



Sheep News

What a spring we have had! For those lambing during the wet it was horrid, for those who lambed late probably not so bad. With the current spell of dry weather it seems everyone is catching up with work and if it does not rain until you read this then I suspect you will be wanting it to!

Even though it was a very difficult lambing in the wet, our clients at Synergy have reduced oral antibiotic use by a whopping 54% compared to last year. This is a

major achievement and shows that with good advice, attention to detail and a good think about the system of management, we can achieve and exceed the targets set.

In this newsletter I would highlight the attention on sheep scab. We used to not see this disease in this area. Now we are diagnosing it regularly. I would encourage as many as possible to come to the meeting on July 5th to understand your risks, responsibilities and how

Synergy Scab Roadshow

This has been one of our worst winters in the practice for sheep scab with huge implications for ewe health and lamb survival. This has consequences for the flocks involved, potentially their neighbours and the industry. Given how close the industry was to eradicating scab we think this is something that all of our flocks should be taking exceptionally seriously. Sheep scab found to be resistant to injectables was published in 2018. We are currently investigating a case of suspect resistant scab within the practice.

This is not confined to flocks who buy in. We have had problems associated with escaped neighbouring sheep and

scab being transmitted by visitors to the farm. The implications are huge to the extent that we are rearranging sheep work if we as vets are coming into contact with scab on our working day.

We are hosting a Sheep Scab Open Evening on Wednesday 5th July at Evershot 7:30pm with a series of interactive stations looking at scab.



June 2018

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to prevent this disease becoming a problem on your farm.

Andy Adler



**Thursday 5th July
7.30pm start at Evershot**

We are trying to organise a mobile dipper for those of you who have not seen the equipment before. Expect the merits of injectables, showering and plunge dipping to be on the agenda.

The evening will jointly be sponsored by Zoetis and Bimeda and we hope to provide some hot refreshments so RSVP is essential. This will be a one off meeting and we hope to have flocks from Purbeck to the Levels to Honiton attending. Scab affects everyone, we hope to see you there!

Emily Gascoigne



Top Tips on Footbathing

Footbathing is not a key part of the lameness five point plan, but used well it can sometimes help with lameness outbreaks in flocks i.e. for treatment of scald in lambs in spring, and is also very useful as a disinfectant at handling to prevent spread, and during periods of housing. Foot bathing is only effective when some key rules are observed. If these are not, it can make lameness worse on farm.

Priority 1 — Make sure you have a good set up

- ◇ Make sure sheep's feet are clean by running them through a clean water foot bath to remove any organic material before the treated foot bath.
- ◇ There should be a concrete standing area ideally before and after the footbath to reduce contamination and ensure the product has chance to dry.
- ◇ Walk through baths are appropriate when using Formalin 3%
- ◇ Stand-in foot baths are better for using Zinc Sulphate 10% products, as this allows for multiple sheep to be foot bathed at once
- ◇ Make sure the footbath is deep enough – approximately 6cm to cover the feet
- ◇ Make sure you can dispose of the contents of the footbath easily and away from watercourses, following regulations relating to chemical disposal
- ◇ Regularly change your footbath in accordance with the manufacturers advice.

Priority 2 — Choosing a product and use it correctly

- ◇ Zinc sulphate 10% - more expensive, but can be re-used. Less irritant and does not cause hoof hardening. Stand-in times are at least 2 minutes, but always check the instructions provided with the product
- ◇ Formalin 3% - cheaper, but ineffective in the presence of organic matter. Sheep must walk steadily through the footbath. Some may prefer to avoid given the implications for human health and safety. Avoid using if animals have foot rot/CODD as it can be very painful.
- ◇ Kling On Blue - a walk through product which is not formalin based. The more expensive option but also the most user friendly.

Priority 3 — Lame sheep need treatment

- ◇ Footbathing will not resolve advanced lesions and Footrot and CODD sheep should be treated in accordance with your flock health plan.
- ◇ Always follow the instructions for the product you are using
- ◇ Chemical concentrations that are too high may damage your sheep's feet
- ◇ **Always allow the sheep to stand on a clean, dry surface for a least an hour following foot bathing to allow for the product to dry onto the foot.**

Foot bathing is most effective when it is adopted as part of the five point plan.
Speak to one of our vets to conduct a mobility score and review your lameness plan.



Abi Charlesworth

Changes to Red Tractor Farm Assurance

You may be aware that Red Tractor are launching some new standards as of June 2018. These are revisions regarding health planning and veterinary medicines. It will now be compulsory that your annual health and performance review is performed by a vet and there is more attention being placed on sustainable use of antibiotics. At least one member of staff from every farm will have to be suitably trained in the handling and administration of medicines, by attending a relevant course.

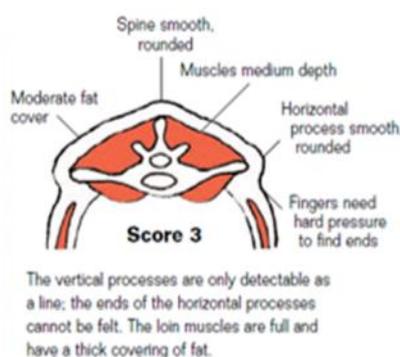
We are running our “**Safe use of veterinary medicines course for commercial flocks**” (see dates overleaf), which satisfies the Red Tractor standard and provides commercial shepherds with all the up-to-date information they need regarding veterinary medicines use. Attendees get a certificate at the end of the course to go with their health plan. We have also been benchmarking antibiotic use in our flocks for the last 2 years, comparing with similar-sized flocks in the practice and industry-set targets and this will be available at your flock health plan update



Optimising Fertility by Nutrition

Many factors will influence the balance between the ewe's energy supply and her demand – quality of forage, number of lambs, stocking density, disease. Experience will tell you what your sheep need and when but it is always best practice to monitor this. A good place to begin is to look at the animal herself; body condition scoring is an effective way of evaluating whether your flock is being fed appropriately in the long term. Getting your hands on the ewe is crucial as the fleece can often mask their true appearance. Good times to assess body condition score are before tupping, during the middle of pregnancy and through lactation – providing vital opportunities to adjust feeding and correct dilemmas.

It takes 8 weeks to change a body condition score, so in order to reach a target BCS of 3-3.5 at tupping, it is vital to assess BCS in good time to make feeding adjustments. Furthermore, there is good evidence that nutrition in the 6 months before tupping can affect follicle ovulation rate i.e. scanning percentage and lamb birthweight. Therefore hitting condition score targets throughout the calendar year will also have a rolling effect on next season's success.



Ben Barber



Mineral status also plays its part in optimising fertility. Key minerals that can affect fertility include selenium and iodine but there are many others that are involved. It is very important to know your farm's mineral status and the best way to measure this is by testing the ewes themselves. Blanket supplementation can be expensive, unnecessary and in some cases puts the sheep at risk of toxicity.

	Body Condition Targets		
	Hill ewes	Upland ewes	Lowland ewes
At weaning	2	2	2.5
At tupping	2.5	3	3.5
Mid-pregnancy	2	2.5	3
At lambing	2	2.5	3

Chat to your vet about mineral status testing and BCS your ewes in preparation for tupping this year.

Teasers Reminder

Now is the time to get your rams vasectomised ready for tupping! A teaser ram can run with the flock from 14 days before tupping to help synchronise the ewes, creating a more compact lambing period. The teasers should be removed after 14 and replaced with entire rams. Remember, one teaser can run with 100 ewes and more rams may be required to serve all the ewes that ovulating at the same time.



Quarantine

As you bring replacements into your flock this year, don't forget to quarantine drench them to prevent bringing resistant

parasites onto your farm. This needs to include a new generation wormer, a suitable sheep scab and liver fluke

treatment and isolation for 3 weeks. Chat to your vet to find out more about quarantine drenching.

Meetings and Training

We are committed to our training services for sheep farmers at Synergy and the next quarter is action packed. If interested in any of the below please contact our office to book onto a course (01935 83682)

Faecal Egg Counting workshop

17th July 2018 10am—3pm at Evershot (£80)

Back by popular demand, this is a general parasitology course looking at we can reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic resistance in our flocks and control parasites in a sustainable way. Guidance as to what equipment is needed will be given

Sheep Scab Open Evening

Thursday 5th July 7.30pm

Synergy Farm Health, Evershot

A series of interactive stations looking at the disease spread, treatment options, injectable resistance issues and we hope to have a mobile dipper in attendance for those that have not yet seen the newest equipment. Hot food will be available and the evening is being kindly sponsored by Bimeda and Zoetis

Please note this is a one off event only to cover the entire practice

Not to be missed
RSVP is essential

Safe use of Veterinary Medicines for commercial sheep flocks

11th July 2018 10.30—2.30 at Evershot (£66)

Following last years successful sheep tailored safe use of medicines courses, we are running another one, covering "How do we realise full potential from our investments in medicines?" and "How to use them effectively and safely". Aimed at commercial shepherds and members of the team administering or handling medicines. Lunch included.

* Certificate for Flock Plan at end of course*

Challenge Sheep

The next discussion groups will be post-lambing debriefs focussing on lamb mortality and 8-week weights. The meetings will be on farm and are strongly recommended for commercial flocks. If you wish to go please let the Synergy Reception know.

Rob and Anna Hawke Group @ Salisbury 28th June - 6.30 pm start

Gareth Beynon @ Rampisham 4th July - 5pm start

Dispensary News....

Don't forget to cover your sheep for ectoparasites this year. Contact one of our SQP's at Evershot to chat about your product choice.

Ectofly

5 Litre
£56

Cypermethrin—
For the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike and headflies and treatment for ticks and biting lice.

Provides 6-8 weeks protection

CLiK Extra

5 Litre
£189.95

Dicyclanil -

Protection against blowfly strike for 19 weeks

CLiK

5 Litre
£170.00

Dicyclanil -

Protection against blowfly strike for 16 weeks

All Prices Ex VAT (Prices correct May 2018)

Next issue in Sept

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