



## Oswestry Show Sat 4th August

The Oswestry show is upon us! Please come along to our stand for a chat with the team where we will have tea, coffee and cold drinks on offer and some snacks to keep you going through a busy show-day! Why not have a go at our annual challenge? We look forward to seeing you there.



## Daleside Veterinary Group

AUGUST 2018

## Calving Gate

Have a look at this fantastic set up on a client's farm, this calving gate makes it easy to handle calving cows and is perfect for any form of assistance including caesareans. It is a relatively inexpensive and easy to install system, could it be a worthwhile investment?

## New Team Member - Lauren Arndt

*Lauren is joining the team as a Large Animal Support Assistant working both in the office and out on farm. Lauren grew up on a local beef and sheep farm, and she has recently graduated from Aberystwyth University, where she studied Agriculture with Animal Science. She was also the President of the Agriculture Society in her final year. Look out for her in the Farmers Weekly, as she is currently competing as one of the finalists for the Farmers Weekly Apprentice 2018 award!*

*In her spare time she enjoys getting outdoors with her Huntaway pup Kim and has recently bought a camera to capture some snaps.*



A photograph of three sheep with light brown wool, looking directly at the camera. They are standing in a field with green grass and trees in the background.

# Pre-Tupping Checks

**With tupping fast approaching, ensuring ewes are in appropriate body condition score before the rams are added should therefore be the focus over the coming weeks.**

Both research and on-farm trials have shown that ewes at their optimum condition at tupping produce the greatest number of lambs at scanning and minimise the proportion of barren ewes. For lowland and upland ewes this target should be 3 to 3.5 whilst for hill ewes a target of 2.5 should be aimed for. Sorting ewes by condition score at least 8 weeks before mating will allow time for the correction of any individuals below or above the flock target. At this point it is important to handle each individual as even with relatively short wool growth, looks can be deceptive.

Flock health is as important as flock nutrition so August is a great time to consider the management of any health issues: liver fluke, lameness, trace element deficiencies and abortion agents can all reduce conception rates and scanning results. Many of these issues can be covered as part of a flock health plan but it's always worth reviewing in light of the previous year's scanning and lambing results.

**for a full ewe MOT:**

- **Teeth:** check for broken mouths, but don't forget to check the back teeth too.
- **Toes:** Tupping is a very active time so lameness is not going to do anything for libido or ability.
- **Teats:** Check each ewe has a soft healthy bag, don't risk breeding something that cannot feed its lamb!
- **Tone:** Make a note of her body condition so it can be made optimum before tupping.
- **Treatments:** Not only do the sheep need to look the part, they also need protection. In terms of worm control, part of your flock will need worming before tupping. Only thin or older ewes will require worming at this time. Tups do not gain as good immunity to worms as the ewes so worming before tupping is recommended.

Vaccination is the other important consideration at this time. Abortion can cause serious economic losses to a flock but luckily we have vaccinations for the two most common causes: enzootic abortion and toxoplasmosis. These diseases account for over 60% of sheep abortions, most of which are caused by enzootic abortion. Enzootic abortion is very contagious between ewes, it also lies dormant so that seemingly unaffected ewes can abort the following year. Toxoplasma does not spread between ewes but it spread by cats.

The vaccinations for both are very effective as long as they are given at the appropriate time prior to mating. Talk to one of the team about an appropriate vaccination schedule for your flock as soon as possible.



SEE THE FUTURE  
OF YOUR HERD

# Clarifide Genomic Testing

**We are now offering a full genomic testing service for dairy herds, with Clarifide. Traditionally assessing a heifers genetic potential relied on estimates based on her parents average performance.**

This is not particularly reliable, so knowing which are your best heifers to breed from is rather hit-and miss.

Genomic testing allows us to accurately assess the genetic potential of heifers before they are even served, meaning you can reliably choose the animals with the best genetics for your system.

The test involves taking an ear tissue

sample, then we can work with you to set your breeding strategy and select the best heifers to breed from, based on the traits you want to focus on and breed for.

This can bring many advantages

- speeding up genetic gain in your herd
- Aid decisions about selling surplus heifers
- Allow more target use of sexed semen on the best heifers and cows, then breed other heifers and cows to beef, leading to less low value dairy bull calves

For more information about Clarifide, speak to Guy or any of the farm animal team.

## Pre Movement Testing

We would like to politely request that any pre-movement testing is booked in as far in advance of the first day as possible, to allow us to schedule visits properly, thank you for your cooperation in this matter.