

Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter

Our 80th anniversary year is certainly flying along and the hot, dry weather of the early part of the summer has been replaced with cooler wetter conditions which are proving to be generally more agreeable to stock. Hopefully the rain has done its job and can pack it in for a bit now to allow for a good harvest!

From a practice perspective, the last two months have seen our Charity Clay Shoot raising funds for FCN and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The Great Yorkshire Show and our 80-mile running challenge have come and gone and most recently our 80th anniversary entry at this year's St Wilfrid's Day Procession. Ripon bore witness to our '80's themed float which will have been a memorable site for spectators, if not necessarily for all the right reasons!

This month's newsletter highlights some of these events alongside the usual variety of farming and veterinary topics.

Happy reading, from Phil Alcock,
on behalf of the
Bishopton Farm Team



A Reet Grand Day Out!

80th Anniversary year celebrations continued on Yorkshire Day with dairy clients enjoying a one-day bus trip to Skipton.

The first stop of the day was to the Holstein UK National Premier Herd open day to view the Aireburn herd owned by Brian and Judith Moorhouse. The Moorhouse's were crowned as the winners of the 2022 Holstein UK National Premier Herd Award after representing the Northern region in the final.

The Aireburn herd was established in 1968 by the late George Moorhouse before moving to Hesper Farm in 1971. There have been a number of on-farm sales over the years and unfortunately in 2001, most of the herd was lost to Foot and Mouth Disease, however, 40 young heifers were retained which form the foundations of today's herd. The Moorhouse family run a grass-based herd with buffer feed in the summer months and TMR in the winter.

After lunch we visited Paradise Farm at Horton, home to the Lancaster family and their 420 strong flying herd.

Recently a new 60 point rotary parlour has been installed and there is capacity in place to expand the herd to 600 cows. Cows are grazed for over 6-months of the year with a heavy focus on health and welfare. Discussions about the installation of a wind turbine, participation in environmental stewardship and the running of a busy holiday cottage rounded off what was both an informative and thought provoking visit.

Thank you to all those that attended. *Neil Eastham*

Iodine Deficiency

Whereas copper, cobalt and selenium are widely talked about in trace element supplmentation, iodine is also an important consideration and more and more flocks and herds have been discovering deficiencies.

Iodine deficiency can have a significant effect on livestock because iodine is a component of thyroid hormone which plays an important role in maintaining normal bodily functions. These include the production of proteins, immune function, appetite control, muscle function and adapting to hot or cold weather.

Thyroid hormone is also important for the development of calves and lambs and their transition from the womb to free living. This is why the most commonly reported signs associated with iodine deficiency in cattle and sheep are **stillbirths, or weak newborn lambs and calves.**

Other signs of iodine deficiency include fertility problems and poor scanning percentages, or poor survival rates of newborn lambs and changes to the skin and hair/wool. In sheep, wool changes may show as scanty wool and hairiness of the fleece.



Newborn animals may also show signs such as goitre, a swelling of the thyroid gland in the upper neck, which strongly suggests that their dam's diet is iodine deficient.

Even if you suspect iodine deficiency, it is still wise to investigate with some trace element bloods before supplementing, as over supplementation can have a detrimental effect on animal health and wastes money.



Causes and risk factors:

- Intake of iodine from pasture is lowest in late winter when the requirements of pregnant animals are at a peak. Seasonal conditions affect the iodine uptake of pregnant animals especially if those animals are outwintered.
- High levels of certain minerals like sulphur, calcium, and iron can interfere with iodine absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, exacerbating iodine deficiency in sheep.
- **Dietary “Goitrogens”** Symptoms of iodine deficiency can develop in animals on brassica crops like rape and kale. These plant-types contain substances, generally known as goitrogens, which can interfere with thyroid hormone production.
- Although fodder beet is not a brassica it’s relatively low iodine content will not be sufficient to meet normal requirements.

Iodine deficiency cont'...



Diagnosis

In live animals, a blood test of a minimum of 6 animals from each management group – ewes or lambs - can measure current iodine intakes, or alternatively by postmortem examination of a stillborn or weak newborn calf or lamb. This way the thyroid gland can be directly examined and the iodine content measured.

Methods of Supplementation

There are various methods of supplementation and the type most suitable to your farm will vary depending on your system and practicality of the supplement for you:

Commercial Trace Element Drenches

It is essential to check the label for decent iodine inclusion. Provides a fast-acting top up of essential trace elements at key times. The length of time product works for/remains in animal's system is often unknown.

Potassium Iodide Drench

This mixture will be volatile and for it to be effective must be mixed on the day of drenching. Discussion with your flock vet is essential to ensure correct dilution. This is a cheaper alternative than injectable supplementation but will have a shorter length of action.

Boluses

Such as Animax Se/I – It is not currently possible to solely supplement with an iodine-only bolus, so this is not appropriate for scenarios where iodine is the only deficiency. More expensive and requires careful handling of livestock to insert boluses safely.

Iodine Oil Injectable ("Flexidine" or "Depodine")




- Longer lasting.
- Intramuscular injection.
- Recommended to be given 1 month pre-tupping or 2 months before feeding goitrogenic crops. Can be given up to 2 weeks before lambing. Reading suggests no closer to lambing than this, as there are arguable effects on colostrum quantity and colostrum absorption in lambs.
- Safe for dosing lambs also, data sheet recommends to dose at weaning to help.

As with all trace element deficiencies, testing prior to starting any supplementation is always recommended as over supplementation or treating at the incorrect time can have negative consequences. For tailored advice on iodine deficiency in your flock please contact the practice or your flock vet.



Written by Amelia
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“Knock-downs”: A quicker, easier and kinder way of disbudding calves.

As calving wraps up and we move into Summer it can be a challenge to find time to disbud calves. Knock-downs, a procedure that really took off in New Zealand, have become an increasingly popular means of disbudding calves in an efficient and stressless way.

How Does it Work?

The ideal candidates for knock-down disbudding are calves between two and six weeks old. We check that the calves are in good health before sedative is injected into the muscle. Sedation takes effect within 10 minutes. Once the calves are recumbent, we can move among them and administer local anaesthetic and pain relief. Our lightweight handheld burners are ideal for quick disbudding. Other procedures such as castration or vaccination can be carried out at the same time.

Benefits

Knock-down disbuds are quicker than conventional disbuds. It's also much easier to inject local anaesthetic directly onto the nerve in an animal that's sedated! The sedation itself provides some pain relief alongside that provided by local anaesthetic and anti-inflammatories. This means that calves experience less pain and distress which often leads to improved daily live weight gain.

Limitations

The drug used for sedation, xylazine, competes with adrenaline. This means that in calves experiencing fear, sedation is much less effective. Knock-down disbuds are therefore easier in calves that are more frequently handled – dairy calves and bucket-reared calves – than calves from suckler systems. It is not impossible to use this sedation in suckler calves but careful preparation is needed to minimise stress when separating the calves from their mothers and administering the sedation.



Local anaesthetic and pain relief are administered once the calves are recumbent.

Written by Ben Walker, BVM BVS MRCVS



Bishopton Clients in Farmers Weekly Awards Finals!

Huge congratulations to the following clients who have made the FW Awards finals. We have everything crossed for a win.

Beef Farmer of the Year Terence Pye, Leven Fields Farm, North Yorkshire

Terence produces breeding stock from a grass-fed herd of pedigree Salers. Regenerative grazing has helped eliminate chemical fertiliser and sprays.

Grassland Management JG Waterhouse, Fourth Milestone Farm, North Yorkshire

Grassland management is the foundation of this profitable 350-cow spring-calving dairy, where focus is placed on soil quality and drought-tolerant legume mixes.



FARM NEWS: CALF HOUSING FOR HEALTH & WELFARE GRANT

DEFRA has launched a new £10 million infrastructure grant to fund cattle housing for farmers. The government's **Calf Housing for Health and Welfare Grant** is aimed at boosting calf health and welfare, and enhancing environmental sustainability and innovation. The grant can help build new, upgrade, or replace, existing calf housing buildings. Calf housing funded through the grant must provide a good ambient environment and facilitate social contact through pair or group housing

In contrast to other large DEFRA grants, **you will need to discuss your project with a vet in order to apply**, and include a letter of confirmation with your full application if you are successful during the initial application stage.

Basic eligibility criteria and eligible costs:

You can apply if you're an existing cattle farmer in England carrying out farming activity, including calf rearing, with 11 or more cattle. Any buildings you build or upgrade with money from the grant must be located in England.

You must either own the land you're building on, or have a tenancy agreement for the land until 5 years after the project is complete. You can apply if your current agreement will end sooner than 5 years after the project, if you expect it to continue. There is also an opportunity, in certain situations, to use the grant funding to buy second-hand items. If you buy an item for the project using lease purchase or hire purchase, you need to own it outright before you can claim any grant money towards it.

Grant contribution details

The minimum grant you can apply for is £15,000. The maximum grant is £500,000. Defra has said the minimum grant amount does not include costs associated with rooftop solar PV panels. Grants can cover up to a maximum rate of 40% of the eligible costs of a project. If you're including rooftop solar PV panels as part of your project, the RPA will only fund the purchase and installation of these up to 25% of the eligible costs.

You need to be able to fund the project costs before any grant funds are released (you can make a maximum of three claims over the course of the project against eligible expenditure).

It is important to note that if you wish to increase the size of your herd as part of your project, the amount of funding you can receive will be decided pro rata based on your calf numbers from the previous year. The RPA will fund 40% of the eligible costs that accommodate calf numbers consistent from the previous year.

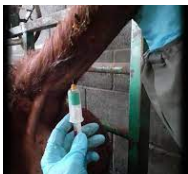
Equally important to note, is that you must not start work, commit to any costs (including paying deposits), enter into any legal contracts, or place an order until a project has been successful via the application process and has a start date. This date will be on the grant funding agreement.

You may recall earlier this year as part of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), DEFRA launched the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. Within the Pathway, funding for an annual vet visit to review health and welfare on your farm and identify/discuss the priority areas (includes some specific disease testing – BVD for cattle and resistant worms for sheep) is available.

Funding for the review (£522 for beef, £372 for dairy and £436 for sheep) is available to BPS registered farmers with 11+ cattle or 21+ sheep. Recently DEFRA announced that the vet review application process is about to get a bit easier to engage with, following the removal of the two stage application in favour of a one-step system.

In recent months we've been busy out and about carrying out

review visits. Early feedback has been good with clients recognising the free rein that's given to discuss and explore any topic that's relevant to health and welfare on their farm. Whilst the vet review is not an audit and should not be used to replace a farm assurance visit, importantly (and therefore cost effectively) they can be carried out at the same time.



In order to provide more information about the different payments that are available to livestock keepers, look out for the meetings we've got planned in early Autumn to explore how these payments may benefit your farm business, food production and improve the environment.

As well as discussing the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Review, other stakeholders will explore how you might benefit from Countryside Stewardship (CS) and the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) as well as provide top tips on how to apply for one or more of the grants available, including for equipment and technology.



In summary, the purpose of the review is to:

- Reduce endemic diseases such as bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) in cattle, porcine reproductive and respiratory disease (PRRS) in pigs and the effectiveness of worming treatments in sheep
- Improve the welfare of your animals
- Increase productivity
- Ensure your use of veterinary medicines and vaccines is appropriate
- Be primarily for the farmer, and not used for inspections or compliance

Written by Neil
Eastham BVSc
DBR
NSch MRCVS.



UK animal product exports to EU will soon need vet-signed declarations

From 13 December 2023, non-assured UK livestock farmers sending animals to market or slaughter will need to provide a declaration signed by a veterinarian following an annual farm visit for their products to be eligible for export to the EU.

Farmers who are part of an approved farm assurance scheme already meet the requirement for a veterinary visit. If your farm has had an annual health and welfare review as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP), then this visit will also fulfil the requirements. If neither of these are applicable and a veterinary visit has not taken place in the 12 months preceding 13th December 2023 then the farm should organise a vet visit so that we can provide the declaration.

Show Season



Our barrel of Black Sheep ale went down so well... we had to get another one. Here's new vet Tom, putting his pint pulling skills to the test.



Lots of clients came by at the Great Yorkshire Show - and the sun came out briefly!



Congratulations to **Pam Lupton** of the Kexbeck Flock who took reserve champion in the interbreed pairs at the Great Yorkshire Show.

Also, **Garrowby Limousins** who won best Limousin in Show at Driffeld.



As ever, we've had a busy summer, attending many of the agricultural shows providing both veterinary services and hospitality to hungry and thirsty clients.

Our bait-boxes continue to be popular, packed with delicious pies and pastries from Appleton's Butchers and Anna's Happy Trotters. We've also been enjoying incredible milkshakes from Greyleys Jerseys.



Showing Sheep at Nidderdale?

Our final show of the season is Nidderdale, Sunday 24th September. If you're showing sheep, our dispensary have Purl Dip in stock.



Tipping season - equipment now in stock.



Order now from our dispensary, 01765 602396



Over 40 teams competed in the Bishopton Clay Shoot.

Our Charity Clay Shoot was held on Friday 23rd June and it was a great night. It was fantastic to see so many of you join us and there was some very good shooting, with some tricky pairs testing even the best shots. We raised money for two great causes - Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Farmers Community Network. See below for more details on the FCN's services.



FCN | THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

Much of our charity activity this year has been in support of the FCN, Farmer's Community Network.

Farming is not just a job – it's a way of life. It is a wonderful industry to work in, but it can also be inherently risky and volatile. Farmers are regularly forced to deal with issues on the farm that are beyond their control, such as animal disease, fluctuating market prices and the weather. Farming can also be an isolating and lonely occupation, with farmers often spending long hours in the field with little or no form of social interaction.

FCN volunteers provide support in a number of ways. These can include support with paperwork, building relationships with bank managers, acting as family mediators and even supporting farmers through legal issues.

More often than not, farm workers just need someone who will listen to them. FCN volunteers are on hand to provide a sympathetic ear, which is why their confidential helpline is such an important asset to those seeking help.

Need to offload? Call the FCN helpline any day of the year, between 7am -11pm for confidential, industry specific, help and advice.

03000 111 999

DIY AI Training Course

25th - 27th Oct
27th - 29th Nov

Sunley Raynes Farm,
Ripon

Discuss the regulations governing AI in the UK and learn the theory of safe semen handling and AI techniques. Be able to carry out correct AI techniques using abattoir specimens or models before progressing to being able to safely perform AI in live cows to DEFRA approved standards.

To book a place call

01765 602396

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