



Farm Vet News

January 2023



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Happy New Year!

Many farmers saw 10% less rain in 2022 than the national average, despite November's downpours giving us twice as much; there is lots to speculate about what 2023 will bring us. Seasonality is disappearing, out-wintered cattle and sheep are no longer guaranteed protection from gut worms and other parasites, so speak to your vet about updating your worm surveillance and management policies.

In 2023 we are aiming to provide more and more good quality, informative and entertaining meetings and training courses to our clients, to augment our provision of the best clinical service and support to our clients and the surrounding farming community. Please keep a look out in our newsletters and Facebook page for details on when these will be occurring. Additionally, please let us know if you would like your email to be added to our mailing lists.

See you soon (or maybe, hopefully not too soon!),
Josh, on behalf of Endell Farm Vets

Managing Navel (Joint) Ill in Neonatal Calves and Lambs

Navel ill (Omphalitis/Omphalophlebitis) is caused by the passage of bacterial via the umbilicus before it has "closed" to the outside world. Typically, local infections (abscesses) form, however the bacteria can also spread in the blood stream, settling in joint spaces (causing joint ill) or general systemic diseases such as septicaemia, peritonitis, or meningitis. Severe, untreated cases are usually fatal; those individuals who survive usually experience long recoveries, and reduced growth rates compared to that of unaffected peers. As such prevention is always better than cure, with the three main areas to focus on being:

- Navel dressings
- Colostrum
- Hygiene



Navel Dressings	
Good	Poor
<p>Strong Iodine (10%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good at drying out the navel quickly, thus preventing transmission of bacteria • USE WHILE STILL AVAILABLE* <p>Vetericyn Super 7 Plus spray/dip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker drying time than 7% Iodine <p>50/50 solution of 4% Chlorhexidine and alcohol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As good as 7% Iodine • Available as pre-made bottles from EFV Dispensary 	<p>Low Iodine products (<7%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less effective at drying the navel and so should be avoided <p>Tetracycline sprays (Engemycin spray, Terramycin spray, "blue spray")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drying is NOT effective • An unnecessary use of antibiotics

Colostrum: Quantity, Quality, Quickly

As important as navel dressing is, bacteria also invade the body via the tonsils and/or intestinal tract (Sargison 2008). Therefore, the feeding of good quality colostrum must be a priority. Similarly, maintaining a clean, hygienic lambing or calving pen will reduce the pathogen burden and therefore reduce exposure.

• Calves and lambs:

Aim to feed 10% body weight of good quality (tested) colostrum in first six hours (and repeat again in the next twelve hours)

References:

SVS statement 13/12/22, www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk;
Sargison (2008) Sheep Flock Health, Oxford, Blackwell;
<https://extension.sdstate.edu/navel-dips-lambs-and-kids>;
"Joint Ill/Navel Ill of Calves" NADIS, www.NADIS.org.uk

***Strong Iodine (10%): Suppliers are warning of a possible shortage this spring as the main global production site (based in Chile) has stopped production, causing prices to quadruple! Please make sure you have adequate supplies in place early.**



FREE Transition Cow Assessment

Sponsored by Elanco

We are pleased to announce that Elanco pharmaceuticals will once again be carrying out transition cow assessments on dairy farms, starting this month. The assessment will occur alongside your routine veterinary visit, to allow for both your vet and the Elanco representative to carry out their examinations together. It would entail a review of their diet, ketone levels, disease incidence and milk yields, so as to holistically assess the overall health and productivity of the transition cows within your herd. This assessment will be completely free of charge to our dairy clients. Please contact our lovely reception team at 01722 333291 for any enquiries, or contact your routine vet directly to book a slot.



Upcoming Events and Courses

Responsible Use of Medicines

Online Course

Tuesday 17 January, 1pm
£25 incl VAT per person

The Basics of Lambing

At Newton Wood Barns,
GU34 3EW

Small, in-person, practical one-hour sessions that allow you (and up to three guests) to focus on what you need to work on, whether it be lambing, tube feeding, injections, castrations, colostrum etc.

Sessions are being held between 9am and 5pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 24 January

Tuesday 21 February

Thursday 16 March

Thursday 13 April

Cost £75 incl VAT per hour.

Understanding Sheep Worms

We are holding two meetings to discuss the importance of worm egg counts:

Friday 10 February, 2pm, at
Newton Wood Barns GU34 3EW
or

Monday 13 February, 2pm, at
Tenantry Farm Cottages,
Rockbourne, SP6 3PA

Lunch will be provided on arrival. Free for Flock Health Club members/£10 per person for non-members

If you would like to attend any of these, please ring the office to book your place (01722-333291, option 1).

Huskvac

Huskvac orders can be placed from 20 January and will have a 7 March expiry date. **This year we can only buy it in boxes of twelve one-dose bottles.** We are hoping to break these down to match exact orders, however you may have to buy full packs if we are unable to combine orders, so please speak to Carolyn (01722 333291, option 2) to place your order early.



Huskvac is a cornerstone of lungworm prevention. It provides immunity two weeks after the initial course (two doses four weeks apart) in cattle over eight weeks old. *Dictyocaulus viviparus* causes parasitic pneumonia and coughing and decreases growth rate by over 20%. Compared to other worms, lower numbers of lungworms are needed to cause serious disease which can lead to death. Youngstock during their first grazing season are the most at risk due to no prior exposure.

Sterimatic Needles Discontinued

Sterimatic needles have been discontinued. These were the needles that usually came with vaccination guns and were meant to sterilise themselves between animals. The Veterinary Medicines Directorate decided that the small amount of disinfectant on the needle should be regarded as a medicinal product and wanted Sterimatic to apply for licensing. Unfortunately, as a small company, Sterimatic couldn't afford this so have discontinued the product. There is nothing similar on the market, but the guns will work with luer lock needles.

FCN | THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. Over 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's help with a variety of issues including financial difficulties, animal disease, mental health and family disputes.

FCN has over 400 volunteers, located throughout England and Wales, many of whom are involved in farming or have close links with agriculture and therefore have a great understanding of the issues farm workers and farming families face. They can provide free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to anyone seeking help, whether personal or business-related.

In addition to local groups of volunteers, FCN runs a confidential national helpline every day of the year between 8am and 11pm. They can be contacted on 03000 111 999 or via their email helpline (help@fcn.org.uk).

More information can be found on their website: fcn.org.uk



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