

Improving Post Weaning Lamb Performance

Our next workshop will be based on Improving Post Weaning Lamb Performance.

The evening will be a great chance to reflect on this year's lamb performance. The workshop will consist of weaning management, infectious diseases, parasite control and nutrition discussions.

When and where?

DATE: 15th September
TIME: 7.30pm
LOCATION: Wynnstay Arms,
Ruabon, LL14 6BL

Food will be provided on the evening, please get in touch to book your place by Friday 9th September

Vet tech services

Congratulations to our Vet Tech Charlotte on passing her Farm SQP exams!

This means she can provide advice on and prescribe wormers and certain vaccines. In addition to this we do offer range of Vet tech services, these include ROMS accredited mobility scoring, and our calf club service. Please contact the office for more information on the services on offer or to check availability.



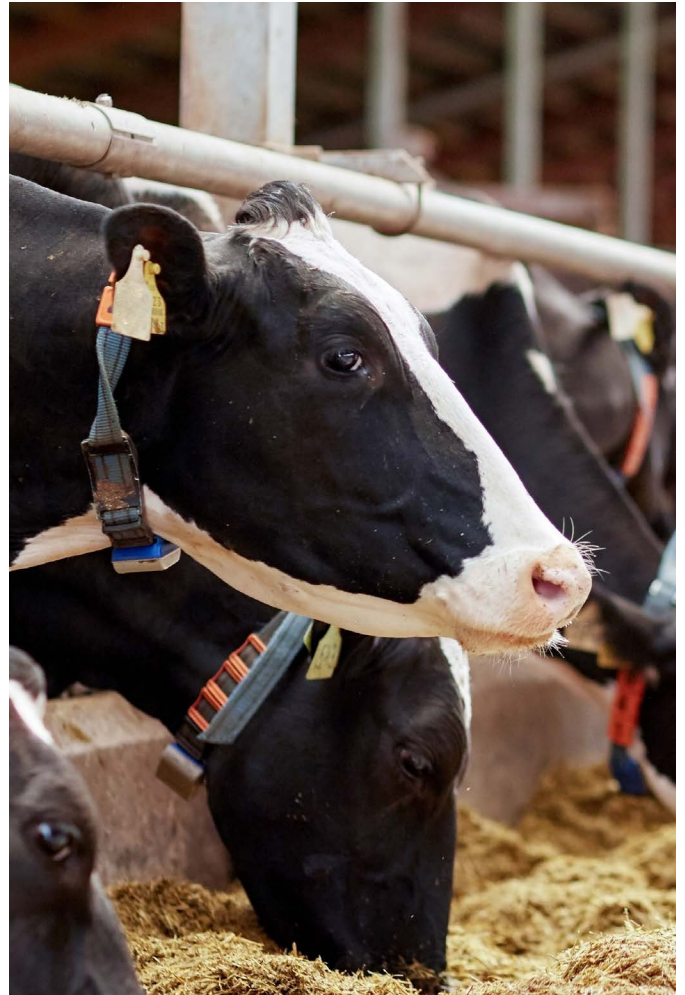
Digital dermatitis

Digital dermatitis is a contagious bacterial infection which causes painful superficial lesions. Biosecurity plays a vital part in controlling the infection as infected animals are the primary source of spread. There are two elements to the biosecurity measures.

- External biosecurity – External biosecurity is designed to keep the bacteria out of the herd. New animals should be isolated, foot bathed regularly during the quarantine period, and have their feet inspected. If any lesions are identified these should be treated before introduction into the main herd.
- Internal biosecurity – The aim of internal biosecurity is to reduce the infection pressure from within the herd. Hygiene and slurry management are important. Rough standing or poorly maintained tracks can lead to skin abrasions and then slurry containing the bacteria can establish infection and lead to digital dermatitis lesions. It is also important to consider foot trimming equipment. Bacteria can be transmitted from one cow to another through hoof knives and so disinfecting foot knives in between cows is very important.

Foot bathing is a great asset when it comes to the control of digital dermatitis. The location should allow good cow flow and the bath itself needs to have an appropriate depth and length. Please contact the office to discuss which foot bathing agent is most appropriate for your farm.

Treatment is most effective when the lesion is caught early, and so regular mobility scoring will aid in identifying the early infections – it is a painful condition and so cows with lesions will usually present as score 2 or 3. As mentioned earlier mobility scoring is a service we can



provide. Most digital dermatitis lesions are seen in the hindfeet and so treatment whilst in the parlour can be a good option. The foot should be cleaned and dried thoroughly, and then topical antibiotics applied – speak to one of the vets for further information.

The use of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug should also be considered. Recent studies have shown real benefits to using NSAIDs alongside a topical antibiotic reducing the likelihood of a persistent lameness and resulting in better yields compared to a cow treated with topical treatment alone. Zero milk withhold options are available.

