

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



Welcome

PELVIC SCORING HEIFERS

What is pelvic scoring?

Pelvic scoring is carried out in heifers to assess their suitability for breeding. Internal measurements are taken of the pelvis to identify any heifers with a small or abnormally shaped pelvis. We also assess the reproductive tract to look for any abnormalities and check the heifers are cycling properly.

Why pelvic score?

Pelvic scoring helps you to make breeding decisions in your heifers, by identifying those most likely to have a successful calving.

When can it be done?

We can carry out pelvic scoring on any heifers 13 months old or older, at any time of year.

IN HOUSE FAECAL EGG AND FLUKE COUNTING

We have a new piece of technology that allows us to perform automated faecal egg counts via AI. It is called a Micron and will help us detect coccidial oocysts, roundworm eggs and fluke eggs with more standardisation.

We will also be able to generate more user-friendly reports and track changes in a group or a field.

Look out for our new reports as we transition onto the new system.



Worm FEC Results

Test Then Treat with Micron Kit.
Micron Kit is proudly proficiency tested on a regular basis through the VetQAS PT0116 scheme run by APHA.

Client Details:	Animal Details:	Sample Details:	Test Details:
Client Name: Test Client Address: N/A NMSHE	Animal Type: Ovine Herd Number: N/A Dated: No	Sample ID: Test 20595 Sample Type: Pooled	Date of Test: 20/05/2025 Test ID: W054-1HY6-25 Test Performed By: GR

EGG / OOCYST TYPE	RESULT	OWEPG COUNT
Coccidia (Elmeria spp)	Not Detected	< 30 OPG
Strongyle (Strongylus spp)	Positive	150 EPG
Nematodirus (Nematodirus spp)	Not Detected	< 30 EPG
Trichostrongylus (Trichostrongylus spp)	Not Detected	< 30 EPG
Strongylidae (Strongylidae spp)	Not Detected	< 30 EPG
Moniezia (Moniezia spp)	Not Detected	< 30 EPG
TOTAL (Excluding Coccidia)		150 EPG

Result Comments:
N/A

Symptoms:
N/A

Micron Report Lab ID 2025

Micron Report Lab ID 2025

Results given are intended as a guide to assist decisions on worm management. Results should be interpreted in the context of clinical signs or other relevant data. Treatment decisions and the effectiveness of the treatment remain the responsibility of the user.

Bluetongue Update

From 1st July all of England will be going into a bluetongue restriction zone. From then you will be able to move cattle and sheep without a bluetongue license or pre-movement test. Whilst this will make buying and selling easier, bluetongue could spread faster as infected animals move and potentially infect midge populations elsewhere.

Vaccination is encouraged as the most effective long-term disease control measure. If you want to know more about the bluetongue vaccines, please get in touch.

Keep in mind, animals showing signs of blue tongue cannot be moved, and until 1st July the rules remain as they are with regards testing and licensing.

Faecal egg counting kits

We now have kits for sale! We have composed bespoke kits with supplies enough for 50 faecal egg counts. Simply take an equal scoop from 10-15 individual animals per group and put them in the same bag, noting information such as symptoms and worming treatments. Faecal egg counting is a key job throughout the grazing season to know where your livestock is at.

Contact the office if you would like to purchase a kit!

Why did the farmer leave the cinema before the film had finished?



Teaser Rams

Why Use a Teaser Ram?

- Using a teaser ram is an effective way of manipulating the ewes natural breeding cycle. It can be used to bring forward the ewes breeding system by up to 2 weeks, encourage maiden ewes to start cycling prior to tupping and tighten the lambing period by synchronising ewes before the ram goes in.

How to select a Teaser Ram

- Health – the rams should be fit and healthy to help ensure longevity. Choose rams with no history of lameness or joint ill and good teeth to keep on body condition. If buying in a ram to vasectomise then ensure its health status matches the rest of your flock (e.g. MV status)
- Age – ideally a shearling as they are better developed and have a higher libido than a ram lambs.
- Breed - If trying to bring the lambing forward then use an early breeder such as a Dorset or a Suffolk. However, any breed can be used, if you take their natural breeding season into account.

What is involved in the procedure

- The ram is lightly sedated and local anaesthesia is used. The vas deferens is located and a 3cm section of tube is removed on both sides. This means the vasectomised ram can still produce testosterone, so acts like an entire ram, but is unable to produce sperm.
- The vas deferens can be sent to the lab to confirm the correct part has been removed. This is an extra cost.
- In rare cases, the vas deferens can rejoin, so semen analysis can be done to ensure they are not fertile, prior to introducing the ewes.

Timings

- Vasectomised rams can remain fertile for up to 8 weeks post-surgery so ensure you book in the procedure in plenty of time before you wish to work them.



He only wanted to watch the trailers!

Cross Counties Farm Vets ☎ 01455 710935

Welford Branch: Elkington Lodge, Elkington Road, Welford, Northampton, NN6 6HE.

Lutterworth Branch: Elizabethan House, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4NJ.

Broughton Astley Branch: 12 Swannington Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6TU.

Email: office@ccfarmvets.co.uk **Website:** www.ccfarmvets.co.uk **Facebook:** Cross Counties Farm Vets

Broughton Vet Group Ltd trading as Cross Counties Farm Vets. Company number 9243007 registered in England & Wales. Registered office: Spitfire House, Aviator Court, York, YO30 4UZ