

## Welcome to the summer edition

Its always an enjoyable time of year to be a farm vet, driving round North Yorkshire with the busy spring period disappearing into the rear view mirror. After a long winter it is a relief to see stock turned out and silage starting to come in. We are busy preparing for our usual summer events, with a few extra to celebrate our 80th year as an independent practice. The summer events kick off with our annual football tournament (there's still time to register your team!) and details of the shows and shoot are later in this newsletter.

As the weather warms, many of you will have already started thinking about fly control in your stock. Alex discusses different approaches we can take to get on top of this pesky problem. Laura talks about the things to consider to ensure you get the benefits of clostridial vaccine.

We've also got something a bit different as we hear about how vet Dan King combines his role as a farm vet in the York team with running his game bird and poultry practice. - **Katie Fitzgerald**



Since starting at Bishopton 11 years ago my career path has been fairly diverse. I started farm work in Ripon following a student placement at Bishopton, then moved to York with the opening of the Dunnington branch. With a background in poultry and being involved in game shooting I took the opportunity to work with poultry and game birds at Sandhill Vets near Thirsk, alongside my farm vet role. This role developed and several years later I became a partner along with another vet, Laura Langstaff, who is full time on the poultry side.

Still loving farm work, the great clients and being really happy at Bishopton I didn't want to stop this role and I continue to work from the York office a couple of days a week and continue on the out of hours rota.



A significant aspect of the poultry vet role is lab based and with Sandhill Vets having specialist lab facilities and full time lab technicians, this presented as an opportunity to provide a lab service to Bishopton with the large throughput of sheep, cattle and pig lab testing that is carried out. This meant that rather than having to send samples away and use corporate labs the sample can be processed locally, with results typically the very same day.

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# Spotlight on Dan King... continued



## The work carried out in the Sandhill lab for Bishopton includes:

- Ruminant worm egg, coccidial oocyst and fluke egg counting and 'drench tests'. With wormer resistance a serious issue, particularly in sheep, regular worm egg counts and only treating based on a high result is essential. With the new Animal Health & Welfare Pathway scheme funding is available to support worm control in the form of 'drench tests' to ensure a successful treatment and responsible use of wormers.
- Milk culture to identify pathogens involved with mastitis and SCC issues and then antibiotic sensitivity testing of the pathogens identified. Not only is this a useful tool in controlling a mastitis or SCC issue but it provides essential justification for targeted antibiotic tube usage.
- RapiPath mastitis pathogen analysis – this new molecular analysis technology allows a milk sample to be tested and results delivered within hours (vs days with a culture). This would allow treatment and dry off decisions to be made based on the bacteria present in the udder on that day. This level of analysis should not only improve treatment outcomes but allows for targeted antibiotic use and ultimately antibiotic reduction and cost saving.
- Semen bacterial culture for quality control. Along with essential SemenRate assessment of semen to ensure only top quality semen is used, it is paramount to ensure there isn't any bacterial contamination of that semen.
- Supporting RAFT trial work including bacterial cultures, Coccidial oocyst counts and assisting trials developing technologies to aid automation of testing.



Sandhill Vets recently moved to Melmerby, just outside Ripon as part of an expansion to offer further lab services along with coping with the growing poultry and game bird workload. Sandhill Vets now service farms across northern England and Scotland, but with the bulk of work within Yorkshire.

In order to provide a local service to sites further afield, avian medicines can be collected from a branch in Northumberland and also from Bishopton's York office in Dunnington, meaning farms around York and the Wolds do not have to make the journey around York to Ripon.



Dan King,  
BMedSci (Hons) BVM BVS  
(Hons) MRCVS  
Bishopton Farm Team

# Clostridial and Pasteurella vaccination in growing lambs

For most sheep farmers, this year's lamb crop has arrived safely on the ground, but the hard work doesn't stop here – we need to continue to protect these lambs as they grow.



Clostridial disease and pasteurellosis are bacterial infections and two of the most common causes of sudden death in sheep in the UK - despite easily administered and cost-effective vaccines being available. There are several vaccines on the market, each protecting against slightly different strains of clostridial disease, but only some cover Pasteurella as well.

## Storage

The cold chain must be continued from the fridge they are being purchased from, to your fridge on farm. Transport of the vaccine within an insulated carrier will maintain the temperature between two and eight degrees. Don't let on farm storage be the reason your vaccine doesn't work effectively!

## Correct Timing

A primary course of two injections four to six weeks apart is required by all animals entering the vaccination system. The first dose can be given to lambs from three weeks old. This primary course is followed by an annual booster, 12 months later and is given to pregnant ewes four to six weeks pre-lambing.



Don't forget to booster your gimmer hogg replacements. Even if they are not in lamb, they still require a booster, and this should be done at the same time as your ewe's pre-lambing dose. If the 12-month booster is missed, a primary course needs to be readministered.

Pasteurellosis is most likely to affect lambs from 4-10 months of age, with very few symptoms, it often results in death within a few hours. It is advisable to give lambs a third dose in the autumn to extend the protection against Pasteurella over the winter months.

**Please note**, a primary course with one type of vaccine followed by an annual booster of a different type of vaccine does not fully protect that animal. The same vaccine must be used for both the primary course and the annual booster.

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**DIARY UPDATE!**  
**5-a-side football tournament date has been moved to Friday 9th June.**  
**There is still time to register a team. Speak to your vet for further details or call Farm Office on 01765 602396**

## Administration

The use of clean needles and syringes or multi-injector guns is essential. Make sure the chamber is re-filling between every dose and avoid vaccinating on a wet day as this can lead to abscesses forming at the injection site.

Once the vaccine has been opened, it must be used within 10 hours.



2ml is injected under the skin at the neck, but always read the data sheet included to ensure the correct dosage and route of administration is being followed.

## Protect, Plan, Prevent.

As farming heads towards a period of change with reduction in subsidies, shepherds need to be honing in on those preventable diseases and monitoring input costs; to focus on vaccinations, flock health planning and disease prevention, in order to reduce losses and the need to purchase antibiotics.

Please speak to your vet about tailoring a vaccine strategy suitable for your flock.

Written by  
Laura Eden BVMedSci  
(Hons), BVM BVS (Hons)  
MRCVS



**BISHOPTON**  
**VETERINARY GROUP**

**Charity 40 Bird Clay Shoot**

*In aid of The Farming Community Network (FCN) & Yorkshire Air Ambulance*

**Friday 23rd June 2023**  
**5.30pm until late**  
**Whitcliffe Hall Farm, Ripon HG4 3AS**

**Teams of 4 - £25 per person**  
*(Includes hot supper)*  
**Hot supper only - £12 per person**

Please supply your own cartridges and hearing/eye protection

**Register your team in advance. Contact the farm office on 01765 602396 or speak to your vet.**

The advertisement features a background image of people participating in a bird clay shoot. One person is in the foreground, aiming a shotgun. Another person is in the background, also aiming. The scene is outdoors in a grassy field with trees in the background.

# Fly control, what's your plan?

After what seemed to be a never ending cold wet spring it is a relief to finally see the weather take a turn for the better and the sun finally make a long overdue appearance. While that brings the exciting prospect of putting away the winter jumpers and getting some silage in the clamp, it does herald the beginning of FLY Season!

There are roughly 20 or so species of nuisance flies or biting flies in the UK that are of significance to cattle. They mostly feed on body secretions of cows such as tears, sweat, milk and muck. When feeding, these flies can cause severe irritation to cattle which can lead them to reduce their daily feed intakes - and therefore milk production; and can result in cattle hurting themselves in their attempts to escape the menace of the flies.



Flies can be a real nuisance when milking with agitated cows resulting in people having to run the gauntlet of wildly swishing tails and stamping feet. So good fly control is important for the consideration of the health and safety of milking staff.



Flies are also a very good mechanical vector for spreading diseases where they can spread bacteria between animals. The two most common diseases spread by flies are Summer Mastitis and New Forest Eye (Pink Eye). These are both very contagious diseases and can cause significant issues within a herd of adult cows and heifers. New forest can be a real issue in youngstock. For more detailed info about each disease please speak to your herd vet

An integrated approach to fly control is the best policy; including environmental management strategies, avoiding high risk areas and the topical application of fly repellents/ectoparasiticides.

**Environment:** On most farms 90% of the flies will arise from a handful of problem areas. Flies breed well in decaying organic matter especially box muck and slurry. Therefore ensuring straw yards are cleaned out frequently and that any muck removed is not kept either in the yard or close to where cattle are likely to congregate can make a real difference.

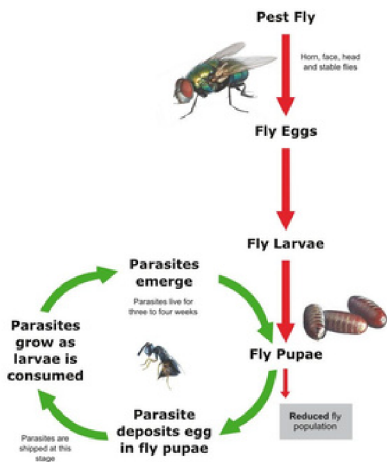
## We have a range of competitively priced fly control products for cattle and sheep.

Pack sizes varying from 250ml to 5l are in stock at all our branches and can be delivered free of charge.



Speak to your vet to discuss delivery options and to learn more about our **Price Match Promise**

# Fly control continued...



The use of parasitic wasps that feed on the larvae of the nuisance flies can be an effective long-term tool to control fly populations in the environment. Avoid high risk areas. Fields next to woods or with significant hedgerows can harbour significant fly populations therefore it is sensible to avoid grazing these fields (or ones with known fly issues) where possible in the peak fly season.

**Topical Ectoparasiticides:** Applying a pour on fly treatment such as **SPOTINOR** can be a very useful tool in controlling the irritation caused by flies and keep cattle more comfortable. It also will limit the number of flies landing on animals so can help reduce the risk of the spread of fly borne disease.

All the Vet and SQP team at Bishopton are very well equipped to help you tailor a fly control plan specific to your farm so if you have any questions please get in touch!



Written by Alex Oliver  
BVetMedSci BVM BVS

## Summer Training Dates

### DIY AI

26th - 28th June 2023  
26th - 28th July 2023  
£550 + VAT

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT OUR TRAINING EVENTS,

CALL  
01765 602396  
OR EMAIL  
training@bishoptonvets.co.uk

### Mastering Medicines

24th May 2023  
21st June 2023  
19th July 2023  
£50 + VAT (Online course)

### Foot Trimming

9th - 10th August 2023  
£485 + VAT



Members of our Herd, Flock & Smallholder Health Scheme get 25% off the cost of training courses.

Follow us @bishoptonfarmteam



www.bishoptonvets.co.uk

## Rishi Sunak writes open letter to British farmers and unveils support package.

Following promises made at last year's Conservative Party leadership contest, Rishi Sunak has hosted a 'UK Farm to Fork Summit', in which he has laid out the government's commitments and proposals to provide protection from sub-standard imports.

In an open letter to British farmers, and referencing a number of North Yorkshire towns and auction marts, Sunak sets out six principles to support British farming trade.

"There will be no hormone-treated beef on the UK market. Not now, not ever."

*Rishi Sunak, 16th May 2023*

These principles, which Mr Sunak says will help build resilience and strengthen food security include:

- Putting agriculture 'up front'
- Protecting sensitive sectors
- Prioritising new export opportunities
- Protecting UK food standards
- Upholding UK production standards
- Removing market access barriers

The package also cites:

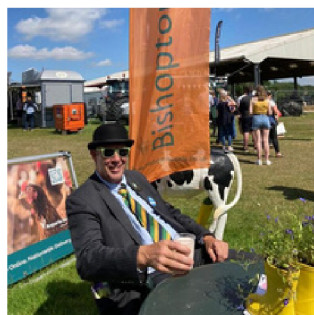
- £30m to enhance use of precision breeding techniques
- £2m to increase the UK's presence at international trade shows
- £1m for dairy exporters

NFU president Miniette Batters welcomes the measures, saying it shows a "recognition and understanding of the strategic importance of British food and farming to the nation."

## Summer shows are back

Summer means the return of the agricultural shows and as ever, Bishopton will be there with drinks, snacks and advice.

If you are visiting any of these shows, be sure to pop over and see us for a beverage and a catch up with the team. Ensure you are following us on social media for all our show updates including competitions and promotions.



Great Yorkshire Show - Tues 11th - Fri 14th July  
Drifffield Show - Wednesday 19th July  
Ripley Show - Sunday 13th August  
Wensleydale Show - Saturday 26th August  
Nidderdale Show - Sunday 24th September



**Already common practice on dairy farms, we are seeing more beef suckler farmers including the use of AI as part of their breeding programme, either across the whole herd, or more commonly, on heifers to generate replacements where easier calving bulls with maternal genetics can be used. Still need convincing? Here are some of the potential benefits:**

1. Access to higher quality genetics than would be economically sensible if purchasing a bull of equal quality. Cost per calf produced is very similar in AI and natural service situations, when costed per calf over a bull's lifetime.

2. Flexibility in the genetics chosen; heifers can be served to easier calving sires/ breed than larger framed mature cows.

3. Replacements can be bred from females that are AI'd; therefore, prolonging the lifespan of the current stock bull on the farm. As sexed semen becomes more consistent this should be even more effective.

4. Reduced infectious disease risk and health and safety risk of using AI versus buying a stock bull and keeping him on the farm.

5. Where synchronisation is used it means that the calving block can be 'front loaded' to maximise the percentage of cows calving in the first 3 weeks, targeting more than 65%.

One particular farm has used AI in this way on large numbers of heifers for 7 years now and achieved fantastic results with conception rates ranging from 73% to 89.5%. More recently we have trialled a more simple single AI protocol (3 handlings) with this farm with results matching that of double AI.



Interested in doing AI on your farm? Why not attend one of our DIY AI courses? The course is a practical 3 day course plus a refresher day. Learning outcomes:

- Understand the legislation and the license rules and regulations.
- Identify the key parts of the reproductive anatomy of the cow.
- Understand the oestrous cycle and heat detection.
- Understand the principles of good flask and straw storage and management.
- Explain how to cleanly and safely carry out AI.
- Show how to thaw and handle semen correctly.
- Carry out the practical task of insemination.

## **NEXT AI 2023 Course Dates**

26th - 28th June  
26th - 28th July

For more information or to book a space on a course, contact the team on **01765 602396** or email **[training@bishoptonvets.co.uk](mailto:training@bishoptonvets.co.uk)**