



Belle Vue Vets

Farm Newsletter February 2024



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016973 42174



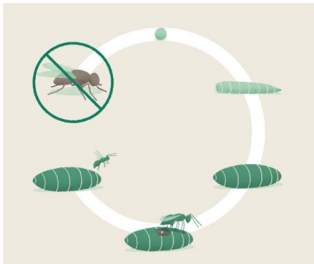
reception@wigtonvets.co.uk

info@wigtonvets.co.uk

Farmer Meeting — Fly Control on dairy farms — Greenrigg Farm, Waverton

Wednesday 6th March—11.30am—Lunch Provided

Last summer flies were an incredible problem on some farms. Flies are generally a nuisance, causing stress to the animals (and staff) which results in milk drop and reduction in liveweight gain in youngstock. Flies can also transmit diseases like summer mastitis and new forest eye.



Last season Belle Vue Vets used biological fly control on one dairy farm for the first time, with excellent results. This involved regularly introducing beneficial insects into the environment to control the pest flies without the use of chemicals. To get ahead of the fly life cycle, these releases need to start in late April. If you would like to find out more about the use of bio-wasps and bio-flies to control pest insects, please come along to our meeting at the beginning of March. Lunch will be provided, so please contact Leigh and Lynda at the surgery to book your place.

Professional Vet Tech Services

At Belle Vue Vets we are delivering a range of vet tech services on farm, helping to improve cow and calf health and welfare, and also freeing up some of your own valuable time to be spent elsewhere within your business.

Vaccination - our vet techs are trained in the storage, handling and administration of all vaccines. This allows them to deliver cost effective, timely and tailor made vaccination plans on farm to control calf pneumonia. They are also available to administer whole herd booster vaccinations against endemic diseases such as IBR, Lepto or BVD.

Disbudding— our vet techs are highly trained and experienced in disbudding. At Belle Vue Vets we recommend 'knock down' disbudding where the calves are sedated by the vet prior to disbudding, which is then performed under local anaesthetic with pain relief being administered. This minimises stress on the calves and speeds recovery. A set price per calf includes all drugs, and castration can be performed at the same time by the vet for a small extra fee.

Mobility Scoring—mob scoring allows early detection of lameness in individual cows, speeding treatment and recovery and so maximising cow welfare and productivity. Both our vet techs are ROMs accredited and provide an independent evaluation of your herds current lameness. These mobility scores satisfy the requirements of all milk buyers and can be used to track improvements or deterioration in lameness over time.

Please speak to Lynda or Leigh if you would like a price list or you are interested in any of these services.

Due to changes in prescription rules, an up-to-date herd or flock plan will now need to be in place before medications can be dispensed. Funding through the Animal Health and Welfare pathway is available to help towards the cost of these plans.

Please pre-order all medicines over the phone to ensure we can authorize these medications.

We are now able to process Direct Debits.

Please contact the Practice to set up this method of payment.



POLITE REMINDER:

When writing a cheque please remember to address it to Belle Vue Vets Ltd.

FARM DISCOUNT SCHEME

Excellent discounts on selected drugs / vaccines when accounts are paid before the month's end.

Please pre-order all medications by calling 016973 42174, this will help speed up collection at the desk and get authorisation from one of our vets.



Lambing time best practice

With lambing having already started on some farms and being just around the corner on others, it can be useful to remember some of the following points to try and make your lambing season run more smoothly.

Colostrum

'A strong, healthy lamb, up and sucking within 15 minutes of birth has a 90–95% chance of still being alive 90 days later' according to AHDB.

It is also important to remember the three Q's:

Quantity, Quickly and Quality

Make sure lambs receive 200ml of colostrum within two hours of birth. In 24 hours, a newborn lamb must receive the equivalent of 200 ml/kg body weight in colostrum.

Example: a 5 kg lamb needs 1 litre of colostrum in the first day of life. Colostrum from the ewe is preferred, to provide immunity to farm-specific diseases. Ideally powdered colostrum should only be used as a last resort.

Ensure that all colostrum fed is done so cleanly—clean and disinfect tubes and bottles regularly.

Navels

Spray or dip the entire navel in iodine as soon after birth as possible and then again 6 hours later to help reduce the chances of navel ill.

As always, we are always available for lambings and caesars at the surgery. Please remember to call ahead to ensure we have a vet available for when you arrive.

It is also useful to provide your own container to transport lambs home in — clean, straw filled old lick buckets are perfect for this.



Pens

Lambing indoors, whilst having many advantages, can also cause problems if hygiene is not taken care of, with the prevalence of watery mouth, scours and joint ill increasing to name but a few. Bacteria build up during the lambing period and survive and spread in moist conditions.

Ideally pens should be cleaned and disinfected between occupants. If this is not possible, then use an antibacterial powder that can be applied to the previous occupant's straw, along with plenty of clean dry straw on top.

For more information on what detergents and disinfectants to use when cleaning out pens, please see our disinfectants bulletin.

Abortion in Ewes

With the onset of lambing, we are already seeing the first abortions in our flocks. Investigating these abortions is critical to both controlling the current outbreak and planning for future tupping and lambing seasons. The best things to submit to the lab include a whole foetus and as much placenta as possible. The most common causes of abortion in sheep include: Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE—chlamydial abortion), Toxoplasmosis, Campylobacter and Salmonella.

Each of these diseases have different long term control strategies, making diagnosis critical. However, some factors are common between these different causes. All the listed causes of abortion (and many others) can cause disease in humans. Gloves should be worn when lambing, and hands should be regularly washed. All aborted ewes should be isolated, and the abortion materials (foetus and placenta), as well as the contaminated bedding, should be removed and destroyed. Immediate disinfection of the area will also help reduce spread of disease in the flock. Often these diseases are purchased with replacement stock. Maintaining a closed flock will keep disease out.

Funding is currently available to test for EAE in unvaccinated flocks with more than 50 breeding ewes. This is normally a geld ewe screen after lambing is finished. Please contact the surgery if you have had a high geld rate from scanning to lambing and would like to discuss testing.