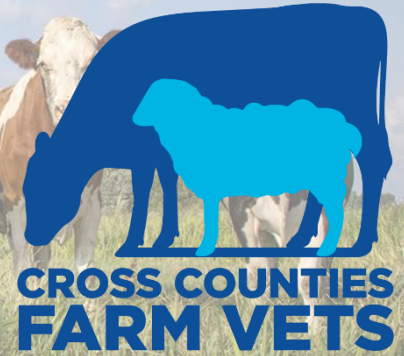


# May 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome



### WORMERS, FLY CONTROL AND BOLUSES

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> May we are delighted to be able to offer new competitive prices for wormers, fly control products and boluses. Our team are happy to offer advice and guidance on the best options for your livestock.

### TBAS AND BADGER SETT SURVEYS

A reminder that if you haven't yet signed up for the second round of TBAS visits (TB advisory service) now is the perfect time. This is a government funded visit with no cost to you. During the visit one of our vets will assess the TB risk on your farm. A badger sett survey may be recommended and can be carried out by the practice. A joint discussion will then lead to four key actions being determined to help reduce your TB risk. A follow up visit will be performed 6 months later to monitor progress and answer any further questions.

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY

Remember to book in your Animal Health and Welfare Review for this year. To recap:

- Sheep - £436 – to include a wormer treatment test
- Beef - £522 – to include 5 BVD antibody blood tests
- Dairy - £372 – to include BVD bulk milk PCR testing
- Pigs - £684 – to include PRRS antibody testing

Timing of testing is important so please call to discuss this with one of our vets before applying.

### BLUETONGUE

We would like to remind everyone to remain vigilant for bluetongue with the increasing temperatures. Midge activity is increasing now, resulting in an increased disease risk. Vaccination should be considered to protect your animals ahead of the higher risk periods.

### ENZO AND TOXO TESTING

Have you experienced abortions in your flock this lambing season? Do you vaccinate for Enzo or Toxo? If not, we can provide subsidised testing for barren ewes to establish if either of these diseases have contributed. Please call the practice to arrange testing before the end of June.

### Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Flock Club Meeting – discussing all things quarantine – open to all – hot dinner provided.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Mastering Medicines Course in line with Red Tractor Certified Standards – Welford office – 6pm arrival, 6:30pm start.

Contact the office to book your place at either meeting.

### Blaston Show

The team will be at Blaston Show again this year on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward to seeing you there!



### A familiar face!

We would like to introduce Daisy-May as a new member of the farm support team, taking over the TB administration. Some of you may recognise her from her time at the Lutterworth and Broughton Astley practices and will likely be familiar with her friendly voice on the end of the phone!

# Nematodirus and Blowfly Risk

Have you used the SCOPS forecasts?

SCOPS is a brilliant website providing information on sustainable parasite control. SCOPS has a forecast assessing the risk of Nematodirus. The forecast predicts the hatch date for nematodirus based on the temperature data recorded from 140 weather stations throughout the UK. In combination with the grazing history on your farm this can be used as an aid to determine the risk of infection for your lambs. It is important to consider your farm and grazing history. The closest weather stations may be at a different altitude and aspect which should be factored in. South facing fields will have an earlier hatch and with every 100 m increase in altitude a delay of 7 days is generally seen.

Nematodirus can have a significant impact on growth rates and mortality. We can see mass hatching of nematodirus with weather changes from cold to hot, if this coincides with the increase in grass intake from roughly 6 weeks of age the consequences can be devastating. It is important to monitor closely for clinical signs, growth rates and utilise tools such as the SCOPS forecast to stay ahead of the risk.

We have been informed of cases of blowfly strike in sheep already and would recommend everyone remains vigilant and takes actions to prevent disease where possible. The current risk for the area is medium based on the NADIS Blowfly watch, which is another tool looking at weather data and predicting the associated risk of blowfly emergence.

## Parasites in first grazing cattle

With the grazing season underway, we need to think about managing the parasite risks in our youngstock. First grazing season calves are the most vulnerable group due to a lack of previous exposure to parasites, and therefore no immunity. The main parasites to consider are lungworm and roundworms such as Ostertagia.

First season grazers should ideally be turned out onto low-risk pasture such as silage aftermath and pasture that has not been grazed by calves or youngstock in the previous grazing season, reducing exposure to parasites that have overwintered. If this is unavoidable, strategic worming may be required. Calves grazing low risk pasture and following strategic treatment can be monitored using faecal egg counts, these can be performed in house for roundworms, with samples for lungworm being sent to the laboratory. Samples should be obtained from 10-12 individual fresh pats and dropped to us as soon as possible. Monitoring growth rates of youngstock is another key component for assessing worm burden, with a target of 0.7 kg/day on a grass-based diet. Reduced growth rates maybe an indicator of a worm burden.

Reducing reliance on anthelmintics is a key step to reduce the development of resistance. Utilising diagnostics, growth rate monitoring and pasture management to reduce the parasite risk and unnecessary treatments is important to protect the industry. Vaccination against lungworm is another useful tool to consider prior to turnout to reduce treatments required. Parasite control plans are individual to each farm and therefore we would urge you to have a discussion with one of our vets about the best options for your animals.



**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](mailto:office@ccfarmvets.co.uk) **Website:** [www.ccfarmvets.co.uk](http://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