



Daleside
Veterinary Group

FARM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

Mineral nutrition in grazing beef cattle meeting

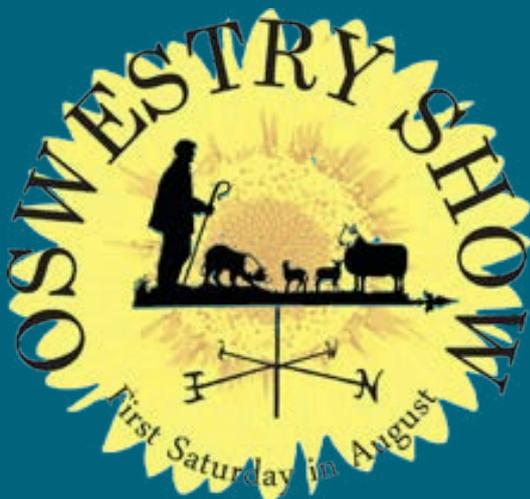
On the 5th of July we will be holding a meeting with Farming Connect on mineral nutrition in grazing beef cattle. The meeting will begin at 7.30 at the Wynnstay Hotel, Ruabon with mineral nutritionist Pete Bone.

Bimeda have kindly sponsored grass mineral analysis kits for those attending the meeting. If you would like to attend and would be interested in a grass sampling kit, then please let us know.

Mineral nutrition of grazing beef cattle is an essential, but complicated component of diet management. Forage is often the only source of mineral supply to cattle on a grass based system with little or no concentrates being fed.



Many of you will often get your silage tested but might overlook mineral nutrition when grazing over summer. The evening with Pete Bone will provide you with the basic knowledge to be able to make informative decisions on mineral nutrition.



Look out for us at the Oswestry Show

Summer is here and so are agricultural shows. We are looking forward to being back at the Oswestry show on the 6th of August. Please come over to say hello!

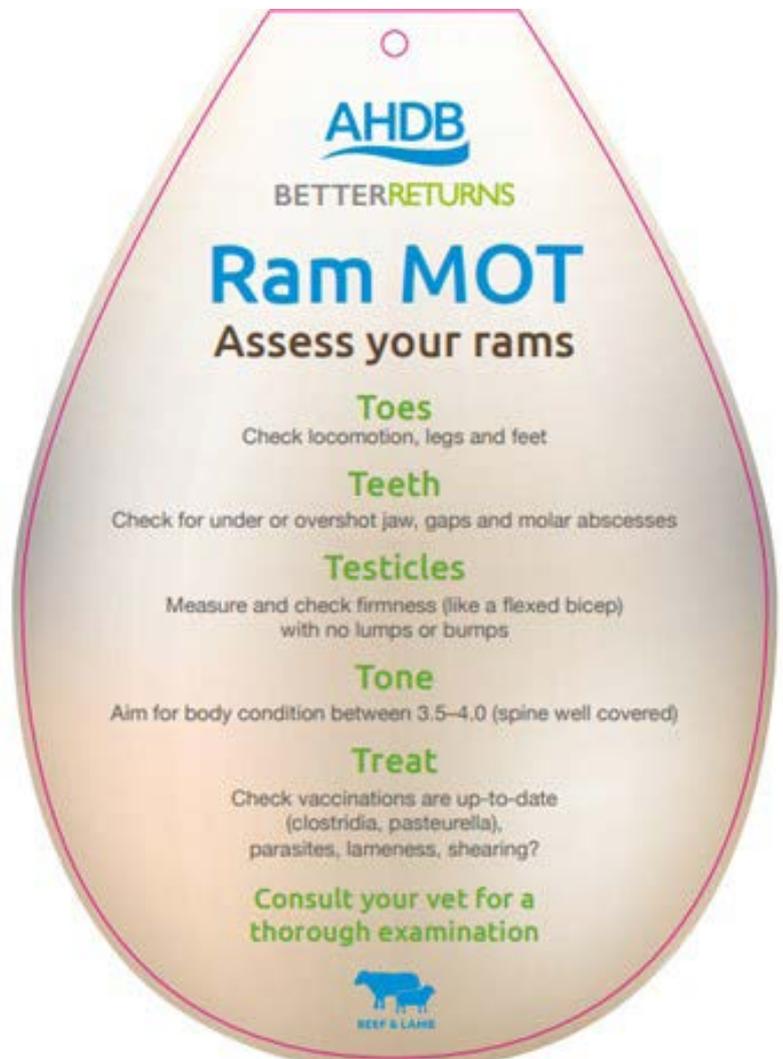


Pre Topping Preparation

With topping now only a few months away, it's time to prepare for the next breeding season. During this period our main aim is achieving the correct BCS for mating to aim for the optimal ovulation rate.

The first step of achieving the correct BCS is weaning, allow at least 10 weeks before mating. At weaning we recommend splitting the ewes into at least three groups – thin, fit, fat and manage their grazing accordingly, ideally these groups should be assessed every two to three weeks and ewes reassigned if necessary. If thin ewes on good grazing do not gain condition after 3-4 weeks, it would be worth investigating why this may be. Remember to check their udders at this point, good practice is to record any issues had during lambing. Any lumps in the udder could be because of sub-clinical infection and could be significant next spring.

Very low BCS at weaning (<2) has a negative effect on ovulation rate. Nutritional effects on ovulation rate is influenced by combination of long-term nutrition and current levels of feeding. Long-term nutrition should be considered as the most important factor, however flushing ewes before mating can be used as an additional tool for those ewes that are less than ideal BCS in the final run-up to mating. As a rule of thumb, it takes six to eight weeks for ewes to gain one unit of BCS if they are on high-quality grass and so therefore it is essential to have at least 10 weeks between weaning and mating. Where ewes are lean or resources are limited, there is need to consider early weaning and prioritising the ewes at a much earlier stage.



And let's not forget about the rams, don't wait until scanning to find out if the ram has worked! Ensure you check over the rams 10 weeks before topping, this should give time to correct any problems detected. This handy ram MOT produced by AHDB highlights the main aspects to check over.

Something that is often overlooked is the timing of purchase. They should be purchased at least 3 weeks before the start of topping. This allows them to acclimatise to your system, making sure they are fit and ready to work. It will take three weeks for their rumen to adjust to a new diet.

