



STATION ROAD, SETTLE, BD24 9AA
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24 hour
 Dedicated
 Farm Cover

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FARM NEWSLETTER January 2015

Annual Sheep Meeting

Tuesday 20th January 2015 North Ribblesdale Rugby Club
 7pm for 7.30pm

Topical Sheep Issues—Lameness and Pneumonia in Housed Sheep

Although there are many benefits to be gained from housing sheep, there is also the potential for increased problems with infectious diseases such as lameness, pneumonia, scab, lice, orf and abortion. At our sheep meeting on Tuesday 20th January 2015, we shall discuss some of the major infectious disease issues encountered in housed sheep including preventing, treating and minimising the spread of footrot, CODD (digital dermatitis) and respiratory disease.

RSVP by Monday 19th January on 01729 823538

Ask for Anne or Kate to book your place and help us to confirm numbers for catering

Heifer Rearing Meeting

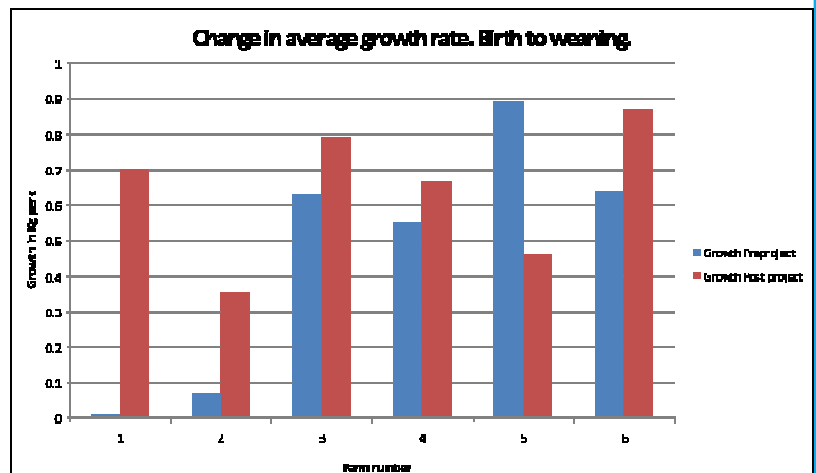
On Wednesday 10th December 2014, we held a meeting to discuss the benefits of better growth rates in dairy heifers and to give the results from a project the practice ran last year. Getting heifers big enough to serve at 15 months ensures they are likely to be the most fertile than they will ever be and will get them to calve at 24 months. Animals calving at 24 months are less likely to be fat and more likely to be more fertile, healthier, to live longer, give more milk per day of life and are less costly to rear than those calving at 27 months, 30 months or more.

To reach a sensible bulling weight at 14-15 months requires an average weight gain of 0.7-0.8kg per day, which after weaning is easy but more difficult whilst on milk. The real problem is that the growth rate *pre-weaning* has a massive effect on the rest of the animal's life. A 100g per day increase in live weight gain will cause the heifer to give an extra 300 litres in her first lactation. A faster growth rate before weaning has been shown to increase the fertility, health, and longevity of the cow as well as reducing their disease risk. This is due to the energy restrictions on growth also affecting hormones (fertility), liver and gut size (metabolism) and immune system (disease risk, health and lifespan).

Due to this 'grow fast = live longer and produce more milk' we decided to run a project to look at growth rate on some of our farms and if we could improve them. As you can see, the growth rate on our farms ranged from 0.01 to 0.9 kg per day prior to the project and all but one farm improved dramatically.

This average improvement of 0.2kg per day pre-weaning is worth;

- * 450-600l of milk
- * £26 per calf less rearing costs
- * 3 more cows reaching third lactation. Less replacements required
- * 6 spare heifers to sell over five years = £7200/ £1240 per year.



We have put together a package that will investigate, advise and improve your heifers' growth rate. For £250 for the year you will get as much time and as many visits as you require; which would be less than the savings on rearing 10 heifers or one fifth the cost of a spare heifer!

Please contact the practice on 01729 823538 or look on our website for more information

COPPER DEFICIENCY IN PREGNANT EWES

Swayback in lambs occurs as a consequence of a severe copper deficiency in ewes during mid and late pregnancy. The breed of sheep and the nature of the feed can have a big influence on the likelihood of copper deficiency. Suffolks and texels are very efficient at absorbing copper from the diet and are therefore less likely to become copper deficient than other breeds. If you are unsure of the copper status of your ewes, and are wondering whether there is a need to supplement the dietary copper, a blood test can help. Sampling six pregnant ewes can give an indication of the copper status of your flock.

If copper supplementation is required, there are a few options available;

Copper Drench

'Newhouse' or 'Swayback' drench. The amount of copper which can be given in one dose is limited because of the potential toxicity. These drenches can therefore only give a short term boost to the liver copper levels. Ewes may need to be drenched twice; firstly in mid pregnancy and again one month later. It is not advisable to treat for liver fluke at the same time as giving a copper drench.

Copper Capsules—Copinox

These are gelatine capsules containing copper oxide needles. They are administered orally to ewes either before tupping or during the first half of pregnancy. The copper needles attach to the wall of the abomasum and dissolve slowly over 3-4 weeks allowing efficient uptake and storage of copper in the liver with minimal risk of toxicity. Liver copper levels can remain increased for at least 6 months.



Copper Injections—Veticop



Copper injections give a rapid, short term (2-4 month) increase in copper levels. The injection is administered as a single 2ml subcutaneous injection during mid-pregnancy.

Please talk to one of the farm vets if you would like to discuss blood testing ewes for copper status or the various treatment options available.

01729 823538

Barren Ewe Check

Toxoplasmosis is a protozoal (coccidial type organism) infection of sheep caused by eating hay, straw, grass or concentrates contaminated by infected cat faeces. Infection can result in barren ewes, re-absorptions, abortions, still births, mummified lambs or weakly live lambs.

With this in mind, MSD (Intervet) are running a '**Barren Ewe Check**' service from the 1st January 2015 until 31st March 2015. During this time MSD will provide free laboratory testing of blood samples taken from barren or aborted ewes to check whether they have been exposed to Toxoplasmosis.

The blood sampling costs are not included in the scheme but sampling can be performed at the surgery to save visit charges.

If you are coming down to the surgery, please ring to ensure a vet is available on
01729 823538



SLAUGHTER CERTIFICATES

If you require a slaughter certificate, please telephone the surgery BEFORE you call the slaughter-man. This is so that we can co-ordinate our vets with the slaughter-man and ensure the smooth running for collection.

Please ring on 01729 823538 and speak to Anne or Kate

Thank you



Check out our website
www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk
for factsheets, presentations, staff profiles, special offers and much more!