

Farm Newsletter

July 2018

As well as welcoming Eilidh to the farm team in July we are looking forward to welcoming Iain Brady to the team in August. Iain has spent time seeing practice with us as a student and he will be working out of the Alnwick branch. I asked him to introduce himself and here is what he had to say:

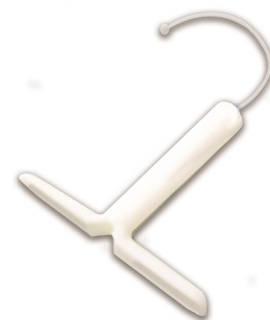
"I've grown up on a dairy and beef farm in County Meath in Ireland. I will graduate from the University of Liverpool in the next few weeks and have loved my time here, but am really looking forward to starting in Northumberland next month. Particular interests of mine include all aspects of herd health and outside of farming and veterinary I enjoy watching and playing a wide range of sports from rugby, to triathlons and horse riding."



CIDR® OVIS - Henrietta Bowie

Zoetis has launched CIDR® OVIS, a unique progesterone breeding device for sheep which has been proven to both synchronise oestrus and ovulation, as well as advancing the breeding season. CIDR OVIS has a unique 'T shape', which has been found to have low levels of local irritation meaning there is less discharge and removal issues when compared to a fluorogestone acetate (FGA) sponge. It also contains the natural hormone progesterone instead of the synthetic hormone fluorogestone acetate used in sponges, which has been shown to result in better fertility, pregnancy and twinning rates. CIDR OVIS is also useful to induce and synchronise oestrus and ovulation in non-cycling ewes during seasonal anoestrus and can also be used in cycling and non-cycling ewes to advance the breeding season.

By using CIDR OVIS to bring forward the breeding season to the summer, therefore, lambing in late December or early January means that you can get lambs away by April and May. Figures from the AHDB show lambs sold in April and May generate on average 21% greater return over those sold in the summer months, giving a possible extra £18 per 45kg lamb. You can then take advantage of the spring grass to finish lambs off. It also gives the ewes time to get back into condition before breeding. By condensing the lambing period you can reduce one of the biggest fixed costs in a sheep enterprise; lambing labour costs. In addition, synchronising oestrus and then using artificial insemination (AI) gives farmers access to superior rams without the initial purchase costs, and accelerate flock genetics. A top terminal sire can add £3.50 extra sale value per lamb per year.



One device is inserted into the vagina of each ewe to be treated. This should be left in position for 12 days followed by an injection of equine chorionic gonadotrophin (eCG, formerly known as PMSG) administered at removal. The onset of oestrus occurs within 1-2 days after removal of the device.

We plan to use this product this season, but for those who would prefer the Chronogest sponges, these are still available.

Bimeda Scab Control Meeting

Bimeda are hosting a scab control meeting on Wednesday the 25th of July at St Boswells Mart from 10am - 2.30pm. There will be two speakers who will explore sheep scab disease and the best practice for management. They will discuss plunge dipping and a mobile sheep dipper will be onsite to demonstrate his facilities. Please RSVP to rwalker@bimeda.com by Monday the 16th of July to confirm your attendance. Please include your name, email address and telephone number.

Luing Cattle Society Farm & Stock Tour

The Luing Cattle Society is hosting a farm and stock tour on the 16th of August at Lanton Estate, Marleyknowe Farm (NE71 6TG) by kind permission of Ian and Tocky McKie starting at 11am. There will be discussion topics with guest speakers, refreshments, lunch and a bar. The beneficial charities are The Teapot Trust and the Glendale Gateway Trust. All are welcome. For more information and to RSVP then email secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk, or call 01250 872897.

BVD Update

There has been a change to the Scottish BVD eradication scheme this came into effect on the 3rd of April and we just wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the change since it will affect anyone **selling cattle to Scotland**. They have implemented phase 4 of their eradication scheme and this will reward keepers who buy cattle responsibly, and will require anyone bringing in risky animals to test them for BVD or lose their BVD “negative” herd status. The risky animals are:

1. Calves born on Scottish non-breeding holdings that have not been individually tested for BVD.
2. Cattle moving off a Scottish “not negative” herd that do not have an individual negative status (either BVD test result or assumed negative from having a calf).
3. **Cattle without individual BVD test results coming from herds outside Scotland**

The full implementation of Phase 4 will mean an increase in BVD sampling for Scottish keepers who buy risky animals.

Ear tags

Just a little reminder that we can supply Denimex ear tags for cattle and sheep. For cattle we can do DEFRA combination tags, primary tags and management tags. For sheep we can supply full EID sets, EID batch tags, E-loop and loop tag, E-loop and Dentag and finally E-loop and Deniflex. We can supply applicators for the ear tags mentioned as well.

If ordered before 4pm, next day delivery is available, for an extra charge. Please contact your local surgery if you would like to order any.



Lungworm in Cattle—Henrietta Bowie

Lungworm in adult cattle is caused by the parasite *Dictyocaulus viviparus*. There is a free-living stage of the parasite on the pasture and then once the parasite is ingested it takes about 3 weeks to reach the lungs and start to cause the damage. The main source on pastures is either larvae that have survived the winter, carrier animals or larvae which remain dormant within the cattle.

The signs of infection are frequent coughing especially after exercise, and increased breathing rate at rest. If the infection is severe then the animal may stand with its head stretched out low to help it to breathe.

Cattle acquire immunity to lungworm usually in their first grazing season and the immunity lasts around 6 months, so for the average beef cow lungworm will not be a problem. The issue arises in autumn born calves since they will graze in the summer which is the risk period, unlike spring born calves which will generally still be taking some milk from the dam and are therefore not exposed to a high parasite burden. Lungworm is seen in dairy herds if cattle are housed indoors for long periods of time and the immunity drops. It can also be seen in animals which are grazed away from the farm that are not exposed and then when brought back to the farm the level of infection present can be overwhelming leading to the clinical signs.

To diagnose lungworm then a faecal sample is taken and submitted to the lab where they can identify the parasite since the larvae are coughed and swallowed and then excreted into the faeces and passed out onto pasture.

There are different options for treating lungworm in cattle. There is a vaccination, called “*Huskvac*” which is available in the spring to give pre-turnout. Anthelmintics can be used to control lungworm infection. There are various wormers available that are active against lungworm and their duration of action varies. Generally if the control of parasitic gastroenteritis is good then lungworm levels will be lower as well.

Don't Forget to Use...

- **Zolvix** and other sheep wormers for weaning.
- **Clik, Clickzin, Dysect, Ectofly** pour-ons to prevent fly strike.
- **Huskvac** lungworm vaccine.
- **Cevac Chlamydomphila** and **Toxovax** sheep abortion vaccines.