

UK Dairy Day 2021

UK Dairy Day is a dedicated annual one-day event held on the 15th of September at the International Centre in Telford, Shropshire.

The event consists of various exhibitors as well as hosting National Shows for Holstein, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss and Guernsey with additional classes also for Jersey and Dairy Shorthorn.

Action Johnes

As most of our dairy clients will know, Action Johnes is a scheme designed for farmers and vets to work together to reduce the prevalence of the disease.

This year's deadline to get your farms Action Johnes plan complete is the 31st of December. Speak to a member of the team to arrange your plan, and as always please follow any specific guidance and requests direct from your milk purchaser.

Mastering medicine course

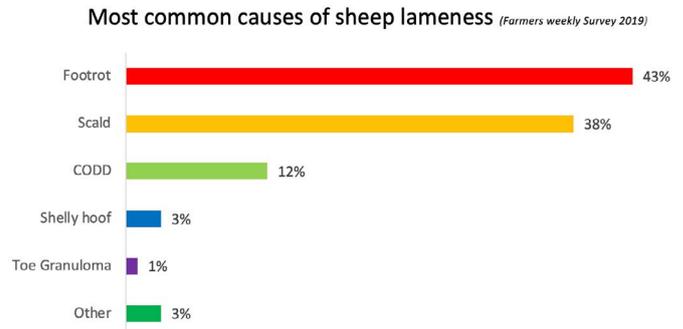
As previously mentioned, we are aiming to hold another mastering medicine course which is required by most farm assurance schemes.

Once we have enough interest we are planning to run the course this coming autumn. Farming connect funding is available to contribute towards the course fee.

Ewe lameness

Sheep lameness is one of the most important health and welfare issues facing the UK farmer, as well as visible pain, the reduction in performance is significant.

This reduction in performance, costs the UK sheep industry millions of pounds in terms of production loss, labour, treatment and premature culling. As seen from the graph below, Footrot was the most common cause of lameness within the UK flock, closely followed by scald.

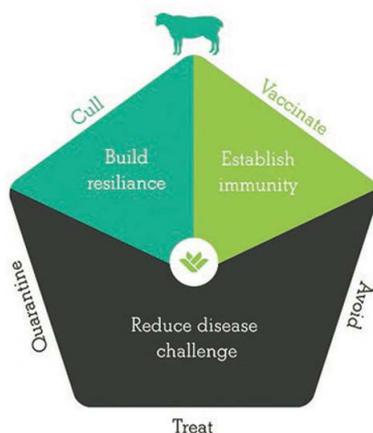


The high prevalence of footrot and scald together is no coincidence as both are caused by the same bacteria - *Dichelobacter nodosus*. Scald is the most common cause of lameness in lambs and occurs mainly when underfoot conditions are wet and when on lush pastures. This causes severe lameness which interferes with grazing and has a knock-on effect on growth rates.

However, when caught and treated early the response is very good. Scald has the potential to develop into footrot if left untreated - the characteristic foul-smell and shedding of the hoof capsule is an extremely painful disease.



Managing lameness in your flock can be challenging and so the five-point plan was designed to break it down into more manageable steps. By implementing the five points in conjunction with each other, the incidence of sheep lameness can be reduced below 2% by the end of the third year of implementation.



Cull

- If an ewe has footrot more than once in a season she should be given a cull tag to help prevent the cycle of infection – culling may be high in the first year, but will reduce dramatically as you progress

Quarantine

Have a good procedure in place to separate bought-in stock for 4 weeks after purchase

- Run bought-in stock through a footbath and monitor lameness
- Buy from a source which has a strict lameness protocol

Treat clinical cases early

- Recent trial data has shown that half of sheep that were lame once became lame again
- With each incidence of lameness costing £8.38/ewe, preventing and treating it early has strong financial and performance benefits for the whole flock

Avoid spreading infection at gathering and handling

Things to consider

- effective foot bathing on exit every time brought into handling pen
- improving cleanliness and drainage of handling area
- placing gravel on entrance to handling facility to help prevent poaching

Vaccinate animals to stimulate immunity

- Footvax vaccination forms part of a whole flock approach to disease control, as raising flock immunity helps increase the success of the other four points in the plan
- Treatment frequency varies and so speak to one of our vets for a plan to suit your farm

The five point plan is appropriate for all sort of lameness disease, but it is important to get a correct diagnosis in order to treat in the most efficient way. To discuss more about the five point plan or for help with diagnosing lameness then please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

