

Lambing Hamper Prize Draw

Congratulations to **Sandra Mort** on winning our lambing bundle, everything that's needed to give those lambs the best start possible with the addition of a few treats to keep you going!



Vet Technician Services



Spring is a busy time for farmers and often there are not enough hours in the day to get those all-important jobs done. Here at Daleside, we offer a Vet Technician service to help you with the workload.

Vaccination is an integral part of modern farming, we could help you identify which animals to vaccinate, provide the correct vaccination and our Vet Tech Charlotte Davies can come out on farm to administer the vaccine. Reminders for vaccine boosters are set up on our computer system to ensure they are not missed.

Diagnostic sampling can also be done by Charlotte our Vet Tech, from blood sampling to collecting faecal samples for worm egg counting (FEC). We recommend

performing a FEC from each management group every 3-4 weeks when stock are out at grass. Performing FECs is an easy and cost-effective way to know when treating for intestinal worms is necessary. Wormer resistance is on the rise and this is accelerated by the over-use of wormers. Worm egg count can also be used to check for any resistance on your farm by performing a FEC after treatment. The timing of these will vary depending on the wormer used – speak to one of our vets for more details.

For effective worm treatment there are a few principles that should be followed.

- Ensure that you are dosing for the right weight and administering the wormer at the correct dose rate
- Check dosing equipment to ensure it is clean, functioning correctly and calibrated to deliver the correct dose
- Product choice is important
- For a short period after treatment, stock should be returned to dirty pasture – this is to dilute any resistant worms and slow down wormer resistance on your farm
- Leaving the healthiest, strongest animals in the group untreated – again, this is to reduce the onset of worm resistance. The majority of the worm burden is carried in the weakest animals in the group

In addition to our Vet Tech service, Huw Roberts offers a cattle handling service, to provide a skilled extra pair of hands handling cattle for jobs such as TB testing or vaccinating. If you would like help at your next TB test or various other cattle handling jobs, please contact the practice on 01978 311444 for further details



Preparing for turnout

Many of you will be thinking about turnout at this time of year but there are a few things to consider before doing so. Whilst the cattle are in, it is a great opportunity to get your herd vaccinated, in addition to this, it is the optimum time of year to do so with some vaccines. This is particularly true about vaccinating against Leptospirosis, as the main route of spread is through the urine and contaminated natural water courses. So as uninfected animals graze, they are more likely to be infected by urine contaminated grass and watercourses.

Lungworm infection can cause severe disease in cattle, especially in youngstock in their first grazing season, but also in older cattle that haven't established their own immunity in previous years. The use of long-acting wormers and worming frequently may prevent the development of an animals own natural immunity to lungworm. Using the lungworm vaccine, Huskvac, can prevent clinical signs and lesions of lungworm by



providing immunity. Alongside strategic wormer use and pasture management it can greatly reduce the incidence of lungworm. To discuss vaccines and our Vet Tech services, and how they could benefit your farm please get in touch.

Ewe abortion investigation

Barren ewes and abortions are often accepted as a part of lambing, but this does not have to be the case. Infectious abortions continue to account for a significant proportion of losses and is something we can control and reduce. The industry target for barren ewes at scanning is <2% and lamb losses from scanning to birth <5%, anything higher than this could indicate problems and should prompt an investigation.

Three types of infectious abortions are responsible for 86% of all abortions. These include Enzootic abortion (52%), Toxoplasmosis (25%) and Campylobacter (9%). All of these have the potential to reduce scanning percentage, cause early abortion and cause full-term stillborn or weak lambs. To prevent future infections, we recommend the aborted ewes are isolated and permanently marked. Post lambing, blood sampling can be arranged to identify the cause of the abortion and will help us establish a control plan, which may include a vaccination programme. Vaccination is key for controlling Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasmosis.

There is currently funding available to blood test 5-6 aborted or barren ewes. This will enable us to establish the presence of Toxoplasma or Enzootic Abortion in your flock. If abortions or low scanning percentages is a worry in your flock or to simply discuss any aspect of lambing, then please contact the practice and we would be more than happy answer any queries.



Milking Cow Tubes

As you are aware, supply issues have severely limited the choice of intra-mammary mastitis tubes. We are pleased to be able to report that some of the mastitis tubes that have been unavailable are now back in stock. For more details, and to discuss which mastitis tubes are most appropriate for your farm speak to one of the farm team.

