

July 2025 NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Beef Club meeting

At the beginning of June, we had a very successful on farm Beef Club meeting, kindly hosted by the Haines family. With four different stations including a demonstration with our new Micron worm egg counting technology, practical body condition scoring, application and use of data collected on farm thanks to Ben John from Sum-it and had a demo from Matt Ward at Happy Hooves of his fabulous mobile handling and weighing system, which is available for hire. We were treated to some great burgers in the sunshine. If you are interested in finding out more about our Beef Club, please contact the office on 01455 710935.



Scanning promotion

For the months of July and August we are offering pregnancy diagnosis scanning in all cows for the reduced price of £4 + VAT per animal.

Pregnancy diagnosis is a really important tool in both beef and dairy cows, not only for the identification of unproductive animals, but also for the detection of any problems. Please ring the office on 01455 710935 to get your herd booked in!

Vaginal prolapse survey - we need your help!

Vet Gina, along with Sharminnda Lockwood, another VetPartners sheep enthusiast, are collecting data from UK sheep farmers for a study on vaginal prolapses in ewes. Please help by filling in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VaginalProlapse>

Farmers' voices needed!

Please help us to find out more about vaginal prolapse in lambing ewes by completing this survey



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Blaston show

We had a brilliant day in the sunshine at Blaston Show. It was lovely to see so many of you on the stand, we hope you enjoyed the refreshments! Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who took part, the stock all looked fantastic, we love seeing our clients' successes!

Bluetongue - Are your stock protected?

We are encouraging all livestock keepers to seriously consider vaccinating their animals against Bluetongue. As the warm weather continues, we are likely to start seeing more midge activity. No one knows what this year has in store for us, but vaccination remains the best tool we have for long term Bluetongue control. Please ring the office to discuss options with a vet.

MEETING

We are holding a **Bluetongue Meeting** on 17th July, 7pm at Welford Village Hall. To book your place, please call the office.



Discount on abortion vaccines!

MSD are offering a 5% discount on all Enzovax and Toxovax orders that are collected before the end of July.

Toxovax and Enzovax can both be given to ewe lambs over 5 months old, but must be done a minimum of 4 weeks before the tups go in.

In previous years there has been issues with stock later in the season, so get ahead if you can and vaccinate your flock! Don't forget to vaccinate any that might have been missed in previous years due to supply issues. If you have any questions about vaccination protocols or the benefits of vaccination, please contact the office.

Haemonchus contortus - the 'Barbers Pole' worm

SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) is encouraging farmers and the wider sheep industry to stay alert for *Haemonchus contortus* - commonly known as Barber's Pole worm.

The impacts of climate change have resulted in warmer winter and spring temperatures allowing the parasite to survive on pasture and take hold earlier in the year. SCOPS stresses the importance of accurate diagnosis and support effective parasite control on farm.

What is *Haemonchus contortus*?

- *Haemonchus* is one of several different roundworms that are found in sheep in the UK.
- Unlike many other roundworms, it does not typically cause scour.
- It is a blood-sucking roundworm that lives in the stomach of sheep.
- It can lead to anaemia (pale gums and eyelids), bottle jaw (swelling under the jaw), lethargy, weight loss, and in advanced cases, sudden death.
- Presence of *Haemonchus* eggs in a faecal egg count (FEC) does not always indicate haemonchosis (clinical disease).

Tips for *Haemonchus* diagnosis:

1. Test first - SCOPS is encouraging farmers to work closely with their vets and advisers to take a test-first approach. The first step would be to carry out a faecal egg count (FEC) to determine the strongyle count.
2. Species identification - a high strongyle count is indicative but cannot confirm the presence of *Haemonchus*. Species testing must be submitted via your vet and identifies the proportion of strongyle eggs that are *Haemonchus*. This test is available through APHA and is currently discounted.
3. FAMACHA (C) scoring - a useful tool for assessing anaemia in potentially affected animals. Farmers can evaluate the colour of the lower eyelid using a scale from 1 (red, not anaemic) to 5 (white, severely anaemic). The paler the eyelid, the more anaemic the animal is likely to be.
4. Never waste a dead sheep - post mortems can identify a range of health issues. Unlike other roundworms, adult *Haemonchus* worms can be easily seen by eye in the stomach. Combined with signs such as pale carcasses and weight loss, this can confirm the presence of disease.

Pork chops!

Cross Counties Farm Vets 📞 01455 710935

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