

South Wales Farm Vets

Ty Newydd

Groes Faen

CF72 8NE

Tel; 01443 223751



Our Team



Mary Walters



Rhian Matthews



Morgan Richards



Tom Searle



Russell Fuller

Living And Working In Your Community

January 2022

Hello and welcome to the January Newsletter and Happy New Year. I hope that you all had a good, safe Christmas and let's all hope that 2022 is an improvement on 2021. This warm wet weather over Christmas has just about finished 2021 off!

The weather is not good for stock at the moment – we are seeing more cases of pneumonia, more foot problems associated with standing in soggy conditions. Many of you had taken advantage of the dry conditions and left stock out – there is some concern about liver fluke continuing to be a problem – that the temperature will allow the intermediate host to continue to be active, so stay alert.

It was certainly good to hear all about the Winter Fair from the many of our clients who attended and I hope there will be more tales about shows in the summer. Keep getting those jabs in arms and with a bit of luck 2022 will be a good one.

Mary

Spectam Scour Halt – what happens now?

You may be aware that Spectam Scour Halt is no longer being manufactured. Currently, there are very limited supplies available nationwide for lambing this year – the practice is waiting to hear how big our allocation will be.

In reality, this means that farms will not be able to use Spectam as a preventative product for watery mouth. This follows changes to all Farm Assurance schemes, which now prohibit the use of preventative antibiotics.

However, many farms have found that by making management changes, they are nearly able to eliminate watery mouth, and need only occasional doses of antibiotics for affected lambs. In summary, the key areas to focus on are:

- Ewe nutrition – under fed ewes will produce less, poor quality colostrum, whilst over fed ewes will have large lambs, which may be slow to suck
- Ewe body condition score – target of 2.5 to 3.0 at lambing, with 90% of the flock falling within this band
- Hygiene – as watery mouth is a bacterial infection caused by *E. coli* from the environment, reducing infection pressure is key – disease is caused by infection overcoming colostrum
- Colostrum – ewe's is best, cow's is next, and supplements are just that (i.e. not replacers...). Lambs need 50ml/kg as soon as possible after birth, reaching 200ml/kg in the first 24 hours.



We realise the lack of Spectam will be disappointing for many of you. However, we are still able to advise on and supply treatment for cases of watery mouth. The practice can also carry out forage analysis and check rations to ensure the correct diet is fed. We recommend the University of Edinburgh (DHHPS) blood testing if you want to check ewe nutrition. This testing will assess both the energy and protein levels in the ewe and should be done 2-3 weeks before lambing. These test can often be funded by a Farming Connect voucher.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us well ahead of lambing, to allow time to consider your options and make any changes.



Sian Fuller



Dom Day



Jimmy Jackson



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

TB rule change

This month there are changes to some of the rules following a TB test.

Previously when an Inconclusive Reactor (IR) is identified in a TB free herd, the vet would issue a restriction notice and the animal would be isolated. When APHA reviewed the TB test, if the herd had a clear TB history restrictions would be lifted on all except the IR animals and trading could continue in the remainder of the herd.

The new rules mean that if a TB test finds an IR the entire herd will remain under restrictions until the retest of the IR at least 60 days later. Some herds may be able to get a licence from APHA to move animals direct to slaughter but this would be on an individual basis.

The reasoning for these changes are:

- Studies have found that IRs (under standard interpretation) are a higher risk to subsequently become reactors than clear testing animals
- It prevents cattle testing clear from being moved off the premises when the herd is at a higher risk of full TB restrictions in the near future. We currently do a lot of tracing tests on animals that have been sold off herds that are subsequently placed under TB restrictions
- It ensures higher risk animals, those with lumps that are clear on normal interpretation but become IRs or Reactors on severe interpretation, cannot be moved off the holding

These changes are specifically important for people who use their yearly ministry test as a pre-movement test for the sale of cattle as a single IR will be sufficient to prevent sales. The timing of the IR retest will mean that once restrictions are lifted, cattle for sale at market will require a private pre-movement TB test.

Lambing Course

We are holding a day lambing course at Pencoed College on Wednesday the 26th January 2022. The course will follow the normal format of lecture and discussion based learning with plenty of practical teaching. The day is aimed at newcomers to lambing and will cost £55 + VAT with lunch included.

By the end of the course you should have confidence in the following:

- Knowledge of the lambing process, what can go wrong and how to prevent it
- Be able to correct simple mal-presentations
- Calculate dosages of commonly used medications and be able to administer them
- Be able to castrate, tail dock and stomach tube lambs

Please book your place by calling the office on 01443 223751



Small ruminant advanced breeding service

We are pleased to say we now offer an advanced breeding service for small ruminants. Our facility is open from late February until early December offering:

- Laparoscopic AI
- Embryo flushing and transfer
- Semen freezing
- Embryo and semen storage

Following this little teaser note, further information will be available in next month's newsletter. In the meantime if you would like to know more then contact Tom at the practice.

Office opening hours

Monday – Friday

8.30am - 5.30pm

Emergency out of hours service

Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am

Saturday & Sunday all day