



alnorthumbria  
veterinary group

# Newsletter

June 2019

With lambing over and the show season kicking off, livestock are at grass which allows for more time spent elsewhere on farm.

We have been out recently, scanning Autumn calving herds and testing bulls, ready to be put out with Spring calvers, all with reassuringly good results.

Looking forward to the summer with regards to this year's lamb crop, we would encourage you to continue to drop in samples, for worm egg counts if concerned.



## Teaser Tups

Teaser tups, or vasectomised rams, are used in flocks across the country. They can be used when synchronising ewes— their use in a flock leads to a stronger heat, in more animals so priming the ewes ready for the introduction of the breeding rams. When used correctly, teasers can be a simple and effective way of tightening your lambing period, and helping to improve management around lambing.

We recommend the vasectomy surgery is carried out at least eight weeks before the teaser is to be used. Shearling tups, or well grown tup lambs can be used, though the animals should also be fit and well .

## Be Nematodirus Aware

So far this year, we have had reasonably good weather, especially compared to last year! Despite this, we are far from being out of the risk period for *Nematodirus* infection in lambs.

*Nematodirus* is a lamb-lamb parasite, with eggs over wintering on the pasture and hatching out when conditions are right the following year. This requires both sun and rainfall. *Nematodirus* does not affect adult animals.

Risk assessment, preventative measures and rapid action is the best way to tackle *Nematodirus* outbreaks. Some ideas are outlined below:

- Use the NADIS forecast for up-to-date risk assessment for your area. This provides a good prediction to use alongside other measures.
- Try to avoid infection— where possible do not graze lambs on land that was grazed by lambs last year.
- Dose at-risk animals with a white drench, if unable to avoid contaminated pasture. Ensure the drench has worked with a faecal egg count 10 days after dosing.
- Monitor other worm burdens through faecal egg counts throughout the grazing season.

## Don't Forget to Use:

**Clik, Clik Extra** or **Clikzin** in sheep, to prevent blowfly strike.

**Swish** in cattle, to reduce fly worry and other fly related problems.

**Ovovac P Plus** vaccination for lambs.

Anti-coccidials and wormers in lambs.

Boluses or injections to reduce trace element deficiencies in lambs.

# Dropping Like Flies

With summer fast approaching, and livestock at grass, there are a new set of issues to be concerned with, and flies are one of these issues. Flies and their associated diseases, can cause problems in both sheep and cattle.

## Cattle- Mastitis, Milk Drop and New Forest eye

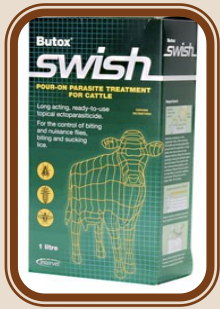
Flies in cattle can lead to three main issues.

Summer mastitis, caused by flies spreading bacteria around the teats and udder. This is seen in non-lactating cows and heifers, with signs ranging from slight swelling of the affected quarter to a systemically unwell cow, with an obviously swollen udder.

Swarming of flies, especially around dairy animals at grass, can lead to milk drop, through decreased feed intake as time is taken trying to avoid the nuisance flies. 'New Forest Eye' is a highly contagious eye infection, caused by a bacteria, that is spread by flies. This condition causes painful eyes, that weep and may have pus around them. If left untreated, this can lead to ulceration and blindness.

Where possible, routine procedures such as castrations and dehorning, should be performed early or late in the season, in order to minimise the risk from flies.

We recommend spot-on treatments for cattle, to reduce the risk of these problems.



## Sheep– Blowfly Strike

Blowflies lay eggs in dirty or wet fleece, which hatch out with the maggots causing damage to skin and underlying muscle, if left untreated. This leads to both economic losses and potential welfare issues.

Preventative measures in sheep Include tail docking lambs,

examining the flock regularly and keeping up to date with worming, to minimise soiling of fleeces. At-risk animals should be treated with a suitable dip, pour on or spot-on, with the aim of repelling flies and hence preventing flystrike.

## Tour D'Alnorthumbria

A team of staff including vets, nurses, receptionists and support staff from Alnorthumbria Vets are aiming to raise as much money as possible for 2 fantastic charities by cycling over 180km around all 8 branches over the August bank holiday weekend. To some this may not sound like a huge challenge over 3 days however the majority of the team have absolutely no cycling experience at all and 4 of the team have had to buy a bike specifically for this challenge (a huge thanks to Adam at The Bike Shop - Alnwick for all the support so far)! With only 3 months to train and not very much spare time it will be no easy feat.

The scenic route has been carefully planned by Ted Liddle (tedliddle.uk) and will start and end in Wooler and travel via Rothbury, Ponteland, Morpeth, Ashington, Amble, Alnwick and Seahouses.

We are training individually and as a group (with coffee and cake breaks, of course!) and it is looking like it is going to be a steep learning curve for a few of our brave cyclists!

We are fundraising for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution who provides help and support to those within the agricultural sector who fall on harder times.

We are also raising money for StreetVet who provides free veterinary care to the companions of homeless people across the UK.

To donate please visit the corresponding pages at:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tourdalnorthumbria](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tourdalnorthumbria) to donate to R.A.B.I. and

[www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/tourdalnorthumbria](http://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/tourdalnorthumbria) to donate to Street Vet

Please give generously!



## Red Tractor Medicines Evening– a Date for the Diary

Our **final** Medicines Training evening will be held on 23rd September 2019.

The evening will include a talk on Medicines, as well as a talk on Trace Element Supplementation of Sheep.

This will be held at Breamish Hall, Powburn at 7pm for prompt 7.30 pm start.

Food and drink will be provided, with the meeting open to all and free of charge.

Certificates of attendance will be provided after the meeting, for those on the Red Tractor assurance scheme.

The evening is kindly being sponsored by Bimeda.

