

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Welcome

QUIZ ROUNDUP

We had another fantastic Christmas quiz on Friday 6th December, raising money for RABI and Brains Trust. The grand total is £3082 to split between our two chosen charities. This is a record-breaking figure!

A massive thank you to everyone who attended on the evening and supported the event, we couldn't do it without you. The silent auction alone raised £1562, the hog roast and puddings went down a treat, and we hope everyone had a fantastic evening.



NEW PRODUCT

There is a new **vaccine** recently arrived on the market to help reduce the effects of *Cryptosporidium parvum* on calves.

'Crypto' can be a frustratingly tenacious organism, causing persistent problems with calf scour on farm. This new vaccine is administered to the dam (much like the rotavirus and coronavirus vaccine) during pregnancy. The dam must receive two vaccines 4-5 weeks apart, at least 3 weeks before calving the first year and then once a year after that.

The calf must then receive colostrum from a vaccinated dam; 3L on Day 1, 1L on day 2 and 0.5L of colostrum or transition milk on days 3-5. This allows enough antibodies to pass from the mother's milk to the calf, ensuring optimum protection.

Although lots can be done with hygiene and disinfection to reduce the spread of cryptosporidiosis, this vaccine, available in 5, 20 and 50 dose presentations, offers a brand new tool in the tool box for reducing the effect of crypto on calves. Lower incidence of scour reduces reliance on treatments, sometimes including antibiotics, and improves daily live weight gain. Get in touch for more information.



How does a Snowman get to work?



By-Icicle

Merry Christmas from the CCFV team!



Lambing boxes

This spring we will be selling lambing boxes to ensure you have all the kit you need, on hand ready for the busy season ahead!



Please get in touch for more information and to register interest!

WELCOME

Please join us in wishing a warm welcome to Hollie who is the latest member to join the farm team. She will be supporting us in the office so you will soon hear Hollie on the end of the phone!



Pre-lambing bloods

Why carry out Pre-Lambing bloods?

In the latter stages of an ewe's pregnancy, there is a significant increase in her demands for energy and protein, owing to the rapid growth of the lambs, udder development and colostrum production. Blood sampling ewes in the pre-lambing period along with forage analysis is an excellent way of assessing whether or not the ration being fed is sufficient for your ewes, as both under and over feeding in the run up to lambing can cause different issues. Underfeeding can lead to reduced udder development and therefore poor-quality colostrum/milk production, pregnancy toxæmia, low lamb birth weights, poor lamb survival and lower lamb growth rates. Overfeeding can also cause pregnancy toxæmia and increases the risk of oversized lambs, lambing problems and prolapses.

When to carry out:

The bloods should be carried out around 3 weeks before lambing is due to start

- Too early and the ewes are not in the high-risk period so some of the problems could be missed
- Too late and there is not enough time to implement changes to the diet prior to lambing.

Who to test and how many?

- At least 5 ewes from each management group (singles, twins and triplets)
- Or if you don't scan, test at least 10 ewes with a range of body condition scores.



What is tested and why?

Beta hydroxybutyrate (B-OHB) – High levels of B-OHB are indicative that the ewe is in a negative energy balance. These ewes are at a higher risk of pregnancy toxæmia and producing poor quality colostrum.

Urea-N – Urea-N is the measure of their current protein intake. If it is low, then it is important to also look at feed/forage analysis to see where the shortfall is in the ration. Low protein intake affects the colostrum quality, milk production and immunity.

Albumin - Albumin is a measure of long-term protein status. It is produced by the liver so low levels can indicate liver damage e.g. by fluke, disease or suggests that the ewe has been protein deficient in their diet for a prolonged period. A trial by the University of Edinburgh found ewes with low albumin levels are more likely to lose a lamb in late pregnancy or the first 24 hours of life.

For more information or if you'd like to carry out pre-lambing bloods on your ewes, then please give the practice a call on 01455 710935, to book an appointment.

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