

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the BVG newsletter!

Summer has flown by and its terrific to be able to look back at some great occasions that again became possible for all associated with the practice.

Being able to attend and support some of our local shows again was such a pleasure as was being part of a really successful relaunched Great Yorkshire Show, great to see many of you rocking the BVG shades even now!

The depth of sporting talent amongst our clients may be easy to overlook! But the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Farming Community Network both benefitted from a great turnout on the golf course and the five a side football pitch for our Bishopton charity tournaments. Thanks for your support of these, we really enjoyed them.

We are about to re-start our discussion group program and so with a bit of luck we will look forward to seeing many of you at these events this autumn. We are looking to continue some online events as well as we know that these suit some of our clients' circumstances and were enjoyed.

We have some new starters as featured in this edition and I'm sure that you will all make them most welcome this autumn.

*Best wishes,
from Phil Alcock on
behalf of the
Bishopton Farm Team*



Thank you to everyone who visited our trade stand this summer.

We hope you enjoyed the shows' return as much as we did.



Revised Red Tractor standards go LIVE on 1st November 2021



In August, Red Tractor released the full details of upcoming changes to their assurance scheme. The revised standards follow feedback from over 3000 responses across the entire food supply chain, after the scheme's biggest ever consultation which was open to its 46,000 members.

In summary, the changes include:

Health plans should continue to focus on proactive herd/flock management and identify and target improvements that can be made on farm. These need to be reviewed and signed off by your vet at least annually.

Stronger recommendations for the use of anti-inflammatory pain relief in calves. Herds must have an analgesia plan that outlines products and procedures for delivering pain relief. It is required that all calves receive local anaesthetic when de-horned, either by iron or caustic paste and it is recommended that they also receive an anti-inflammatory.

Tethering of cattle is no longer permitted.

To help ensure the dairy industry eliminates routine euthanasia of bull calves by 2023, Dairy farms require a breeding plan and a bull calf management strategy written within the herd health plan. This must also cover contingency plans for major incidents such as a TB break down and the resulting restrictions on movements.

Beef Health Plans will require a BVD eradication plan, with evidence of action towards eradication of the disease.

Beef and sheep farmers will require an antibiotic audit, and when necessary antimicrobial reduction plans. This aligns these sectors with dairy where this has been a requirement since 2019.

In order to be compliant, one person on all farms must have attended a NOAH approved medicines handling course.

All farms must have livestock handling facilities suitable for the category of livestock held on farm. This is aimed at reducing stress around handling and the requirements also include a ban on electrified backing gates.

Requirements around hand washing facilities have been introduced and health and safety training requirements for new staff.

Other changes include provisions mitigating environmental contamination.

Speak to your vet if you need any advice or to update your health plan. You can find the full revised standards for dairy, beef, lamb and pig sectors here:
www.assurance.redtractor.org.uk/red-tractor-review-2021

Written by
Miles
Middleton
BVSc
MRCVS





“A sheep’s worst enemy is another sheep”

Top tips for quarantining incoming stock this autumn

As autumn approaches, many flocks will be looking to the markets to buy in replacement ewes or rams. However, when buying in any sheep, there is always the risk of buying in either disease or wormer resistance at the same time, even if the seller is well known to you. Consequently, quarantine procedures are vital to ensure that only new sheep arrive on the farm, not new diseases as well.

Common problems that can be bought in include:

Resistant worms • Liver fluke • Sheep scab • Footrot & CODD • Maedi visna (MV)
• Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) • Enzootic abortion (EAE) • Orf

RESISTANT WORMS

This is probably the biggest risk to sheep flocks in the UK at the moment. It is important when buying in that any resistant worms bought at the same time do not make it onto your farm. Studies suggest up to 80% of farms have resistance to Group 1-white drenches and 30-50% have resistance to Group 2-yellow drenches.

The guidelines to prevent introduction of resistant worms are set out by SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) in these three easy steps:

1. Yard - new arrivals should be kept on concrete for 48 hours –to allow any resistant worm eggs in their gut to fall onto the concrete and be cleared away, rather than contaminate your field. One ram? No yard? A trailer can be a good alternative.

2. Treat - dose with monepantel (Group 4-AAD, orange wormer - sold as **Zolvix**), then Avermectins/Macrocyclic Lactones(Group 3-ML, clear wormer - e.g. **Cydectin**) immediately after. If sheep scab is a worry then injectable avermectins can be used (see sheep scab section). This combination should kill all worms that are present.

3. Quarantine - turn the sheep out onto dirty pasture for 3 weeks – e.g. grazed by lambs as recently as possible. This makes sure that if by some chance a resistant worm does survive, its effect is minimal as all the farm’s ‘usual’ worms will dilute out the eggs produced by the resistant worm.

In an ideal world, the quarantine paddock should be rested next year. Alternatively it could be ploughed up and either re-seeded as a new ley or used for crops. This means that any worm eggs that do survive quarantine will not have the chance to stay on pasture over winter.

FEET

Footrot and CODD are the two diseases that need to be controlled during quarantine. CODD in particular is extremely contagious and is tricky to control and eradicate if introduced to a flock. Both diseases are spread by 'carrier' sheep so any bought in sheep must be assumed to be infected by both the most severe footrot strain and CODD.

Inspect the feet of all incoming sheep and treat any affected animals. The best way to treat footrot is a single injection of long-acting oxytetracycline e.g. Alamycin. If these affected animals could be isolated in a corner on their own, this would be ideal. During the quarantine period, for best results, the sheep should be footbathed weekly. This is usually done through 4-5% formalin, although other commercial preparations exist. Footrot bacteria can survive in the soil for about two weeks so weekly footbathing is needed to prevent reinfection.

A vaccine against footrot is also available – "Footvax". Speak to your flock vet for more info.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Isolating replacements for three weeks should allow you to check for any infectious diseases that may develop. Vaccines are available for some conditions such as orf and enzootic abortion (Cevac/enzovac), whilst sheep that are sold from an accredited flock can be safely assumed to be disease free, as blood samples will be taken regularly and checked for diseases such as maedi visna and enzootic abortion. It is important to determine vaccine status if sheep are being sold as vaccinated (how many doses, when were they vaccinated).

SHEEP SCAB

This is becoming more of a problem nationwide, it is incredibly contagious and causes intense itching leading to production losses. For control, two options exist:

- **Dipping** is the method of choice as it will control lice, flies and ticks at the same time. Any dip used needs to have a 17 day residual action because the scab mites can survive off the sheep for this long, so could reinfest the recently dipped sheep
- **Injectable products:** If no signs of scab are present, a single injection of moxidectin should act as a safeguard, but if any itchy sheep are present then **two doses ten days apart** are essential to ensure all scab mites are killed.

If you would like any further advice on the prevention of bought-in diseases or would like to discuss a quarantine protocol specific to your farm please contact the practice or your flock vet.

Written by
Amelia Briggs
BVSc MRCVS





Trace elements in beef cattle

Trace element supplementation is often overlooked, but mineral status is a vital aspect of animal health and optimising production. The effects of trace element deficiency can be vast, from severe deficiencies directly causing disease and even death to poor immunity, calving difficulties, poor fertility, weak calves, or just subtle underperformance.

Forage trace element content cannot be predicted and levels are likely to change year to year, crop to crop. It is not uncommon for a farm without historic issues to suddenly suffer from deficiency. Interactions between the various trace elements is very complex. Not only can direct deficiency occur, but antagonism or 'lock up' often takes place - where some minerals reduce the activity of others. This is true for Copper, where levels of Copper can be adequate, but high levels of Sulphur, Iron and Molybdenum can bind to Copper in the rumen and in the blood, meaning the cow is unable to use the mineral effectively and symptoms of deficiency are seen.

With almost any disease or poor performance, mineral status should be questioned - is there an underlying issue that is allowing this disease to take place? Do you have a mineral supplementation plan in place?

Equally, mineral toxicity is not uncommon and over supplementation should be avoided. It is vital that all sources of minerals are assessed and extra supplementation should not be given if the feed is already mineralised.



Written by **Dan King**
BMMedSci (Hons)
BVM BVS (Hons)
MRCVS

We are currently able to offer discounted silage mineral analysis, if you are interested please speak to your vet for more information.

COSECURE Cattle is complementary dietic feedstuff containing ionic copper, iodine, ionic cobalt and selenium. Nutritional supplementation should only occur on the advice of a veterinary surgeon or nutritional adviser. Appropriate diagnostics have taken place and a need for supplementation has been identified. COSECURE Cattle is a PMA, VPS medicine. See VPS for full product details. Data graphs prepared July 2021. M091122

Global Excellence in Animal Health

Thank you to everyone who entered our #shouldhavegonetobishopton photo competition on social media.

Your
competition
winner is...

EMMA
TERRY



It's great to see many of you making use of our BVG sunglasses this summer. We ran a competition across Facebook and Instagram, with the final voting taking place on Facebook by our followers. Emma Terry was your winner, the photo taken in sunny Scotland! Then just 5 likes separated one of our youngest entries, gorgeous Deliah Doney in 2nd place from 3rd place Ellie Britton who took her BVG sunglasses to the top of Wansfell Pike.



Don't forget to follow us on social media platforms, search for Bishopton Farm Team



We've got you covered this Autumn....

Autumn brings with it many changes for our flocks and herds. The weather can be unpredictable; weaning time approaches; nutritional value in grazing reduces and housing time can be on us before we realise. We have various products to help with the season ahead:

- Wormers & flukicides
- Vitamins & minerals
- Calf scour vaccine
- Pneumonia vaccine
- Lameness control
- Topping equipment
- Clostridial & Pasteurella vaccine
- Abortion vaccine

FOC
delivery
available

For more information speak to our qualified SQP
Philip Bowes on 07711 894816





Practice News

September has seen a few staff changes within the farm team. We have sadly said goodbye to Carla Bleasdale who, having completed her internship with us, has moved to a practice nearer home. Graham Tibbot has taken the plunge and has gone from farm vet to farmer, living the dream now as one of you!

However we are excited to introduce 4 new members of our team, farm vets Ed, Rachel and Milly, along with farm vet tech Amy.



Ed Noblett

Ed graduated from Liverpool University in 2018 and has worked in mixed practice in both Herefordshire and East Yorkshire, before moving to Bishopton to pursue his interests in farm practice. Having grown up on a sheep farm in Pembrokeshire, Ed has a particular interest in flock health and medicine, however enjoys all aspects of the job. Ed will be based at York but also doing a few days in Ripon.

Did you know?

Ed enjoys mountain biking, playing rugby, and sheep shearing.



Milly Eaton

Milly graduated from Liverpool University in 2021 and has been drawn back to North Yorkshire where she grew up. With close connections to the livestock industry and having worked on farms back at home, she always knew she wanted to pursue a career in farm animal practice.

Did you know?

Milly is a keen golfer and also enjoys walking, running in the countryside and showing her herd of Herdwick sheep.



Rachel Hall

Rachel grew up on a dairy farm in West Yorkshire and graduated from Liverpool University in 2020. During her time at University, she worked on farms in New Zealand and the USA. After graduation, Rachel spent a year in mixed practice in North Wales. She joined the Bishopton team to focus on farm vetting and especially enjoys dairy work.

Did you know?

Rachel enjoys playing tennis, practicing Spanish and getting out in the hills with her dog, Nansi.



Amy Barnes

Amy studied Agriculture with Animal Science at Harper Adams and worked on beef and sheep farm for three years before joining the farm vet tech team at Bishopton.

Did you know?

Amy enjoys running, yoga and shepherding her Easycare breeding flock.

We hope you will join us in welcoming them all to the Bishopton team!

New chair of the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England...

We would like to congratulate Jonathan Statham on his appointment as the next chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE). He has been non-executive director of the AHWBE since 2017 and will start his new role on 1st November 2021. Jonathan replaces the current Chair, Michael Seals, who is standing down after ten years in the role.



Breathe easy, get ahead of Pneumonia before housing

By using intranasal vaccines and vaccinating before weaning and housing, protection is in place before the impending high risk period.

Vaccination can play an important role in protecting against the infectious agents that cause pneumonia. Vaccination works in two ways:

1. Increasing the calves' immunity so they are better protected.
2. Reducing the challenge, as vaccination reduces the amount of virus the calves breathe out, hence reducing viral levels in the shed.

The most appropriate vaccination protocol will depend on a number of factors, including the age of the calf, and how quickly protection is needed.



Other environmental improvements such as reducing drafts but ensuring good ventilation as well as minimising stressors and ensuring you use good quality bedding contribute to reducing the risk of an outbreak.



Speak to your vet to discuss the best plan for your farm.



With the revised Red Tractor requirements coming into force, do you or a member of your team need to complete a Mastering Medicines course?

Thursday 7th October
Friday 5th November
Monday 13th December

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