



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

Spring Update

2023

## A Message from Max...

"Welcome to the Spring 2023 Newsletter edition. With turnout season upon us, we hope that the wintery conditions in March prove to be the last 'sting in the tail'. Despite the ideal conditions in late January and February which eased the pressure for some, forage stocks remain tight amongst many clients and we have seen nutritional pressures affecting both calving and lambing. Please continue to monitor your animal's body condition score closely and feed accordingly, ensuring they produce plenty of milk and cattle return to cycling ready for service. Also now is the time to be checking bulls to ensure they are sound and in good condition well in advance of mating; if you have any doubts please get in touch.

"In other news, we are frequently being asked about the Animal Health & Welfare pathway which launched in February. It will allow those farmers previously claiming BPS to claim payment to cover a veterinary health discussion and diagnostics across commercial species. Currently the window from application to submission of reports only last 6 months and during this time frame there are stipulations (including BVD testing or FEC reduction testing), which need to be completed. To ensure you have eligible animals during this time please speak to one of the vets before applying and keep an eye out for further information from us.

"Sadly, although reactor numbers seem to be reducing, TB breakdowns continue to be a problem across large parts of our area, with huge effects on cattle businesses. Alongside those breakdowns due to cattle movements, the drought pressure of summer 2022 led to increased cattle and wildlife contact through water troughs and outdoor feeding. Although restrictions affect herds differently, we all want to see reductions in this disease. There are sensible cost-effective measures that everybody should be making to reduce your herd's TB risk level. Unfortunately, misconceptions regarding TB are common so we would encourage all clients to speak to our vets and reception team about farm specific control measures, alongside visiting the TB Hub and ibTB websites for general information."

Max Hardy  
BVSc MRCVS

Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



## FlockCheck 2023

**MSD are once again offering FlockCheck—a subsidised toxoplasmosis and EAE blood testing scheme for ewes.**

Research has shown the biggest impact on a flock's productivity is from reproductive failure, neonatal disease and mortality.

FlockCheck is available to all clients to help understand what may have contributed to any losses and reproductive failures this lambing period to pre-empt these problems for next year and implement vaccination programmes where necessary.

If you have an abortion rate of **2% or more** or have a greater number of barren ewes than expected, testing is essential. Blood samples are taken from 6-8 unvaccinated barren/aborted ewes and tested for toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion. Any positive results suggest that vaccination should be considered. With consent, results collected by FlockCheck will be used for further research to help us understand these diseases better.

This is an extremely beneficial scheme for farms who currently do not vaccinate and do not know their disease status. MSD will cover the cost of laboratory testing. Please contact the practice to discuss your situation further with a vet.

### Date for the Diary!

**Meeting Topic:** Manipulating the Ewe Breeding Season

**When:** Wednesday 3rd May 2023 @ 7pm

**Where:** Zoom—comfort of your own home/tractor.

*Join Rebecca from FVS and Renzo from CEVA to look at ways in which you can manipulate the ewe breeding season for the benefit of your flock and business.*



# Fly Control—Don't Delay!



## Why Treat?

Although we may just see flies as a nuisance, uncontrolled fly populations can significantly affect your livestock:

- Reduced milk yield by up to 20%
- Increased incidence of summer mastitis
- Reduced calf weaning weights by up to 9kg
- Welfare issues in both species
- Reduced reproductive potential in sheep
- Downgraded quality of wool clip

## When to Treat?

Different species of flies are active at varying times of the year. This means a summer long threat is present with waves of irritants emerging all season long. Regular, frequent treatment is required throughout the period of risk to keep existing flies, as well as any newly emerging populations, under control.

If you delay treatment until significant numbers of flies are noticeable, it is already too late to adequately control fly numbers! Reproduction of the existing population will have already commenced, meaning hundreds to thousands of eggs will be lurking in the surrounds, waiting to hatch and compound the problem.

**Start treatment early before a problem even arises to maximise the success!**

### Cattle

Spotinor treats and prevents infestations by lice and flies in cattle. It contains an active ingredient which is a potent neurotoxin in insects causing a 'knock-down' effect.



Dosing is very simple, all cattle require a 10ml dose applied in one spot on the mid-line of the back at the shoulders.

Treatment should be repeated every 4-8 weeks.

### Sheep

Ectofly is to be used in sheep for the treatment and prevention of head flies and blowfly strike. It can be used any time of year including off-shears and contains a 48 hour blue dye.



Dosage and application method is dependant on the main aim of treatment. Refer to the information on the back of the bottle.

Treatment should be repeated every 6-8 weeks for prevention of blowfly strike.

**Emily Cox L-SQP**



Species	Number of Flies Before Economic Impact Threshold Met
HORN FLY	200
STABLE FLY	20
FACE FLY	25
HEAD FLY	10-20

## Lets Talk About Teasers!

For us, lambing begins just before Christmas and continues well into May. You may still be in the throes of lambing or emerging from the lengthy days and nights spent in the lambing shed. If it is fresh in your mind, has your lambing period been going on too long?

One aspect to review is how we can manipulate the ewe's reproductive cycle to help benefit your farm and business. One possible option is the use of teasers.

### What is a teaser ram?

A ram that has been vasectomised, by removing part of the spermatic cord connecting the testes to the penis. They are hormonally functional and show all activity of an entire male but are sterile, so unable to sire a pregnancy.

### How can teasers help?

They can help to bring the breeding season of your flock forward and tighten your lambing period. Also, for those interested in artificial insemination they can be used to identify animals in season and improve conception rates.

### Why am I talking about it now?

It is useful to plan ahead. Our ideal ram to vasectomise has had some experience with the ewes. The surgery should be performed at least 6 weeks prior to the time of use to ensure any residual sperm is removed and unwanted pregnancies do not occur. Rams should be in good body condition, with no signs or history of lameness. These candidates should also be up to date with a clostridial vaccine. You are investing in these animals by vasectomising them, so you want them to be healthy and provide a long term return for your business. Candidates I would reject from surgery: poor body condition; lameness; odd testicle shape and size; broken mouth.

### How do they work?

Teasers have greatest effect when introduced to ewes that have been out of sight and smell of entire males for a period of two months or more. Teasers can be used at a ratio of 1:100 and introduced for 14-17 days. Tup power is required once the teaser is removed and should be added to a ratio of 1:20. Most ewes will be served at either 18 or 25 days after the teaser tup was first introduced, having being triggered into cycling by the sudden presence of a male.



By manipulating the ewe cycle, we can achieve a tighter lambing period to help with the overall organisation and cost of labour at lambing. Producing similar aged lambs ensures preventative treatments such as vaccinations and parasite control can be given at the correct time, therefore improving overall health and welfare and ultimately reducing the time and cost to finish them.

Are you interested in discussing the use of teasers on your farm further?  
Contact us or join us for our upcoming meeting in May on 'Manipulating the Ewe Breeding Season'.  
Please call the practice to book your place.

**Rebecca Davenport  
BVM BVS MRCVS**



# Busting lungworm MYTHS



**MYTH:** Lungworm only affects youngstock

**MYTH:** Lungworm is only a problem in the southwest

**FACT:** Adult cattle and youngstock are both at risk

**FACT:** Lungworm is an issue for the entire UK due to extended grazing seasons and changing climate

## Vaccinate now or cough up later!

### Huskvac Lungworm Vaccination

Since the mid-1990's, cases of lungworm have increased by ten-fold!

Speak to us today about how a vaccination programme can help to protect your herd this grazing season.

## FVS Vet Tech Services

Many of you will be familiar with our Vet Techs, Robyn and Emily but for those who aren't, let us introduce them to you! As well as their Vet Tech duties, Robyn and Emily also work within our team of Receptionists - Robyn based out of Melton and Emily Lutterworth. They have been working for FVS for a combined 10 years! Outside of work, they both enjoy country life and caring for their horses and other pets including sheep, ferrets, chickens and dogs.

### So what does the Vet Tech role involve?

#### Mobility Scoring

Robyn and Emily are both ROMS Accredited scorers—this means that they have undergone the required training to carry out Mobility/Locomotion Scoring which is becoming compulsory for many milk contracts. The purpose of mobility scoring is to identify early signs of lameness so that remedial treatment can be given. In the long run, we are able to monitor ongoing cases of lameness and enables herd strategies to be instigated in order to prevent further lameness.

#### Sample Collection

Blood, faeces and milk samples are among some of the samples that Robyn and Emily are trained to take. This can include taking samples of a full herd/flock or small groups, or on a case by case basis as and when instructed by a Vet.

#### Parasite Control Plans

As well as being trained vet techs, Robyn and Emily are both SQP's. This means they have completed a qualification enabling them to advise and prescribe veterinary medicines for certain conditions. Their qualification enables them to work with you to create a suitable parasite control plan for your flock or herd to minimise any parasite burdens and slow the progression of resistance.

#### Disbudding

Disbudding can be carried out by our vet techs up to 6 weeks of age using local anaesthetic and pain relief. The task is usually done in batches, typically using sedation to minimise stress and discomfort for the calves as well as requiring minimal physical restraint.

#### Vaccinations

Working together with your vet, our vet techs can ensure your vaccination protocols are kept up-to-date. Whether you are a smallholder needing some guidance or a commercial farm requiring an extra pair of hands, Robyn and Emily are available to assist with herd or flock vaccinations.

These services are the main focus areas of the Vet Tech role, but there are many other areas where Robyn and Emily can be of assistance, so please feel free at any time to give them a call to enquire if they are able to assist with any other management tasks you may need help with e.g. TB Testing.



Keep a look out for the new regular piece in our newsletters and on our Facebook pages to see what Robyn and Emily get up to! They will be sharing interesting visits and any developments to their role that may be of interest to others.

Robyn Oram (left) K-SQP  
Emily Cox (right) L-SQP



If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Spring Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 (option 2) to speak to one of our Receptionists, SQPs, Vet Techs or Vets.



## VPS Products– Spring Deals 2023

PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 <b>Enovex Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days	2.5L—£29
 <b>Eprizero Pour-on</b>	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mange mites and lice in dairy cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£135 5L—£205
 <b>Tauradour Pour-on</b>	Doramectin pour-on for the control of roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—35 days Milk—do not use	1L—£70 2.5L—£105 5L—£175
 <b>Chanaverm 7.5%</b>	Levamisole (yellow) drench for control of roundworms in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—20 days Sheep Meat—20 days	5L—£75
 <b>Endospec SC 2.5%</b>	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 <b>Dectomax Injection</b>	Doramectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle and sheep.	Cattle 1ml per 50kg Subcutaneous inj Sheep 1ml per 33kg Intramuscular inj	Cattle Meat—70 days Sheep Meat—70 days	200ml—£60
 <b>Noromectin Drench</b>	Ivermectin (clear) drench for the control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Oral drench 2.5ml per 10kg	Sheep Meat—14 days	1L—£16 2.5L—£32 5L—£49
 <b>Ectofly</b>	Cypermethrin solution for the treatment and prevention of blowfly strike, ticks and lice in sheep.	Topical Administration See Pack Info	Sheep Meat—8 days	2.5L—£48 5L—£75
 <b>Spotinor</b>	Deltamethrin spot-on for the prevention of flies in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike and ticks in sheep.	Cattle—10ml Sheep—5ml See Pack Info	Cattle Meat—17 days Sheep Meat—35 days	500ml—£40 1L—£65 2.5L—£120

*To place an order or for more information, please call 01664 567481*



A member of

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