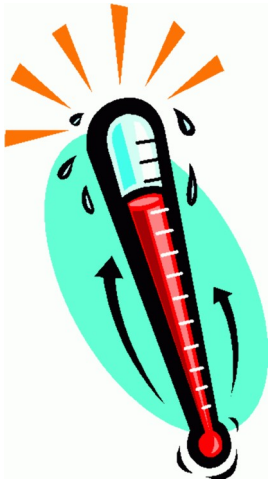
Calves in the first few weeks of life are particularly vulnerable as their lungs aren't fully developed and they also can't regulate their own temperature as efficiently as older animals. So, in hot weather **calves may use up to 20–30% more energy just to stay cool**.

Common signs of heat stress include:

- Increased respiratory rate
- Reduced milk intake
- Increased water consumption
- and more time spent standing and sweating.

If you notice any of these changes, you can **check the temperature at calf height** - and take steps to reduce heat burden. To help manage heat stress, ensure there is adequate shade and ventilation, but avoid strong draughts.

Clean water must be refreshed regularly and potentially increase the quantity/concentration of milk to **correct energy expenditure**. Feeding during the cooler parts of the day can also improve milk intake and reduce the risk of milk spoilage.



As temperatures rise, so does the rate of bacterial growth—making colostrum and milk hygiene more important than ever. Even the best-quality **colostrum can lose its effectiveness if it's contaminated**, as bacteria compete with antibodies in the calf's gut and reduce passive transfer. Even at room temperature, **bacteria numbers can double every 20 mins**, so it is vital to feed colostrum as soon as possible after collection or cool it rapidly to 4°C for storage.

Buckets, feeding tubes, and teats can quickly become sources of infection in warmer conditions, so correct **cleaning and disinfection** of equipment is essential.

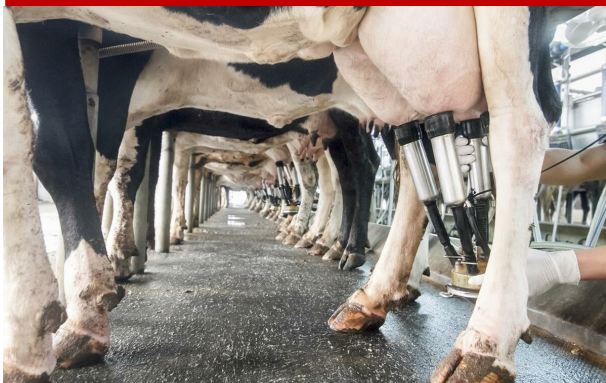
Calves already suffering from scour are especially vulnerable to dehydration and heat stress, so clean water should always be available, and electrolytes can be offered in some cases.

Bedding can also harbour higher bacterial loads, so more frequent replacement may be necessary, particularly as **heat-stressed calves have reduced immune function**.

Being proactive in managing heat stress can make a real difference to calf health and long-term growth.



SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY AND USE OF TEAT SEALANTS



Traditionally antibiotic dry cow tubes have been administered to dairy cows at dry off to clear up existing sub-clinical infections in high cell count cows by providing prolonged exposure of antibiotic to the gram positive bacteria (*Staphylococci* and *Streptococci*) that are responsible for the raised cell counts. Antibiotic dry cow tubes are of limited value in preventing new infections from being picked up during the dry period especially the late dry period when cows are 'bagging up', immunosuppressed and at their most vulnerable. The use of teat sealant tubes at drying off forms a physical barrier at the teat end to help protect the cow against new udder infections

from being picked up during the entire dry period and can be appropriate for use on all cows at drying off with or without additional antibiotic dry cow tubes.

Strict hygiene measures need to be carried out when administering any intramammary tubes and especially non-antibiotic teat sealant tubes.

Teat sealant tubes can be used as part of a summer mastitis prevention programme on cows which are dry during the peak summer mastitis risk months.

For more information on teat sealants or selective dry cow therapy, speak to one of our farm vets.

TICK CONTROL - A FARM SPECIFIC STRATEGY



All roads lead to Sykes Farm Dunsop Bridge, the centre of the UK, when we had a great turnout to our Flockclub meeting a couple of weeks ago. Huge thanks to the Robinson family of Sykes farm for hosting the meeting.

Elanco sponsored our meeting with Matt Colson, Livestock Veterinary advisor, taking on his remit of “Talking Ticks” and “Pondering Pour-ons” with his usual expertise.

Over the years we have seen an increase in tick populations on fells and moorland, partially due to reduced stocking density, reduced bracken control and a warmer climate. Peak tick risk periods are usually spring and late summer/autumn with hill flocks being more at risk due to the dense vegetation, but ticks can be found in lower rough grazing pastures.

The most important species of tick is Ixodes, with a 3-host lifecycle they require a separate blood meal from a different host to survive and moult. 1 tick can take up to 5ml of blood per feed which can cause severe health issues such as anaemia, particularly in younger lambs when multiple ticks are feeding at once.

Ticks also carry some nasty diseases which can be passed to sheep, cattle, grouse, dogs and humans and can cause fertility issues especially in breeding males. Particular care is required when new sheep are brought onto a farm with ticks, and must be introduced well ahead of the breeding season and protected from ticks using an acaricide product.

The main diseases carried by ticks are:

Disease	Species Affected	Clinical signs	Treatment	Prevention
Tick-borne fever	Sheep Cattle	Fever, off colour, immunosuppression and abortion in naive in lamb ewes	Early disease can be treated with appropriate antibiotics and anti-inflammatories	Immunity built with exposure
Louping ill	Sheep Cattle Grouse	Wobbly or drunken gait, trembling, seizures and sudden death	Anti-inflammatories	Immunity passed in colostrum of exposed ewes. Exposure as young lambs
Lamb pyaemia	Sheep	Lameness, paralysis and death in lambs caused by internal abscesses	Treatment is difficult and often unrewarding	Good general health and colostrum intake
Babesiosis (red water)	Cattle	Red coloured urine, off colour, temperature	Imidocarb, blood transfusion and TLC	Good general health and colostrum intake in young animals
Lyme disease	Dogs Humans Horses	Fever, lameness, arthritis, renal failure and meningitis in dogs. Bullseye rash and flu-like symptoms in humans	Early disease can be treated with appropriate antibiotics and anti-inflammatories	Long-acting tick preventatives for dogs

So how can we control the tick population in your flock?

There are a range of effective pour-ons licensed for the control of ticks on sheep. We must ensure we are treating animals according to accurate body weight as well as administering in a pin stripe for tick prevention to reduce the risk of acaricide resistance on your farm. Every farm is different, and it is important to create a plan which suits your flock and farm – please speak to one of our farm vets for a specific plan for your flock.

Drug	Product	Control	Withdrawal period
Cypermethrin	Crovect	Up to 10 weeks	8 days
Cypermethrin	Ectofly	Treatment only	8 days
Deltamethrin	Spotinor	6 weeks	35 days
Alpha-cypermethrin	Dysect	8-12 weeks	49 days
Diazinon	Gold Fleece Sheep Dip	6 weeks	49 days

Unfortunately, these products are not licensed for tick prevention and treatment in cattle - please speak to one of our farm vets for advice on tick control in cattle.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UPDATE JUNE 2025

The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway have updated the guidelines which now allows farmers in England to get a funded vet visit for each of their flocks or herd of the same species. This means that a farmer managing several flocks of sheep or herds of cattle within the same business can get support, not just for a single herd or flock. For example, if you have 3 flocks of sheep, you can now apply for funding for all 3. With a vet of your choice, each visit includes:

- Testing for endemic diseases: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) in cattle and worming resistance in sheep
- A tailored health and welfare discussion with your vet
- Practical advice to support productivity, animal welfare and your business.

You can also choose to have a follow-up visit focused on deeper sampling, biosecurity planning and action on priority diseases. Both the initial vet visit and the follow-up are part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, which is designed to help farmers build healthier, more resilient livestock systems.

You can access a review and follow-up roughly once a year for each eligible herd or flock.

REVIEW FUNDING	FOLLOW UP FUNDING
•£436 for sheep	•£639 for sheep
•£522 for beef cattle	•£215 for cattle (where no BVD is present)
•£372 for dairy cattle	•£837 for beef cattle (where BVD is present)
	•£1,714 for dairy cattle (where BVD is present)

- If your agreement number starts with AHWR, you'll need to apply for a new agreement.

For more information, please contact the surgery or visit: <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/26/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway-multiple-herds-now-eligible-for-vet-visit-funding/>

How to get a funded vet visit:

It takes only a few minutes to apply.

If you have an existing vet visits agreement:

- If your agreement number starts with IAHW, the RPA will update it automatically. You can book reviews for additional herds or flocks of the same species straight away.

LAB UPDATE

Our vet tech team have been busy in the lab throughout June – especially with lamb faecal samples. From our testing, we have found that there is still a relatively high Nematodirus count, and the strongyle numbers are creeping up as we head into summer.

Our vet tech team have been working alongside vets and farmers to monitor dose efficacy on farms through faecal egg reduction tests (FERTs). We have had some interesting results that will be presented at our Flock Club meeting later in the season. From these findings, we would like to emphasise on the importance of not only bringing pre drench samples to us but also post drench samples. In doing this, we can really test how well your doses are working on your farm and can check for any resistance to certain doses. We would also like to address the importance of testing other groups within your flock. We understand that lambs take high priority throughout summer, however, shearlings for example can also harbour quite a high worm burden at this time of year if they have not been exposed to the same species of worms that were presented last year. Pre-tupping is just around the corner for some of you, so don't forget to sample the boys to get them into tip top condition before the breeding season.

Therefore, please consider bringing in some samples from different age groups to see where your worm status is at. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact the surgery and speak to one of our farm vets.

GREAT NORTH RUN - GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Our Practice Manager Emma is taking part in this year's Great North Run on Sunday 7th September to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Over the years we have seen several Guide Dog puppies in training at the practice and know the enormous difference they make to people's lives.

The run is a half marathon (13.1 miles or 21.1 km) and Emma hopes to raise £650 for this amazing cause. If you would like to help by sponsoring her, please scan the QR code (right) which will take you directly to Emma's fundraising page.

Thank you and good luck Emma!



JULY
2025



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

