



## Daleside Team News

This month we will see a new face joining the Farm Veterinary Team. Keeley Orrin-Webster is joining the practice as maternity cover for Lara. Having graduated from the University of Liverpool in the summer of 2022, Keeley has been working as a mixed vet up in Lancashire. We look forward to welcoming her as part of the team!

## Bluetongue meeting

On the 9th of April we shall be hosting an evening meeting, focusing on Bluetongue Disease, and how this might impact your farm. Currently the outbreak is contained in the south-east of England but as the warmer weather arrives it is more likely to spread, as the disease is transmitted by midges. Venue is yet to be confirmed but we shall let you know as soon as possible.

## Lung scanning project

Over the next couple of months, with the help of Farming Connect we will be conducting a project looking into calf pneumonia. The project consists of Ultrasound scanning the lungs of calves, with the aim of seeing how lung lesions affect growth rates. We have a number of farms taking part in the project, with the aim of enrolling 250 calves. We look forward to sharing the results of the project with you and thank you to the farms who have agreed to be part of the project.



## Barren Ewe Check

Reproductive failure can have detrimental effects on a sheep farms profitability, whether this is down to an increased barren rate or an increase on abortions. Flock performance figures are important to help us identify key problem areas and allows us to act upon it. Abortion rates above 2%, a greater than expected number of barren ewes and weak or sickly lambs are all significant, and could indicate an infectious problem. The two main infectious causes of abortion in the UK are Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis. If you are concerned about the performance of your flock over this lambing season, then specific testing could be beneficial. Barren or aborting ewes can be blood tested to evaluate if there is an infectious cause. Vaccines for Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis are highly effective at managing the impact of these infectious diseases. Please speak to one of the vets if this is something of concern for you, funding options are also available.

## Planning for turnout

After a very wet winter, hopefully March will bring with it some dry weather! It's time to start thinking about turnout, planning ahead is particularly important when it comes to controlling lungworm in younger stock over the next grazing season.

A great way of controlling lungworm infections is using Huskvac. The vaccine is an oral dose given twice, 4 weeks apart with the calves developing immunity 2 weeks after the last dose. To gain the best use of the vaccine the first dose needs to be administered 6 weeks prior to turnout. As the calves get older, with repeated exposure they will develop a good immune response naturally. Using Huskvac can dramatically reduce your reliance on wormers, and with the ever-increasing resistance problems, limiting use is a great way of reducing this risk. For more information please contact the office and ask to speak to one of our vets.



It's not just the youngstock we need to be thinking about prior to turnout. Many of you will have a Leptospirosis vaccination protocol in place and prior to turnout is the most effective time of year to be giving the annual booster. Leptospirosis can be seen in the herd as a variety of issues. In infected herds, Leptospirosis causes poor fertility, reduced milk yield and abortions. In naive herds that haven't come across Leptospirosis before, it can cause fever, mastitis-like changes in the milk and sudden loss of all milk with flaccid udder. Recovery can take up to 10 days. In herds contracting the infection for the first time, up to 30% of the animals may abort. The abortion usually occurs 6-12 weeks after the initial infection. If the infection occurs in the late gestation, an infected calf may be born. Diagnosis of leptospiral abortion is difficult and based on maternal and fetal serology, as no obvious lesions are associated with the infection.

The timing of the annual booster is mainly due to the way leptospirosis is transmitted, after the first phase of infection, the bacteria localise in the uterus and kidneys and so the bacteria can be found in the urine. As the cows go out in spring to graze there is an increased risk of transmission as they can come across infected urine on the grass or via natural water courses. It is important to note that Leptospirosis is a disease in humans too and so vaccination is certainly recommended in a known infected herd to limit the risk to the farm team.

