



**Daleside**  
Veterinary Group

# FARM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

## Joining XL Vets

We were pleased to announce in last month's newsletter that Daleside Vets have now joined XL Vets.

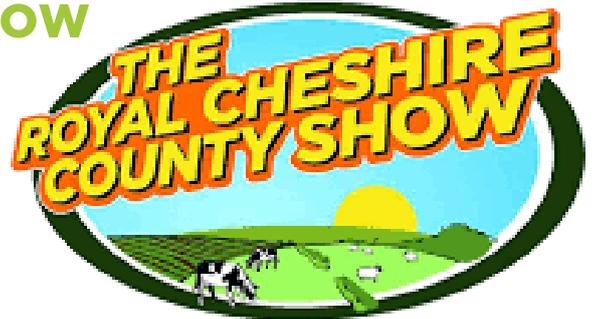
To clarify some questions we've received about it, XL Vets is not a corporate group that owns vet practices, but is essentially a buying group with a strong focus on farm practice, owned and run by the member practices who are all independent. XL Vets also provide a huge amount of training, support and sharing of ideas to enable us to provide the best quality service, and to support long-term growth and future prosperity within the UK livestock industry.



## Marielle's French Adventure

We are sad to announce that, after many years at Daleside, Marielle has decided to embark on a new adventure in France. We are extremely sad to see Marielle go, as she is a very valued member of the team, but we wish her every success in her new adventure. We will of course keep in touch with Marielle and as they say, the door is always open. Marielle will be with us until the end of August. I'm sure you will join us in wishing her the best of luck.

## Successful Cheshire Show



It was great to see so many of you at the Royal Cheshire Show.

We had a great day, and congratulations to those clients who did so well at the show!

We will also be attending the following shows this season, so please pop along to our stand for a drink and a catch-up!



## FARM 2019 SHOWS

Come and find us



**31ST JULY**  
Nantwich Show



**3RD AUGUST**  
Oswestry Show



**15TH AUGUST**  
Flint and Denbigh Show



# Funding Available From HCC

HCC (Hybu Cig Cymru) is offering funding to 500 beef and sheep farmers across Wales to take part in their Flock and Herd Health Planning Project which aims to improve farm sustainability, help improve returns and business development, extend already high welfare standards, and increase consumer confidence.

**The project provides funding and 3 years of support.  
Benefits include;**

- Free Flock and Herd Health Plan
- Free Flock and Herd Health Action Plan
- Veterinary review visits
- Free biosecurity plan

You can register via a link from the news and events section on our website

## Farming Connect Clinics

**A final reminder that if you are registered with Farming Connect, you can qualify for a grant worth up to £250 for lab testing for a range of things from infectious disease, worm egg counts, bull and ram fertility testing. The grants are only available until the end of July.**

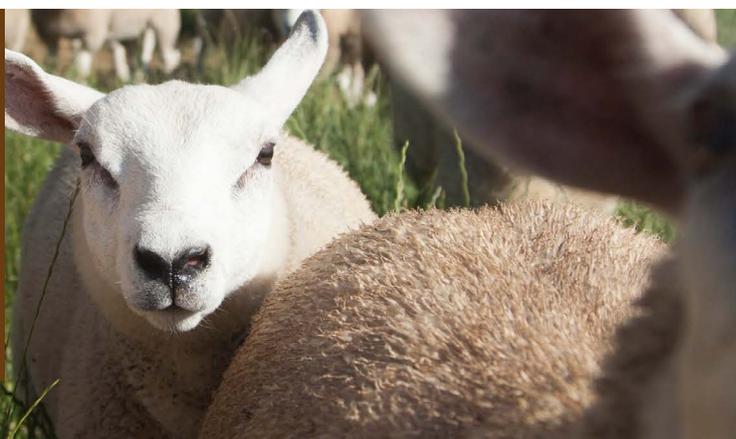
If you haven't already made use of these funds please speak to a member of the team today about how we can help you best utilise them. There is also a separate fund of up to £250 available for veterinary advice on the effective and responsible use of medicines on farm. An antibiotic review undertaken by a vet is now a compulsory part of herd and flock health plans,



and this funding is only available until the end of July. Please ask a member of the team today about using this funding as part of a robust antibiotic review.



# Preparing For Topping



**Lambing may seem like a long way off, however, now is the time to start thinking about preparing for topping so that it is successful and runs smoothly.**

A good place to start is considering how many tups you will need. Ideally, 1 tup to 40 ewes is required, or, in the case of ram lambs, 1 ram lamb to 25 ewes.

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 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. Selenium is particularly important for fertility. If in a selenium deficient area, selenium should be injected into tups 12

weeks pre-mating. Whilst condition score in rams is important, so too is that of ewes for optimum fertility. Please see below the target body condition scores for ewes.

Target (Ewes)	Hill 2.5	Upland 3.0	Lowland 3.5
Above target	Maintain BCS for three to four weeks prior to topping. Flushing is unlikely to have an impact.		
Below target	Consider culling at topping as may cause problems later. Flushing unlikely to have an impact if under body condition score 2 (for lowland breeds). Aim for a rising plane of nutrition at least 10 days either side of when the rams go in		

High temperatures can affect a ram's fertility. 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. 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



## Preparing For Topping ....

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.

For those farms which vaccinate ewes against toxoplasma and enzootic abortion, this will need to be carried out at least 4 weeks pre topping.

Free testing for these diseases is available until the end of July. If you have had any abortions this year, make use of this free testing. Contact a member of the practice today.

It is also important that rams are not forgotten about when considering routine husbandry tasks such as vaccinating against pasteurilla 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.

For those farms buying in replacement ewes or tups, having a robust quarantine procedure in place is vital to protect your current flock and should include the following points;

**1.** 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.

**2.** 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

**3.** 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.

**4.** 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 triclobandazole.

**5.** 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.

**6.** When buying animals in, it is really important to know their health status. Health schemes can be trusted whereas 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, Scrapie and Caseous Lymphadenitis.



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