



STATION ROAD, SETTLE, BD24 9AA
 MAIN STREET, HIGH BENTHAM, LA2 7LE
 GIBBURN AUCTION MART, BE7 4EE

24 hour
 Dedicated
 Farm Cover

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FARM NEWSLETTER February 2015

Lameness in Housed Sheep

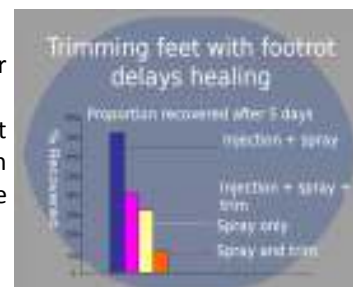
At our annual sheep meeting on 20th January we discussed that the vast majority of lameness in sheep was due to footrot, CODD or scald, all of which are infections that can spread from sheep to sheep very easily when sheep are housed.

Footrot is caused by a bacteria, Dichelobacter Nodosus which will not survive off the sheep for more than 7-10 days so the main route of spread is by infected lame sheep contaminating bedding and passing the infection on to other sheep.

Treatment

Research has shown that the preferred treatment for adult ewes with CODD, footrot or scald is a long acting antibiotic injection and an antibiotic spray for all four feet.

Alamycin LA may be the antibiotic of choice for fattening lambs (nine days meat withdrawal) whereas Hexasol LA provides long acting antibiotic cover with a built in painkiller. DO NOT TRIM THE FEET OF LAME SHEEP. This delays healing and infection can be passed from sheep to sheep on the foot trimmers.



Avoiding spread of infection

1. Prompt treatment of lame sheep.
2. Treat lame sheep and place in separate group at housing. Footbath the 'clean' group if footbathing facilities available using 3% formalin (walk through) or 10% Zinc Sulphate (stand in) and stand on concrete for up to one hour after bathing to allow solution to soak in. The footrot organism thrives in warm, moist bedding so avoid overcrowding and use plenty of clean bedding materials. Consider sprinkling lime around feed areas, water bowls etc.
3. Cull chronically infected sheep. If a sheep does not respond after two to three treatments then it should be culled as it is just acting as a source of infection for other sheep.



Vaccination

95% of flocks have footrot, many farms having up to 10% sheep lame at any one time, many of which are due to footrot. There is a very good footrot vaccine (Footvax) which is extremely effective at reducing the incidence of footrot in flocks when used as part of a control programme. For more information about Footvax please speak to one of the farm vets.

For details of the full presentation from this year's Sheep Meeting, please go to our website—www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

SLAUGHTER CERTIFICATES

When arranging an emergency on farm slaughter certificate, please ring the surgery **BEFORE YOU RING THE SLAUGHTERMAN**. This allows us to confirm that the animal is suitable for the scheme and also for us to liaise with the slaughterman directly to ensure we can both be there. If we are not involved at this time, we can not guarantee a vet will be available. **WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE SIGNED CERTIFICATES** as we are agreeing the time of shooting and therefore have to be there!

Please ring on 01729 823538 and speak to Anne or Kate

Thank you

Lungworm

During late summer and autumn of 2014 both locally and nationally there was a rise in the number of cases of lungworm. This may have been due to environmental conditions allowing a large build up of infective larvae on certain pastures. Another contributing factor could be the decline in the number of youngstock which are now vaccinated for lungworm.

Where cattle are going out to graze, vaccination remains the best method of lungworm protection.

Lungworm vaccine (Bovilis Huskvac) is an oral vaccine with two doses given four weeks apart, calves should be at least 8 weeks of age before first vaccination. Animals should not be allowed to graze until **2 two weeks after** the second dose.

For more information regarding lungworm and its control, please contact one of the farm vets on 01729 823538.



Flock Health Package

At the very popular annual Sheep Meeting we launched our new Flock Health Package.

This yearly package includes:-

- A written flock health plan
- 2 visits a year (health plan discussions, pre-lambing ewe visit, condition scoring and blood sampling)
- Blood sampling investigations (BHB—energy status pre-lambing x 5, mineral levels x 5 and barren ewe samples x 6)
- Tup pre-breeding physical examinations (excluding semen examination)
- Worm egg counts (pre-drench, post-drench, mid-grazing season and as required by the flock plan)
- Dosing gun calibration
- Post mortems
- Vaccine reminders
- Entitlement to 50% discount on vasectomies
- Entitlement to 50% discount on semen testing

This affordable package costs £250 + vat which **represents a 33% overall discount**. For this you will receive quality informed advice, a flock plan which complies to FABBL (Farm Assured British Beef and Lamb) and detailed investigations. You will be able to minimise unnecessary treatments, effectively target your vets costs while identifying diseases early and increasing your productivity.

For any more details or to sign up to our Flock Health Package, please ring the surgery and speak to Simon or Karen.

Herd and Flock Health Plans

Due to Red Tractor regulations the vets are **not** signing to say that the Herd Health Plan exists and is suitable.

The vets **are** signing to say that they have analysed performance figures from the farm and are aware of the performance and welfare of the animals as well as having made recommendations based upon agreed targets.



Doing slightly more than the bare minimum as per Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme allows the vets a good insight to the farm's operation and has allowed many useful inputs which have improved profitability from previous herd health plans.

The vets can update or create a plan for any farm enterprise. They can visit and discuss all aspects of health, welfare and productivity on farm. The surgery can also arrange and perform a *free* mobility score (at present funded by the practise). We require at **least two weeks** notice to be able to fully complete your visits, arrange mobility scoring and complete the latest paperwork.

Please ring the surgery with **plenty** of notice on 01729 823538

Worming sheep around lambing time (periparturient worm dose)

Worm larvae picked up off pasture by grazing ewes between November and February burrow into the stomach wall of the ewe and remain there in a dormant state until activated around lambing time when the inhibited larvae complete their development to become egg laying adults. These inhibited larvae are important for 2 reasons:

- They can be responsible for scours and ill-thrift particularly in hogs
- When the inhibited overwintered larvae inside the ewes mature into egg laying adult worms around lambing time they can result in significant numbers of worm eggs being deposited on pasture which can infect lambs

Because the inhibited worm larvae do not lay eggs until they complete their development, performing worm egg counts on dung samples from ewes are of very limited value at this time of the year.

The most important time of year to consider worming ewes is just before or just after lambing (periparturient worm dose) with a wormer effective against inhibited overwintered larvae.

Albendazole drenches (Albex) will be effective against inhibited larvae and by giving 1 1/2 times the worm dose, will also treat adult fluke.

Closamectin sheep injection is highly effective as a periparturient worm dose and will treat adult and immature flukes and can also be used as part of a scab control programme.

Cydetin drench can be used as a periparturient worm dose with a 5 week persistent effect against ostertagia.

Cydetin or Dectomax injections will treat sheep for scab as well as worms (although not fluke)

For more information about whether you should worm your ewes around lambing, which products may be most appropriate or for a quote, please contact the surgery on 01729 823538

Albex 2.5% 10L Broad spectrum multipurpose wormer £45.00 exc vat

Closamectin injection 250mls - £37.50 (30p/50kg ewe) exc vat



Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

