

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

Flies and New Forest Eye

During the summer months, cattle and sheep in the UK are all too often tormented by the irritation and nuisance caused by flies. Not only are they an irritation but flies can also cause decreased productivity and spread diseases such as New Forest Eye.



The danger period for flies is during the summer months, with the season extending from March to November, and is largely dependent on climatic conditions. Flies begin to develop any time the temperature is greater than 7 degrees Celsius. An active female fly has a huge capacity for reproduction, and can lay up to 1000 eggs a week. The fly burden you see directly around your cattle is likely to represent only 10-20% of the total fly population on the farm. Due to the negative effects flies have on welfare, production and disease transmission it is important to control flies by treating early and keeping on top of treatment.

Flies can act as vectors and spread bacteria on their feet including *Moraxella Bovis* which is the causative agent of New Forest Eye (*Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis*). The most severe disease tends to be seen in younger animals, however, any age animal is susceptible to new forest eye. Most commonly, a central white cloudy raised lesion is seen on the surface of the eye. Left untreated it may progress to ulceration and rupture of the eye ball. For mild cases treatment is typically topical antibiotics e.g. orbenin or opticloxx. More severe cases require an injection of oxytetracycline. In the most severe cases the animals plasma spun down from blood or even surgical closure of the eyelids may be required. Treatment is for the vet to decide on a case by case basis. Other milder signs of

eye irritation include increased blinking rate, increased tear production, holding the eye slightly closed and being sensitive to light.

Prevention is always better than cure, therefore, appropriate fly management is the best way to try and prevent cases of new forest eye. Fly control on farm can be managed with ectoparasiticides in the form of pour on, fly tags, or environmental control. Measures to reduce disease transmission caused by flies include ensuring adequate space at shared resources such as feeders, and quarantining new or infected animals.

Please speak to a member of the team if you would like more advice on fly control products.

Sheep fly strike warning!

Soiled fleeces are the perfect environment for adult flies to lay eggs. Mature maggots can develop from eggs within 3 days and if left untreated cause severe skin and muscle damage to the affected animal. Fly strike is completely preventable. Please check your flock for signs and don't leave things too long.

Find us on



Please visit our Facebook page 'Belmont Farm & Equine' to keep up to date on interesting and topical practical Farm meetings over the coming months.

Out of hours

A reminder that if there is ever any difficulty in reaching the vet on call out of hours, we have a permanent answering service, Phoneta, who will take your call and then go on to contact the relevant vet. They can be reached on 01432 381440.

HEREFORD: 01432 351471 • BROMYARD: 01885 488440 • LEDBURY: 01531 806129

Clinical Vets: Dominic Alexander · Will Allman · Mike Bellamy · Andrew Cooke · Nick Gibbon · James Hipperson · Hannah Mitchell · Matthew Pugh · Caroline Rank · Ally Reid · Harry Walby · Charlotte Watkins

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz · Petre Balanescu · Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean · Tudor Patcas · Diego Sainz Garcia · Javier Sisamon · Krasimir (Kris) Stefanov

Support staff: Sadie Davies · Michelle Harris · Lucy Hughes · Sybil Legge · Laura Langford · Alice Mainwaring · Ros O'Sullivan · Sophie Powell · Andrea Smith · Pam Strange · Victoria Tully · Millie Whitlock

Yearly sheep recording

A lot of people are now in the midst of weaning or selling lambs. Now is a good time to sit down and take stock before the next year starts at tugging. Here are a few bits of basic information that we feel all farmers should know.

Basic information (Required)	Group A	Group B
Number of ewes put to the tup		
Number of tups used		
Number of barren ewes		
Number of lambs born alive		
Number of lambs weaned (includes lambs sold before weaning)		

Barren rate = No. of barren/No. of ewes put to the tup x 100

Lambing rate = Lambs born alive/No. of ewes put to the tup x 100

Weaning rate = No. of lambs weaned/No. of ewes put to the tup x 100

With this basic information, we can check barren percentage, lambing percentage and, most importantly, weaning/selling percentage. Lower percentages or sudden drops in percentage reveal problems and a more in depth review of that area (tugging time, lambing time, growing lambs etc). This information will reveal further insights such as scanning percentage, abortion percentage etc.

A full performance review (*as seen in our health plans*) will cover more yearly parameters such as scanning percentage, stages of lamb mortality and more in depth disease prevalence. Having a basic rundown of the farm's performance is a good way to compare year to year. This allows you to see benefits from any changes that you have implemented as well as reveal areas of concern. ***If you would like a full performance review to fill in, please call the reception and we can email you a copy. This makes it a lot easier to access the data when doing your vet-led performance review.***



DID SOMEONE SAY DISCOUNT?

A reminder that we offer 10% discount for the majority of our Prescription drugs when they are paid for on collection as long as your account is up to date and we have seen your stock in the last 12 months.

Forgotten your card or cheque book? Just give us a call when you get back home and we are happy to add the discount on and take a card payment over the phone.

For qualifying bulk orders we do offer an extra 5% discount.

Please contact one of our offices for more information.

Hereford Office: 01432 351471
Bromyard Office: 01885 488440
Ledbury Office: 01531 806129

Keep an ear out for lungworm



When you are flat-out harvesting, don't forget your girls at home...

Grazing cows might need treatment against lungworm during the summer months. The early signs are a 'husky cough' and a diagnosis can be made by taking a dung sample.

A vaccine is available to protect cattle but this needs to be done before turnout. If you think this might be relevant to your herd or want some advice then give us a ring.

Sheep abortion vaccines



Please remember that it is the time of year to make sure that your flock is vaccinated

against the infectious types of sheep abortion: Toxoplasmosis and Enzootic Abortion. With the current sunny weather lambing seems a world away but it soon comes around!

Toxovax needs to be injected at least 3 weeks before tugging and Cevac (Enzootic abortion) needs to be injected at least 4 weeks before tugging.

NSA and CEVA have just announced a survey that they are conducting to find farmers' experiences of Enzootic Abortion. ***If you would like to take part please follow the link below. We will also be sharing the link on our Facebook page.***

surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EAEsurvey

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