

TEL: 01729 823538

## FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2025

### BLUETONGUE VACCINATION

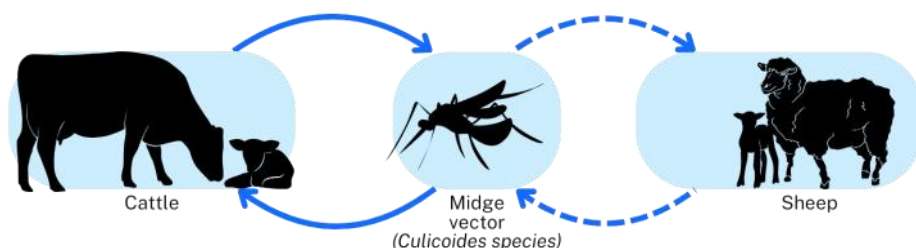
As you will all know, the whole of Lancashire and most of Yorkshire has recently been included in a Bluetongue Restriction Zone due to evidence of historical spread of Bluetongue Virus in Lancashire. From 1<sup>st</sup> July the whole of England is to be included in the same Bluetongue Restriction Zone. This all makes us think how great the risk of Bluetongue to our livestock is likely to be this year.

**While no one is able to say with certainty how widespread Bluetongue infection will be this summer, what we do know is that the cost of protecting stock through vaccination is minimal compared to the consequences of the infection entering a herd of cows or flock of sheep that hasn't been protected.**

Vaccine is now available to protect cattle (2 doses 3 weeks apart with immunity developing 3 weeks after the 2nd injection) and sheep (1 dose required with immunity developing in 3 weeks).

If you haven't already done so, please speak to one of the farm vets to discuss the potential impact of Bluetongue infection and whether you should consider vaccination.

For more information regarding bluetongue restrictions and movements, please visit the government website:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bluetongue-information-and-guidance-for-livestock-keepers#spot-and-report-it>

### OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY PHONE LINE

We have recently updated our telephone system and no longer need to use a different number to contact the emergency out of hours receptionist.

**You now just ring the normal surgery number – 01729 823538**

**and press 9 to be connected out of hours.**

The old out of hours number will be discontinued in the near future so please delete this from your mobiles and just use the normal surgery number.

All of our calls are answered by experienced members of our own staff (Ruth, Tracy, Kat and Natalie) rather than a remote answering service with no local knowledge. We believe that this is an important part of an independent local practice providing an effective and reliable 24-hour service.



## EARLY LAMBING IN EWES – REGULIN IMPLANTS



Although we are still seeing the occasional late lambing ewe requiring assistance at the surgery it is already time for early lambing flocks to start thinking of preparing ewes for the tup.

Regulin ear implants can be used to bring forward the natural breeding season by up to 2 months. In a treatment regime, tups are kept away from the ewes (out of sight, sound and smell of the ewes) for at least 1 week prior to inserting the implants in the base of the ear, until 5 weeks after implanting.

**Peak mating takes place 60-70 days after implanting the ewes. To begin lambing at the start of February, Regulin should be administered at the start of July.** We would recommend a tup: ewe ratio of 1:20 but we can also implant the tup to improve the quantity and quality of semen produced.

**The advantages of using Regulin over sponging include:**

- Conception rates are as good as to a totally natural service with no increase in multiple births
- Sheep that don't conceive to their first mating will continue to cycle normally and not return to anoestrus

For more information about Regulin please speak to one of the farm vets.

## HOW CAN WE MAXIMISE GROWTH RATES IN LAMBS THIS SUMMER?



Alongside high worm burdens, cobalt/B12 deficiencies can be an important cause of ill thrift and decreased weight gains in growing lambs. Cobalt is made into vitamin B12 by rumen micro-organisms and from there plays an important role in energy production – vital for good growth rates and a healthy immune system.

Young lambs usually receive adequate cobalt/B12 through their mother's milk but as they start to eat more grass, deficiencies become more likely, especially in lambs with high worm burdens causing diarrhoea which can further reduce the absorption of B12 in the gut.

We can diagnose cobalt/B12 deficiency from clinical signs and a blood sample in conjunction with worm egg counts to investigate high worm burdens and coccidiosis.

Supplementation of cobalt/B12 can be given in various ways:

- Cobalt drenches tend to be popular because they are cheap (often 3-5p per lamb) but as the body cannot store cobalt, blood B12 levels will only be raised for a few days post-drench.
- Injectable forms of vitamin B12 offer longer term supplementation, from 2-6 months depending on the dose, ideal for fattening lambs shorter term or gimmer replacements longer term. **Injectable B12 often works out the most cost-effective compared to drenches and boluses** (3 months B12 cover approximately 20p, 6 months cover 40p).
- Boluses (e.g. SmartTrace 24/7 Lamb Boluses) offer 5-6 months of supplementation by slowly releasing cobalt into the rumen. Selenium, iodine and copper may be included in the boluses. Care must be taken when administering boluses to lambs to avoid dosing gun injuries and should only be given to lambs over 20kg.

To summarise, know the trace element status of your flock and combine supplementation with adequate nutrition and regular worm egg counts to maximise productivity of your flock.

***The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway scheme can be used to subsidise trace element blood testing once the initial review has been carried out. To learn more please telephone the surgery.***





# NADIS FORECAST — HIGH RISK!

Blowfly strike is caused by the larvae of *Lucilia sericata* (greenbottles), *Phormia terrae-novae* (blackbottles) and *Calliphora erythrocephala* (bluebottles). The life cycle is broken up into three distinct stages; the egg, the larvae and the adult. Flies over-winter in the soil as pupae, and emerge as temperatures rise during the spring. Adult female flies lay eggs on desired laying sites such as dirty back ends, foot rot lesions or open wounds. Eggs hatch into first stage larvae within approximately 12 hours. These larvae feed on tissue, grow and moult twice, becoming mature maggots in 3 to 10 days, depending on temperature and humidity. Third stage maggots then drop to the ground and pupate, and so the life cycle begins again.

Blowfly populations are at peak during the summer months. The entire life cycle from egg to adult can occur in less than 10 days. Maggots are active and voracious, causing skin and muscle liquefaction as they develop attracting secondary blowflies. Toxins released by decomposing tissues and ammonia secreted by the maggots are absorbed through the lesions into the sheep's blood, causing systemic illness which can result in death.

Managing worm burdens helps to prevent dirty backsides through scouring. 'Dagging' or 'crutching' decreases the amount of faecal matter build up which will help reduce the risk of blowfly strike. Hooves which are in good health and are free from

## What is blowfly strike?



The greenbottle, *Lucilia sericata*, is the most common blowfly associated with strike.



Damage is caused by blowfly maggots feeding on the skin and underlying tissues of sheep.



It can happen quickly – significant damage can occur in as little as 24-36 hours after egg laying.<sup>2</sup>

|            | Meat Withdrawal | June     | July | August | September | October | November |
|------------|-----------------|----------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Clik Extra | 40 Days         | 19 Weeks |      |        |           |         |          |
| Clik       | 40 Days         | 16 Weeks |      |        |           |         |          |
| Crovect    | 8 Days          | 6 Weeks  |      |        |           |         |          |
| Dysect     | 49 Days         | 8 Weeks  |      |        |           |         |          |
| Ectofly    | 8 Days          | 6 Weeks  |      |        |           |         |          |

foot-rot or severe scald will also assist in reducing the risk of blowflies becoming attracted and laying eggs.

In addition to the above points there are chemical based products which can be applied onto the fleece that will prevent the incidence of blowfly strike. Dicyclanil based products (**Clik: 16 weeks protection, Clik extra: 19 weeks protection**) will prevent blowfly strike but

will not treat active blowfly strike. Due to the prolonged protection, many of those who use the products apply at first worm dose. The product spreads and binds to the lanolin, providing full fleece protection. The product is applied as per the weight of the lamb (e.g. a 10-20kg lamb receives 20ml of product). Clik and Clik Extra are Insect Growth Regulators (IGR); the products stop blowfly larvae developing to the damaging second and third stage maggots, which cause flystrike.

OP dips can treat and prevent blowfly strike as well as other external parasite infections for up to 60 days.

**It is stated in the datasheet not to shear sheep for 3 months post treatment relating to human health.**

Cypermethrin (**Crovect, Ectofly**) based products can also be used to prevent blowfly strike and treat active blowfly strike infections. These provide a shorter protection window of up to 6-8 weeks and have a shorter meat withdrawal period with no restriction as to when a sheep can be clipped.

When using any products it is essential that all the manufacturers instructions are followed. Not doing so will affect the protection and may result in sheep becoming infested. We advise that sheep severely affected by blowfly strike are given antibiotics and NSAIDs. For more information regarding blowfly prevention or for a price on products we stock please contact the surgery and speak with one of the farm vets or SQPs.



For best results, always use the 4-stroke method (pictured left) when applying CLIK and CLIKZIN to ensure an accurate spread. Apply the total required dose one quarter at a time:

- 1 1/4 from midshoulders to middle back
- 2 1/4 from middle of back to top of tail
- 3 1/4 to one side of animal's tail and crutch
- 4 1/4 to other side of animal's tail and crutch

## CLOSTRIDIAL/ PASTEURELLA VACCINES

We currently have in stock:

- Bravoxin 100ml & 50ml pack sizes
- Covexin 10 100ml

The latest update from our MSD rep regarding clostridial/pasturella vaccines is:

- Ovivac P 100ml—Anticipated to be back in stock September 2025.
- Ovivac P 500ml—No stock.
- Ovipast P—No stock of either pack size.
- Heptavac P 50ml—Anticipated to be back in stock September 2025.
- Heptavac P 100ml—Anticipated to be back in stock July 2025.
- Heptavac P 250ml—Anticipated to be back in stock June 2025.
- Heptavac P 500ml—Ongoing allocation deliveries.



If you would like to discuss your livestock clostridial/pasturella vaccination regime, please contact the surgery.

## SHEEP ABORTION VACCINE

### Enzootic Abortion Vaccine (Enzovax/Cevac)

Currently no supply issues, available in 20 dose and 50 dose bottles.

### Toxoplasma Vaccine

Currently no supply issues but because of short shelf life you need to order well in advance.

Currently an additional 5% early season discount for Toxovax orders delivered before end of July.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Responsible Use Of Medicines Course

**Tuesday 1st July, 1-3pm**

**At Dalehead Veterinary Group  
Farm Services Building**

On 1st February 2025 changes were made to Red Tractor Standards.

For our **DAIRY** clients, this included changes to medicine administration training. At least one person who is responsible for administering medicines must have undertaken a responsible use of medicine course within the last 5 years.

### Talking Ticks!

An on farm discussion about ticks with  
Matt Colston from Elanco.

**Wednesday 18th June, 6.30pm**

**At Sykes Farm, Dunsop Bridge, BB7 3BJ**

By kind permission of Steven and Helen Robinson,  
Sponsored by Elanco.

Please RSVP. Refreshments available.

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**JUNE  
2025**



[www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk)

