



May Bank holidays opening times

The office will be closed on the following Mondays due to bank holidays:

01/05/2023
08/05/2023
29/05/2023

As always, our emergency phonenumber will be available during these dates, contact the usual office number on 01978 311444 in the event of an emergency call

Charlotte and Lara will both be taking part in events this month to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Lara is taking part in a 15k Tough Mudder Challenge on 7th May.

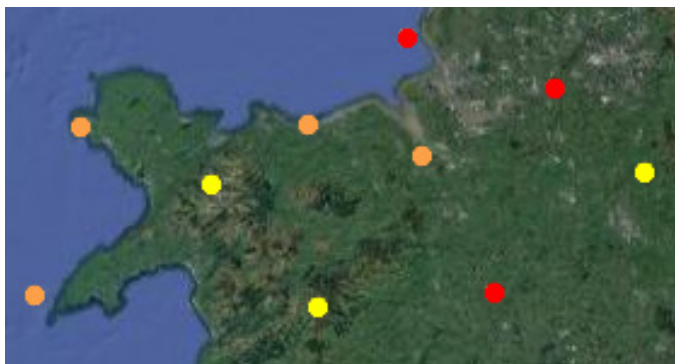
If you would like to donate, you can do so at

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/lararobinsontoughmudder2023>

On Sunday the 21st of May, Charlotte will be taking part in the 10k at Delamere Forest, any donations would be greatly appreciated and you can do so by donating online at

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/lees-team-63>

Good luck to you both!



Worm control in Lambs

Throughout the months of April and May the main worm risk to our lambs is *Nematodirus*. *Nematodiro*sis is a particularly nasty disease in lambs, causing a high number of mortalities and stunting the growth of many others. It is caused by the *Nematodirus battus* worm, which has a different lifecycle to other sheep worms. Under certain climatic conditions it can strike very quickly, with little or no warning. The main difference in the lifecycle of *Nematodirus battus* compared with other parasitic worms is that infection passes from one lamb crop to the next year's crop. Cold weather delays hatching so when we get a sudden change in temperature it can trigger a mass hatch. If this coincides with the time when lambs are starting to take in significant amounts of grass (over about six weeks old), the result can be devastating. May is a particularly notorious time of year for *Nematodirus* worm and so we advise our client to be vigilant to this – look out for poor doing lambs and dirty lambs along with using the *Nematodirus* forecast.

Above you can see the *Nematodirus* risk map on the SCOPS website. Each dot on the map represents a weather station, using this data we can calculate the risk of eggs hatching. At the time of writing (20/04/23) you can see that the Wrexham area is represented by an orange dot which means a Moderate risk.

The treatment of choice for *Nematodirus* is a white drench. There is widespread resistance

against white drench when it comes to round worms however very little resistance is seen with *Nematodirus* and so is a good option for the first couple of drenches.

As for worming throughout the summer we cannot stress enough how important using faecal egg counts are when it comes to worming decisions. We are already seeing resistance problems on some of our farms and the impact it is having on lamb performance is significant – this resistance is mostly due to over dependence on worming product. Faecal egg counts can be performed here at the practice and so we can offer a quick turn around time resulting in using the wormers only when needed. For advice on worming throughout the summer months please speak to one of the team on **01978 311444**.

Vitamin A deficiency

Over the last couple of months, we have been seeing suspected vitamin A deficiencies in calves and these have been confirmed by taking blood samples. Vitamin A is necessary for vision, immune function, and bone development. The most common clinical signs we have been seeing are calves having poor responses to pneumonia treatment or pneumonia vaccination protocols, and generally not achieving their daily live weight gain targets.

The pre-cursor to vitamin A is found in forage and an adult cow can store up to 4 months of vitamin A in their livers under the right conditions. However, this may not have been the case last summer, as drought conditions limits the amount of vitamin A in forage and therefore the cows ability



to take in vitamin A and accumulate liver stores. This would have continued over the winter with silage containing low vitamin A levels. Therefore, last summers weather has certainly had an impact on our cows ability to maintain the correct level of vitamin A.

If you are suspicious of vitamin A deficiency in your herd then please contact the office and discuss with one of our vets. Blood samples can be taken to assess the vitamin levels and a supplementation protocol can be put in place, this can be in the form of supplementation of the dry cows or through injectable vitamin A in new-born calves.



English Animal Health And Welfare Grant

The window for the first round of Animal Health and Welfare grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 from a list of eligible items is now open. The deadline is 15th June at midday. This represents the next step on the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway and applications for the grants are linked to the annual vet visits included in the Animal Health and Welfare Review funding, launched earlier this year.

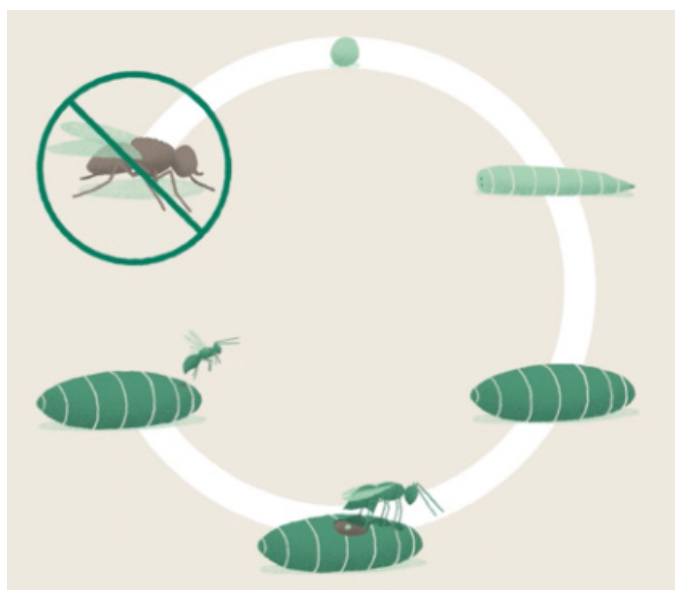
The Animal Health and Welfare Review is central to the grant application process. The review can provide farm specific advice and signpost training where needed so that any grant application will make a positive health and welfare difference on the farm.

For more information about the Animal Health and Welfare Grants, go to <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2023/03/23/animal-health-and-welfare-grants-apply-now/>



Fighting nuisance flies this summer

Every summer we are faced with the challenge of dealing with flies, which cause serious nuisance to both livestock and farmers! As well as causing an increase in stress levels, they are well known vectors of diseases resulting in production losses due to decreased milk yields and reduced growth rates. Throughout the summer months, a single fly can lay up to 1000 eggs within 10 days. This rapid life cycle means that an infestation of nuisance flies can happen extremely quickly, therefore, it is important to gain control early in the season. Numbers within the fly population are represented by a pyramid where the youngest life stages are the most abundant, meaning that even when a small number of adult flies are visible, a much larger number of larvae and eggs are already developing on the farm. The use of Biowaps is specifically designed to target these early stages resulting in less flies on the farm. The Biowasp naturally controls flies by targeting fly pupae in and around farm buildings with straw bedding or where dry manure is present. They target the housefly (*Musca domestica*), the lesser house fly (*Fannia canicularis*) and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*). These 3 species represent about 95% of the nuisance flies present on the farm.



They work by drilling a small hole inside the pupae of a nuisance fly, where they lay their eggs. These eggs will develop into a mini wasp larvae, which will feed on the contents of the fly pupa. A new mini wasp will grow inside the fly pupa about 3 weeks after parasitisation. Once a fly pupa has been parasitised, only mini wasps can hatch from it, breaking the life cycle of the fly whilst increasing the population of the beneficial organisms. After assessing the farm yard to identify high risk areas for fly eggs we can set out a plan, and even come out to release the Biowasp larvae at the relevant times through the season.

