



Our Team



Mary Walters



Rhian Matthews



Morgan Hanks



Tom Searle



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Living And Working In Your Community

August 2022

Hello and welcome to the August Newsletter. What a hot and dry July! We saw plenty of heat related problems as I'm sure you did as well. The Royal Welsh was a bit of an endurance day trip at the start of the week, but many congratulations to all our clients who went and did well, I think you should all be awarded a medal for taking stock. Not long to go until our own local Vale Show, please come and see us there. Also, we are supporting Garth Country Fair on 28th August.

This month, we are holding a responsible use of antibiotics meeting, a must for a lot of our clients for Red Tractor standards and definitely for dairy farmers. The meeting is almost fully subscribed, if you would like to attend, please let us know and we may be able to put on another date.

Tom's lab is now fully up and running offering all services for sheep embryo work and AI. He is fully booked in August but has some spaces in September left.

There are consultation documents out currently to draw your attention to – about BVD. Gov.wales/compulsory-bovine-viral-diarrhoea-eradication-scheme is the link, think the headline is in the link.

Let's hope the sun shines on 10th and 28th August, see you then.

Mary

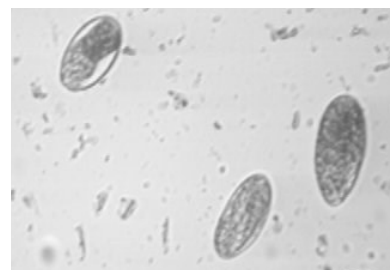
Worm Egg Count (WEC)

What is it?

Also known as Faecal egg counts. They can be carried out at a lab or with a DIY kit at home. Parasites within ruminants will produce eggs, these are passed out within the animals faeces. WEC are a method of determining how many and, to a degree, what type of eggs are within a faecal sample. This can be from an individual animal or a few samples are pooled to give a representation of the group. Results are given as eggs per gram (epg). The number of eggs is an indication of the number of adult worms within that animal.

Benefits of a WEC:

- Utilising testing and monitoring to help reduce anthelmintic resistance by avoiding routine wormer treatments unless needed.
- Identifying the type of worms present to help advise on appropriate treatments (Nematodirus)
- Reducing labour and cost of administering unnecessary anthelmintic (wormer) treatments.
- WEC can be used to carry out faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT) to assess you level of resistance to the different groups of wormers.
- As well as gastrointestinal worms, fluke and coccidia can also be detected with the same sample.



When to do a WEC?

Generally, 4-6 weeks post turn out is a good time to start submitting WEC. They can be carried out monthly during the at-risk season. WECs tend to remain low during a dry spell but can then rise



Sian Fuller



Dom Day



Jimmy Jackson



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

rapidly following rain, therefore try to time a WEC approximately 2 weeks after a wet spell.

How to collect and submit a WEC?

- Choose who needs to be sampled, generally older cattle and sheep develop a good immunity to parasites with exposure. Young stock will be the highest risk animals. Avoid mixing samples from adults and youngstock.
- Decide on a representative sample size for your herd or flock. Generally, a minimum of 10 samples. These can be pooled before testing.
- Take samples from each management group, there may be different worm and fluke burdens in different fields on the same holding.
- Samples must be as fresh as possible. Ideally watch for animals to pass a fresh sample, lying animals will often pass faeces after getting up. Alternatively, sample animals within 24 hours of moving to a fresh pasture or when in a holding area where you know samples collected will be fresh.
- Attempt to collect approximately 40g per animal. Collect these samples at random and do not pick out particularly healthy or poor animals.
- Use a sample pot or a glove to submit samples. Ideally submit samples as separate pots or gloves for us to pool at the office. We will mix these samples well before submitting so they are as representative of the group as possible. Alternatively, pool the samples yourself by collecting similar amounts from each animal and submitting in one container.
- Expel as much air as possible from the containers.
- Samples should be examined as soon as possible. Bring the sample into the office the same day, within opening hours. Samples can be stored overnight in a fridge if needed. Always keep samples cool in transit otherwise the eggs may hatch and therefore give a falsely low count.



Interpreting results:

We will ask you to fill out a submission sheet when you drop off your sample, this will help us to interpret your results and advise on appropriate actions. Using your WEC, treatment history and any symptoms you report to suggest what, if any, treatment is required.

Medicine availability update

As many of you will have noticed over the last few months we have been experiencing supply issues with some medicines such as Alamylin and Pen&Strep. We have sourced alternative versions made by different companies, so please bear with us if the bottle looks different and check the label for dosage instructions.

Toxovax

Toxovax is not going to be available from the end of August until the end of September. We can place orders at the moment and while you cannot administer it within 3 weeks of mating, it can be administered earlier. So please contact the surgery soon to ensure your supply.



Office opening hours

Monday – Friday

8.30am - 5.30pm

Emergency out of hours service

Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am

Saturday & Sunday all day