



## Oswestry Show

We have a stand at Oswestry show again this year, on Saturday 4th August. We'd love for you to come and visit us for a drink and a challenge!

### Tackling TB Meeting

The TB Advisory Service offers FREE bespoke advice to cattle farmers in the High Risk and Edge Areas of England.

Please come along to hear the latest information on TB and have your questions answered by their expert panel of speakers.

**Thursday, 5th July, 2018 at 7pm The Wynnstay Hotel, 43 Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SZ**

To book your FREE place, please call or email using the contact information below.

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

**Website: [tbas.org.uk](http://tbas.org.uk)**

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## Daleside

Veterinary Group

**JULY 2018**

### Breeding Bulls

Whilst we have been talking about preparing tups for tuppings, it is important that we talk about breeding bulls and preparation for spring calving. Now is the time to think about bull MOTs. Please call a member of the team today about getting your bull checked out.

### Summer Mastitis

**With the hot weather comes fly season and the risk of summer mastitis.** Mild, damp, humid conditions with low wind speeds are particular risk factors and therefore pastures next to wooded areas are a particular risk. It typically affects in calf heifers and dry cows out at pasture during the summer months. Flies clustering around the affected teat and gradual enlargement of the length and width of teats are the early signs which then develop into obvious enlargement of the teat and udder, isolation of the affected animal from the group, stiffness and reluctance to walk and a lack of grazing giving a gaunt appearance. Dry cow therapy (including, where appropriate, antibiotic dry cow tubes), avoiding grazing high risk pasture and diligent fly control can help prevent summer mastitis.

# Preparing Rams for Topping

**Although it may seem early to be talking about topping, now is the time to start preparing for it so that it runs smoothly and problems are avoided.**

It seems sensible to start with thinking about how many tups you will need. Ideally a ratio of 1 tup to 40 ewes or 1 ram lamb to 25 ewes is recommended. Whilst the ram:ewe ratio is important, it is not as important as having fit rams. Rams which are overfed and consequently overweight have lower mating capacity.

Given the recent hot weather we've been having, rams may benefit from being removed from unsheltered pastures, to pastures which offer shade or into a shady building with good airflow at sheep level. Wool should be shorn from the testicles, plenty of fresh, cool water should be made available and if rams are seen to be panting then a two handbreadth's width of wool should be clipped from their back from neck to rump. Flies should be treated with a product such as Spot-On or Fly-Por. It is a good time to be thinking about mineral deficiencies; in particular selenium. If in a selenium deficient area, selenium should be injected into tups 12 weeks pre-mating.

Body condition scoring is also important. Rams work very hard and can cover a lot of distance during the mating period so they need to be in good condition without being over fat! Condition score 3.5 is ideal. It takes 3 weeks to put on a half a condition score so assessing body condition score early is vital. Remember though, that show condition is too fat and will have a negative effect on fertility. Whilst being overfat will negatively affect fertility, rams need energy to be able to work well. They should be placed on a rising plane of nutrition 6-8 weeks before they are required to work. Urinary stones can be a problem in rams fed concentrates, therefore, concentrates should avoid high levels of magnesium and have a high calcium to phosphorus ratio of 2:1 to help avoid urinary stones. Concentrates should also have a good vitamin/ mineral mix in order to avoid trace element deficiencies.

Rams require a pre-breeding exam before they start work. Any illness can have negative effects on sperm production and these can take 6-8 weeks to rectify so it is important to check rams in plenty of time. Teeth, feet and legs, fleece and skin are all important to assess as well as horn growth if your rams have horns. We also have an electroejaculator at the practice which we can use to assess a ram's fertility status. Talk to one of the team today about booking your rams in for a pre-breeding MOT.

It is also important that rams are not forgotten about when considering routine husbandry tasks such as vaccinating against pasteurella and clostridial disease and any precautions taken against parasite burdens. These should all be done 6-8 weeks before topping to give the ram chance to get over the stress of handling. Please bear in mind that tups bought in from areas where ticks are not a problem will be susceptible to ticks if they are a problem on your farm.





# Ewe Flock check

**Free testing for up to 8 ewes for enzootic abortion and toxoplasma is on-going until the 31st July.**

## **The Quarantine Procedure for Buying Tups and Ewes In**

- The quarantine period should be at least 3 weeks and ideally 4. Quarantine means not coming into contact with your current flock at all; either by touching noses, sharing the same airspace or you transferring potentially infectious substances from bought in animals to your own.
- Hard standing or a shed needs to be available for the first 48 hours. This allows all resistant worms to be shed onto an area which will not be grazed by your current flock
- All bought in animals should receive a worming treatment using both an orange and a clear wormer to maximise the chance of killing off any current worm burden. The clear wormer should be in injectable form to allow treatment of any scab which might be present. Please speak to one of the large animal team today regarding the best products to use and how many doses are required to treat scab.

• After 48 hours of being on hard standing or in a shed, bought in animals may be turned out onto dirty pasture (ideally pasture which lambs have recently been moved off). This pasture should then not be used next year until mowed off for silage. 3 days before the end of the quarantine period, all bought in animals should be treated for fluke using triclabendazole.

• The quarantine procedure also needs to include foot health. Quarantined sheep should have their feet checked, and any lesions treated. They should be footbathed weekly during the quarantine period either in 3% formalin or 10% zinc sulphate. It is important that the correct technique is used. If footrot is a problem on farm then there is a vaccine available. Call the practice and one of the large animal team will be happy to advise you on lameness treatment, footbathing, and whether vaccination against footrot is something which could be useful on your farm.

• When buying animals in, it is really important to know their health status. Health schemes can be trusted where-as taking someone's word that an animal is disease free or vaccinated is not always something we can do. Diseases which are monitored in health schemes include; Maedi Visna, Enzootic Abortion of sheep, Scrapie and Caseous Lymphadenitis testing.