

South Wales Farm Vets

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## Our Team



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## Living And Working In Your Community

November 2019

Hello and welcome to November – I can hardly believe I'm writing that!

What a wet and wild month October was – hardly the best planting and harvesting month. Hope you're not too behind.

We've had a busy month both clinically and with TB testing – we are now taking bookings for March 2020. If you have a preference on dates, times etc, please let us know sooner rather than later.

In October, we held a few meetings. Sian and Russell ran two meetings for our sheep farmers on sheep scab, liver fluke and mites, unfortunately, all very topical. Sian will summarize the main points later. We also ran a dairy farmers meeting on the transition period at Haregrove Farm, with the kind permission of the Anthony family. Another well attended meeting – Russell will give us top tips from our guest speaker, Mike Overton, later in the newsletter. Tom attended a sheep lameness update at Aberystwyth Uni with Joe Angell – the CODD expert! Again, Tom will give us a run down of new information from the day.

We have been doing a lot of FAWL reviews in the last few months and one topic that many of our farmers have been picked up on by the inspectors has been worming of the sheep/farm dogs. The recommendation for worming of dogs in general is to worm them 3-4 times a year for roundworm and every 6 months for tapeworm. This is of significance for sheep farmers as sheep are the intermediate host for the dog tapeworm, infection in sheep can cause condemnations at abattoir There is also great importance for human health – we can pick up their worms, and because we are the wrong host, the worms can migrate to odd areas including the eyes and do damage. We are starting a dog worming diary in the farm animal office – if you would like to sign up, we will provide the wormers and reminders every 3 months. Don't forget, we can also microchip you dogs, now a legal obligation. We are having a 'chip amnesty' during the month of November – we are offering a reduced rate of £15 per chip, hoping that as many of you as possible will comply with the legislation and chip all your dogs, whatever their age. We can do this on farm, with prior warning, or at the office. I'm sure this month will go in a flash, so phone us to arrange before forgetting about it!

Hope your November is drier than October, see you soon.

Mary

### Transition cow management

Correct management of transition cows will reduce diseases such as ketosis, metritis and mastitis, that occur in the immediate post-calving period. For those of you that missed our transition cow workshop, or for those who want a reminder, here are some of the key points.

- Transition cows are cows from 60 days before calving to 30 days after
- Assess body condition score in both far and close-up dry cows—the target is 2.75 to 3.0 in at least 90% of cows
- Space is critical—for feeding (75 cm per cow), drinking (10 cm per cow) and lying (9 to 12 sq. m per cow)
- Consider shed layout, as dead ends can affect cows' ability to access certain areas
- Try to move cows in groups, and no more often than once a week
- 90% of cows should be dry for between 45 and 70 days
- Diets need to be controlled in energy, and high fibre, with 1000g of metabolisable protein for far-offs and 1200g of metabolisable protein for close-up dry cows



Sian Fuller



Russell Fuller



Rachel Davies



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

- The diet needs to be formulated to control milk fever—either by controlling calcium intake, or by modifying the DCAB
- Monitoring disease incidence after calving will allow any changes in management to be assessed
- Ketosis can be monitored on blood, or milk, on cows 3-16 days calved. Using blood samples will allow accurate diagnosis of affected cows, meaning they can be treated early

We have had a transition cow risk assessment tool made available to us, which looks at each area of management under a 'traffic light' system. This identifies areas in which improvements can be made, usually without spending large sums of money, and takes around an hour to complete. If you are interested in the assessment, please contact us to arrange an appointment.

### Sheep parasite meeting

We had two interactive sheep meetings, Nelson and Heol-Y-Cyw, covering liver fluke, scab and lice and must say a thankyou to everyone who attended for getting involved and helping to make them both interesting and entertaining. Here's a summary of some of the key messages.

#### Liver Fluke:

- The life cycle is temperature dependent, requiring an average temperature of above 10°C. This means, in conjunction with parasite forecasting you can predict when fluke will become a problem early in the year and also when you can start the timer for the last treatment of the season, depending on what product is used.
- Different drugs act on different stages of fluke, using the right product at the right time is crucial. Triclabendazole resistance (the ingredient in Fasinex, endofluke, etc.) is becoming widespread in south Wales making it important to utilise the different drugs for maximum effect.
- Diagnosis can be done on faeces samples, post-mortem examination or utilising abattoir reports

If you would like to further information on the topics mentioned in the meetings please contact us at the surgery.

#### Sheep Scab:

- Sheep infected with scab may show no symptoms of the infection
- Sheep scab mites can survive in the environment off the sheep for up to 17 days, this means the environment can act as a source of infection or reinfection
- Cases of resistance to the clear wormer injections used to treat scab are increasing so organophosphate dips are being increasingly used. OP dips only work against scab as a plunge dip— jets and showers are not effective
- A blood test is available to detect scab before signs are seen, invaluable when purchasing sheep

### Sheep lameness—Codd update

Codd is still a relatively new disease and is a major cause of lameness in sheep within the practice so staying up-to-date with advances in understanding of the disease is beneficial. Some of the main facts are:

- A third of sheep with Codd lesions will not be lame. Purchased animals have been identified as the main route of entry to farms therefore tipping sheep and examining their feet is recommended as part of the quarantine procedure.
- Farms with footrot are 8 times more likely to have Codd, this is why a combination of Footvax and Betamox LA when treating will achieve a 50% better cure rate than Betamox LA alone.
- Codd infection disrupts the horn rather than damaging the soft tissue, therefore early treatment with no trimming can preserve the horn, however delayed treatment will allow secondary bacterial infections. While established infections can be difficult to clear repeat infections in the same foot are very unlikely, making early effective treatment doubly important.

If you would like to discuss Codd, or sheep lameness generally please contact the practice.

### Practice News

Farming Connect have another round of funding available from 1st November 2019 to the 31st of January 2020. The funding will be available to beef and sheep Farming Connect registered businesses only. There is now a time limit, you must have testing done within 28 days of approval by Farming Connect. Please contact the surgery if you require further information.



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