

JUNE 2024, ISSUE 20

TYNDALE NEWS

SUMMER EDITION



*This issue's
informative reads:*

EVENTS

SPRING PARASITES

PELVIC SCORING

EWE MASTITIS

GENERAL NEWS

Coming up at Tyndale...

- 07/06 - First Aid for Feet Course
- 09/06 - Open Farm Sunday @Tortworth, Elm Tree Farm & Edwards, Severndale Farm
- 11/06 - 3 day intermediate Foot Trimming Course
- 13/06 - Mastering Medicines Dairy Course
- 30/06 - Berkeley Show
- 02/07 - 'Raising the steaks' - Beef Open Day at Portway Farm - limited places available
- 03/07 - Down to Earth
- 25/07 - Mastering Medicines Beef & Sheep Course
- 30/07 - NSA Sheep Event
- 10/08 - Chepstow Show
- 07/09 - Moreton Show
- 11/09 - UK Dairy Day stand F24
- 14/09 - Usk Show
- 27/09 - Macmillan Coffee morning @ the practice please pop in!



**Scan here to
book any of
our courses**

SPRING PARASITES

Worms

Once lambs are six weeks of age, they will be eating enough grass to put them at risk of a worm burden. Ideally, we'd perform faecal egg counts (FECs) every three weeks whilst the weather is warm and wet. Don't forget to sample your ewes too, twin mothers tend to have higher burdens due to the increased physiological stress. We can discuss when to do your next FEC after each egg count, as well as what the best wormer is for your farm at the time. The main two worms to be aware of are:



With our vet
Kirby Dobson

- **Nematodirus worms (N):** even in low numbers these worms can cause sudden death in lambs. Lambs grazing fields that had lambs in last year too are at biggest risk. The risk level is moderate for the south west at the moment but is declining; check <https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/> for up to date information. If we find these on a faecal egg count a white wormer is often the best to use.
- **Haemonchus worms (S):** in moderate numbers these worms cause loss of condition, anaemia, and death in ewes and lambs. If seen on faecal egg counts, we will decide what wormer to use based on your farm history.



Flies

There have been reports of flystrike in more southern areas of England. Make sure your sheep have clean clipped bottoms and appropriate fly control is in place to prevent issues.

Coccidiosis

Coccidia (O): is a small parasite of the intestines that won't respond to wormers. It typically causes scour in 4-8 week old lambs (and calves). Faecal egg counts are needed for a diagnosis. This disease highlights the importance of faecal egg counts prior to worming/medicating, as worming will not fix this issue, and sometimes there is a delay in response to treatment for coccidia due to damage of the guts causing diarrhoea to persist even after the coccidia have gone. Anti-coccidials such as Toltracol are used to treat this problem. Electrolytes are also important in any sick animals to help rehydration. There are other drug options too for helping to stop the diarrhoea, please speak to any of our vet team for more information.

HEIFER PELVIC SCORING- FUTURE PROOFING CALVING

We may be looking at lambing season through our rear-view mirror, but calving season is still right in front of us. Farmers await this year's crop of calves with great anticipation, as always it will either confirm or make them regret their breeding group selection decisions. One of those being bull selection. Particular attention should be paid to Estimate Breeding Values (EBV's) which measure the animals genetic potential and are used to assess the bull's breeding quality for a specific trait. There is a list of different EBV's but they can be grouped into 3 main attributes: maternal care, growth and carcass and probably the one most of us look at, ease of calving. An easy calving bull is normally preferred as it may provide a sense of "peace of mind" for the calving season. Some farmers will consciously choose "easy calving" bulls to use on their heifers as these tend to have a smaller pelvic frame than a multiparous cow.



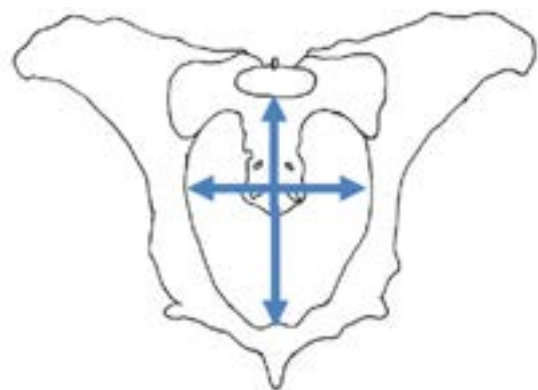
*With our vet
Inês Cruz*

But let's not forget that it takes two to tango and female selection is as equally as important, especially with heifers. Heifer selection is often based on age and/or size but sometimes this can be deceiving as it is often not a direct measurement of their pelvis size.

Pelvic scoring is an inexpensive tool which can help identify heifers with an optimal pelvic size and identify the ones with a narrower pelvis which can lead to difficulty at calving.

Your vet will carry out a manual examination of the heifer's reproductive tract via the rectum to assess whether the heifer has hit puberty. We will assess the the size and tone of the uterus, along with measuring the length, width and height of the ovaries, noting the presence and size of ovarian structures. This examination can also help identify infertile females, e.g. freemartins, allowing you to better plan for the future.

Now is the perfect time to future proof your calving, call us today to book in pelvic scoring for your heifers.



ewe mastitis

We are hearing of mixed levels of mastitis in flocks. Best treatment depends on the severity and which bugs are involved. Quick treatment will help the odds of returning to full function. If you are having large numbers it is important to try and establish the cause, in order to prevent further cases.

APHA are offering free testing of up to three ewes with mastitis from each farm until August to improve the surveillance of bacteria and antibiotic resistance issues. Samples must be taken aseptically, before treatment, so having a vet out to do this may be the best option for ensuring reliable results.

If you are having problems with mastitis, please give one of our vets a ring to discuss it further.



COMMUNICATION

Sheep Discussion Groups

We are looking to start sheep discussion groups. These will consist of small numbers of sheep farmers (no more than 15 per group), and we plan to meet regularly to discuss relevant topics, from nutrition, to growth rates, to grazing practices. If you are keen to come and share your practices and listen to other farmers then please get in touch! Ideally the meetings will be on farm so if you are also keen to show us around your farm or stock then we would love to hear from you!

We're upgrading our phones!

We are upgrading our phones to a new call system. This means that you will receive a welcome message providing options like press 1 for reception, press 2 for pharmacy etc. We're hopeful this will help us improve our service by putting you directly through to the staff member with the most knowledge and capabilities to help you. Alongside this, the system will now record phone calls, again, hopefully this will simply improve our services.

Did you know you can
WhatsApp Tyndale?

Scan the QR code or
use our normal landline
number to get in touch



01453 511 311

