

STATION ROAD, SETTLE BD24 9AA

MOUNT PLEASANT, HIGH BENTHAM LA2 7LE

GISBURN AUCTION MART, GISBURN BB7 4ES

TEL: 01729 823538

## FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2025

### CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS MEETING

At our recent farmer meeting meeting at the Plough Inn, Wigglesworth we discussed how Cryptosporidiosis is the most common cause of scours in calves under four weeks of age and how it seems to be more prevalent in the winter months.

#### COLOSTRUM GOLDEN RULES

3 Litres within 6 hours, 3 Litres in the next 6 hours.

Good quality colostrum should exceed 22 on a refractometer.

The rate at which a calf absorbs antibodies from colostrum decreases with time and ceases after 24 hours.

Cryptosporidial oocysts (eggs) passed in the faeces of animals carrying the infection can persist in the environment for many months and are resistant to many routinely used disinfectants. A scouring calf can contaminate the environment with millions of oocysts passed in the faeces, with less than fifty needing to be ingested by another calf to multiply up inside the intestines and cause clinical disease. Treatment with conventional antibiotics will not cure Crypto so reaching a diagnosis is extremely important.

Strict hygiene in calving boxes and calf pens as well as effective disinfection of stomach tube feeders and feeding utensils are all important control measures to reduce the spread of the disease, as is ensuring good colostrum intakes and preferably continuing to feed the calf's own mother's milk for up to five days after calving.

Recently the first Cryptosporidia vaccine (**Bovilis Cryptium**) has been launched to protect calves against Cryptosporidiosis. In-calf cows receive two doses of the vaccine four to five weeks apart in the final third of pregnancy with the second injection being at least 3 weeks pre calving (can be given at the same time as Rotavirus vaccine). Calves receive their protection through colostrum and subsequent mother's milk.

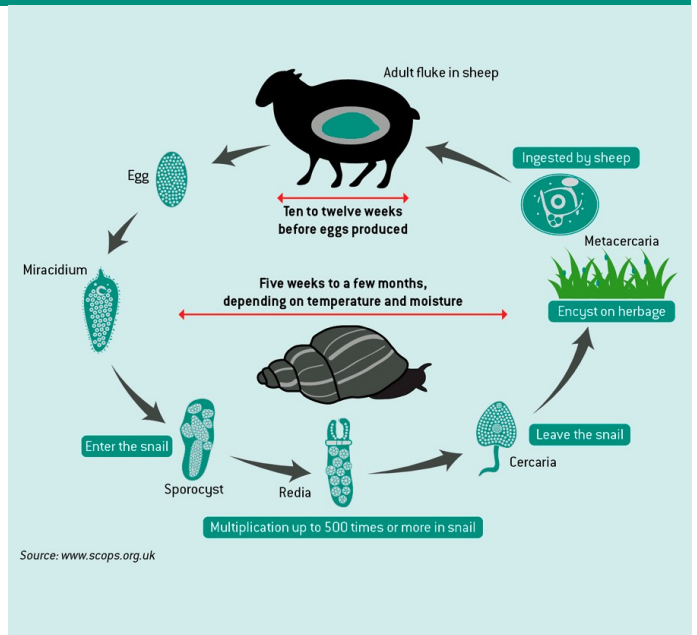
Contact the surgery for more information about the diagnosis of Crypto from scouring calves, treatment options and control measures including vaccination with **Bovilis Cryptium**.



## FLUKE UPDATE

We have seen a significant increase in the number of diagnoses of active liver fluke infection in the last month, either from blood sampling lambs for liver fluke antibodies (lambs will test positive within 2-3 weeks of picking up immature fluke), liver fluke eggs in dung samples (detects presence of adult fluke in the animal) and on post mortem examination of dead animals which have died of acute fluke infection.

To discuss whether you need to test or dose for fluke and which products would be the most appropriate to use please contact the surgery. If you are signed up for the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway for sheep and have completed your initial review, you could carry out the Endemic Disease Follow Up for liver fluke infection and have the laboratory investigation subsidised and a bespoke fluke control plan drawn up for your farm.



## COPPER DEFICIENCY IN PREGNANT EWES

Swayback in lambs occurs as a consequence of a severe copper deficiency in ewes during mid to 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 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 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

These are a gelatine capsule 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

Copper injections give a rapid, short term (2-4 months) 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 about the various product options available.



# UPDATES TO RED TRACTOR STANDARDS: KEY POINTS

From 1st February 2025 Red Tractor are introducing a few updates to its standards which will align the assurance scheme with the revised Veterinary Medicine Regulations. Some of the main points to be aware of are:

- From 1st February 2025 the use of antibiotics for prophylaxis (= preventive use of antibiotics such as antibiotic footbaths, blanket use of antibiotic dry cow tubes on all cows at drying off or blanket use of antibiotics on all lambs at birth to prevent rattlebelly) is prohibited other than in exceptional circumstances.
- A vet will need to provide clear rationale, which must be documented, for every prescription of antibiotic for prophylaxis.
- Timing of management reviews. The legislation emphasises that management reviews should happen as close to the time of prescription as possible and definitely within 3 months. Waiting for the next annual visit or health plan review is not acceptable.
- **The same protocols will need to be applied whether your farm is Red Tractor Farm Assured or not.**



## DAIRY STANDARDS

The updated Red Tractor Dairy Standards will require specific reference to dry cow therapy in both the Health Plan and the Health and Performance Review to ensure that dry cow therapy is discussed regularly with farmers, helping to keep strategies for managing dry periods robust while supporting antibiotic stewardship.

### Medicine Training Refresher:

Dairy farmers and their staff will need to refresh their medicine training course every 5 years to keep up with the latest practices in responsible medicine use. At least 1 person on the unit must have undergone training in the last 5 years.

We will be organising both *Milksure* and *Responsible Use of Medicines courses in the coming months*.

**Please contact us if your Dairy Farm Assurance is due for renewal and you need to attend a course.**

For the full new and revised standards for Red Tractor, please visit their website.

## CASUALTY SLAUGHTER CERTIFICATES FOR ON FARM EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently issued a new Casualty Slaughter certificate for use when certifying animals as being eligible for emergency on-farm slaughter. The eligibility criteria to undergo emergency slaughter is that *'an otherwise healthy animal must have suffered an accident that prevented transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons'*.



FOOD  
STANDARDS  
AGENCY

At the time of slaughter you will be asked to certify and sign that the animal has suffered a recent accident or injury, the nature of that injury and that the carcase is clear of any medicine residues.

## DALEHEAD FLOCK CLUBBERS

Just a little reminder to send your sheep scanning data through.

If you could email a picture through to [info@daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@daleheadvetgroup.co.uk) that would be great! The information can then be attached to your record ready for your 2025 Annual Health and Performance Review!





# ANNUAL SHEEP MEETING

**Date: Monday 13th January 2025**

**Time: 7pm to start at 7.30pm**

**Venue: North Ribblesdale Rugby Club, Settle**

At this year's meeting we will be discussing all aspects of Bluetongue:

The infection, how it spreads, legislation, movement restrictions, blood testing and vaccination.

We will also have a presentation on oral fluid therapy for sheep to correct dehydration and correct electrolyte and energy levels in inappetent ewes (e.g. twin lamb disease) and a short presentation on sheep scab control programmes in the local area.

***As in previous years extra discounts will be available on lambing list products for attendees on the night.***

***Hotpot supper provided. Please RSVP by Thursday 9th January 2024***



## PRODUCT NEWS

### PRE-LAMBING CLOSTRIDIAL BOOSTERS



Pre-lambing boosters should be administered approximately four weeks pre-lambing to ensure maximum protective antibodies in the ewe's colostrum. We do not anticipate any supply issues with straight clostridial vaccine supply (e.g. Bravoxin, Covexin 10) but there are ongoing availability issues with combined clostridial/pneumonia vaccine (Heptavac-P). We have received an update from our MSD representative who informs us that Heptavac-P is due to be available early February but amount and bottle sizes will be limited. We are taking orders for Heptavac-P and placing clients on the list on a first come first served basis. To place your order please contact the surgery.

### ENZOOTIC ABORTION VACCINE

For ewes that missed being vaccinated pre-tupping there is a killed vaccine that can be administered during pregnancy (**Inmeva**). Please speak to one of the vets for more details.

**Enzovax is now available again!** If you are planning to vaccinate replacement hogs this spring it may be worth ordering early! Sizes available at present are 20 dose and 10 dose bottles.



## PRACTICAL LAMBING MEETING WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 6PM

Covering husbandry of the pregnant ewe and newborn lamb.  
Top tips for lambing time preparations, and when and how we assist the birthing ewe.

Please contact the surgery if you would like to join us.

£30 plus VAT.



JANUARY  
2025



[WWW.DALEHEADVETGROUP.CO.UK](http://WWW.DALEHEADVETGROUP.CO.UK)

