



Competing at Crufts

Well done to Nichol and her Flyball Team Storm Chasers, who qualified to compete at Crufts this year.

Unfortunately they didn't qualify through the heats but did extremely well to get that far. Better luck next year!

**TOUGH
MUDDER** 

Lara is taking part in a 15k Tough Mudder Challenge on 7th May, to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

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

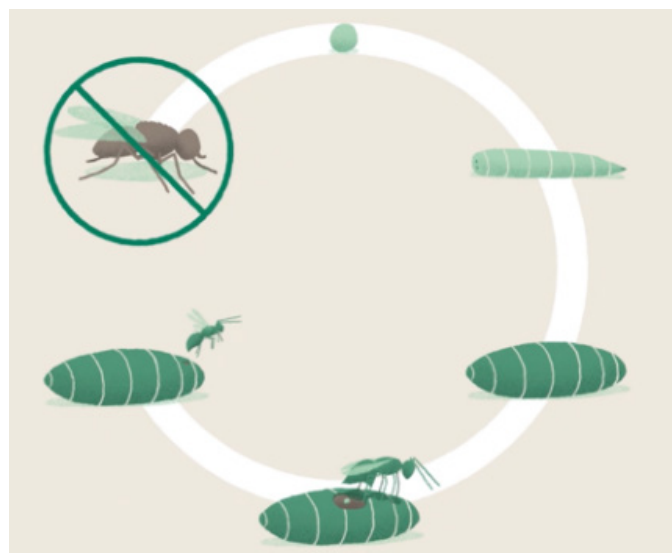
[justgiving.com/fundraising/
lararobinsonstoughmudder2023](https://justgiving.com/fundraising/lararobinsonstoughmudder2023).

Good luck Lara!



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.



Tb rule changes

Last month several changes were announced across specific parts of the Low and Intermediate TB areas of Wales, which includes the Wrexham area. So, what are the changes?

- In the summer of 2021 supplementary gamma and IDEXX antibody blood testing of non-homebred cattle with bovine reactions was introduced, as of the 30th of January 2023 this rule has been revoked and therefore won't be relevant if your herd was tested after the date noted above.
- Contiguous test with a testing window starting on or after 1st of April will now be read at severe interpretation - this only applies to the first contiguous test with the following test being read on standard as long as the first contiguous test is clear.
- Changes to post-breakdown tests. Following the lifting of TB restrictions, the following tests at 6 months and 12 months will now be read at severe interpretation.

If you have any queries about what these changes will mean to your herd, please get in touch.



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.

Parasite control over the summer months

With turnout on the horizon (hopefully!) it's time to think about parasite control over the summer months. When it comes to tackling parasites, the use of worming products is invaluable, however this must not be taken for granted as reports of resistance are on the increase across all groups of wormers. Using the same wormer at regular intervals in the grazing season can increase the risk of developing resistance in the worm population to the wormer.

The use of diagnostic testing can help us reduce our dependability on worming product by targeting wormer use when it's really needed. Faecal egg counting is recommended to be performed at 3-4 weekly intervals and can be used to track the worm burden on your farm. We can carry out the Faecal Egg Count at the practice, then we can recommend the best product and timing of administration. 'Control of Worms Sustainably' or COWS for short, is a great website to use as a source of information and recently featured an article about monitoring Faecal egg counts over the grazing season - [Alistair Knowles milks 230 cows in the Northwest of England](#) and was involved in a testing scheme set

up by his local farm practice. For years he had routinely dosed his youngstock three times during their first grazing season with an ivermectin type product, samples taken throughout last summer showed no sign of roundworm eggs, [here's what he had to say](#);

"I was really surprised when the vet techs said they didn't find any eggs in the samples, the product I had always used was cheap and I thought it was doing a good job. But in fact it was a waste, as there were never any roundworms there to kill."

Could this be the case on your farm? For more information on managing your grazing stock this summer, be it cattle or sheep, please contact the office on 01978 311444 and speak to one of the vets or our SQP, Charlotte.

