

Farm Newsletter

September 2018



Well done to all those that took part at Glendale show this year. The list of prize winners is long so congratulations to you all. In the sheep classes, congratulations to John and Ed Campbell, Andrew Proctor, Neil Howie, John Guiry, Andrew Walton, James Herdman, Alan Hutcheon, Allens of Humbleheugh, Gary Herdman, Jimmy Elliot and Richard Stott. In the cattle classes, congratulation to Dan Spours, John Campbell and the Allens of Humbleheugh. In the total livestock points competition – 2nd was James Herdman, 3rd was the Allens of Humbleheugh.

A special mention to the Allens of Humbleheugh who won the Alnorthumbria-Vets sponsored North Country Cheviot Sheep Society's English National championship. Also a special mention to John and Ed Campbell were won the reserve in the Alnorthumbria-Vets sponsored Sheep Interbreed Championship pictured below.



Injectable Flunixin is no longer licensed for food producing animals due to a problem with one of the ingredients in the solution being carcinogenic. The alternative anti-inflammatory product available is **Meloxidyl** which is given as a single injection at a dose rate of 2.5ml/100kg subcutaneously or intravenously. The meat withdrawal in cattle is 15 days and 5 days for the milk withdrawal. Resflor and Hexasol are combination products which have flunixin in them but they are fine to continue to use.

The time is coming to start thinking about semen testing tups as ideally they should be done 3-4 weeks before they are used. It is also a good opportunity to do trace element testing on flocks pre-tupping to identify mineral imbalances which can be corrected in time for tupping to ensure a good scanning percentage. As it approaches autumn then the opportunity will arise to do BVD testing on autumn calves that are 9-18 months old and remember to do the pneumonia vaccines pre-housing.

[Young farm workers evening](#)

We are holding a young farm workers evening at the Anglers Arms, Weldon Bridge on Wednesday the 17th of October starting at 6.30pm. The topics for discussion are Johnes, BVD, Leptospirosis and IBR and the aim of the evening is to have a brief run through these diseases and the methods we have for diagnosis and control on farm. Dinner will be provided. Please can you email max.ling@alnorthumbriavets.co.uk if you are interested in attending.

[BVD Stamp It Out: New funding available to control BVD](#)

This summer DEFRA has launched a new RDPE funded programme to tackle BVD in the English cattle herd. The funding is open to everyone, including farms that are already testing for BVD and that may already be members of BVD Free England and/or the PCHS. The project will consist of an initial and final cluster meetings, followed by two vet visits. The project will pay for a check test and there is some limited funding to search for PI animals if the first test shows evidence of infection in your herd. Everything will be free of charge, with the vet visits, time and lab fees funded through the project; however, attending the cluster meetings is essential to receive the funding.

We encourage everyone to join the programme, please contact us if you are interested. We will be introducing the project at the next Farm Client Meetings.

Farm Client Meetings

Tuesday 2nd October – Dyke Neuk pub, Meldon
Wednesday 3rd October – The Coquetvale Hotel, Rothbury
Thursday 4th October – The Blue Bell Hotel, Belford
All dates – hot buffet and drinks at 7pm, meeting starts 7.30pm
Kindly sponsored by Elanco Animal Health and MSD

Topics:

Handling and Administration of Medicines – It is recommended by Red Tractor Assurance that at least one member of staff per farm attends and certificates of attendance will be provided.

Delaying Resistance to Fluke Treatments – Up to date advice on when and how to treat.

Update on BVD Eradication.

Please reserve your place by calling your local branch now.

[Worm control myths for this summer \(because it has been very hot and dry\)](#) (Matt Colston BVM&S, Cert.SHP, MRCVS. Elanco Ruminant Technical Consultant)

1) **The hot dry weather has killed off all the worms.**

Partly true, the hot dry weather will have killed the larval stages but the eggs deposited by grazing animals will be viable and will soon start hatching now conditions are more favourable.

2) **As it has been very hot and dry, there will be no parasite problems this summer.**

Not true, there are still areas of some fields on most farms which are moist enough to shelter parasites to allow them to “behave normally”. There have been high worm egg counts in lambs this summer and SRUC in Dumfries have had fatal cases of lungworm in calves.

3) **It will take months for the pasture parasite population to proliferate.**

Not true. On most farms there are areas where parasites can still continue with their normal lifecycle and the worm eggs excreted onto the pasture over the summer will hatch now wet conditions have returned.

4) **What do the ‘eggs in waiting’ need to allow them to hatch?**

Just a bit of moisture and warmth to allow the eggs to hatch and then become infective about 2 weeks after the rainfall.

5) **I won’t need to treat lambs yet because the worm challenge will take time to build.**

Not true. After a hot dry spell, the ‘eggs in waiting’ could mostly develop and hatch together (a bit like the mass hatch of Nematodirus in the spring) giving a sudden high challenge. Advise your farmers to be on the lookout, as worm levels in lambs could reach damaging levels with little or no warning.

Adult sheep will maintain their immunity to worms through the summer, so are unlikely to need any treatment. Deciding on how best to tackle this challenge in lambs, will depend to some extent on previous treatments, and the number of worms surviving in the lambs after those treatments.

What to do next?

It may be time for your mid/late season break dose for lambs. SCOPS recommends the use of group 4AD or group 5SI wormers for the mid/late season break dose for lambs, to remove the worms that have survived previous treatments that could be limiting performance.

Speak to your vet to discuss when to use Zolvix™ for your break dose for lambs.



Don't Forget to Use...

- **Cevac Chlamydia** and **Toxovax** abortion vaccines.
- **Rispoval 4** pneumonia vaccine.
- **Trace element boluses.**
- **Endofluke** or **Fasinex** fluke drench for cattle and sheep.
- **Rotavec** to prevent scour in autumn calves.
- **Zolvix** as a break dose for mid/late season lambs and as a quarantine dose for bought in stock.