

JUNE 2021



FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER



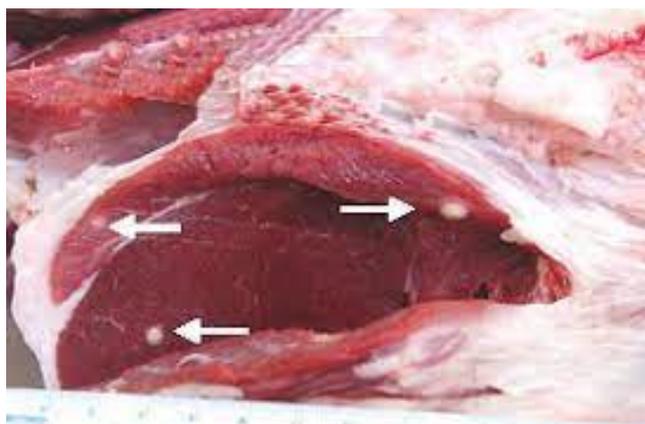
Farm

COVID-19 UPDATE

We are happy to say that we can now allow one person at a time in to our offices. Please remember to call your orders in in advance to ensure that they are ready for collection. Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

DON'T LET DOGS 'MEASLE' YOUR MONEY!

Ever had one of your lambs rejected at slaughter because of liver or muscle cysts? You're not the only one, AHDB reported that in 2017 0.3% of sheep were rejected in England due to *Cysticercus ovis* (a common cause of sheep measles or cysts) costing the sheep industry £2.1 million.



So what are these cysts on sheep carcasses?

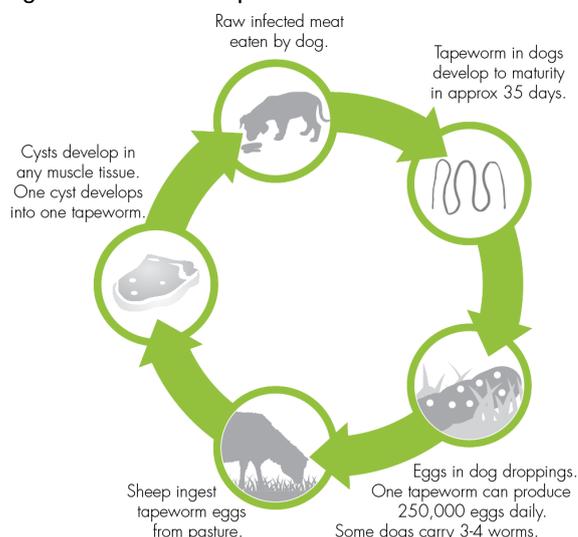
Dog tapeworms are the culprit. There are four types of dog tapeworm which use sheep as their intermediate hosts:

- Taenia ovis*
 - Taenia multiceps*
 - Taenia hydatigena*
 - Echinococcus granulosus* – CARE – this tapeworm can infect humans and cause serious health issues. Infection is caused by accidental ingestion of eggs from dog faeces.
- As an intermediate host the sheep ingest the tapeworm eggs from dog faeces. The eggs then develop into larvae which migrate from the intestines to different parts of the sheep's body. The location which they end up depends on the type of tapeworm. *Taenia ovis*, for example, migrates to the heart, the diaphragm and other large muscle groups. Once in the correct location they develop into fluid filled sacs, which in time, turn into cysts. This condition is coined 'Sheep measles' or the proper term for it is *Cysticercus ovis*. If there are too many cysts, then the carcass will be rejected by the

slaughter house costing you money. Typically, they will turn up on your slaughter report as a 'muscle cyst'.

But how do the dogs get infected?

Dogs eat the muscle cysts from infected sheep which have died on farm. The cysts then develop in the dog to become adult tapeworms. The cycle then begins again with the eggs being excreted in faeces on the pasture. Dogs and sheep may not appear sick with the infection, but you may see white segments around your dog's anus or in their poo.



I worm my sheep, won't that get rid of the tapeworm?

No, unfortunately not, sheep wormers do not work against the dog tapeworm. Here is a list of the best ways to control dog tapeworms in your sheep.

- Dispose of sheep carcasses as quickly as possible
- Treat all dogs on the farm monthly (<5 week intervals) with a drug called Praziquantel
- Ensure visiting dogs with access to the pasture are also treated monthly
- Dog walkers should pick up their dog faeces, especially if they feed their dogs raw food diets.

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

Vets: Dominic Alexander • Will Allman • Mike Bellamy • Hazel Birch-Ellis • Andrew Cooke • Joel Galloway • Nick Gibbon • James Hipperson • Louise Lavin • Hannah Mitchell • Matthew Pugh • Caroline Rank • Harry Walby • Charlotte Watkins • Sarah Watson

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz • Petre Balanescu • Lin Irving • Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean • Emma Parkinson • Tudor Patcas • Diego Sainz Garcia • Mark Wrathall

Support staff: Megan Corrick • Sadie Davies • Michelle Harris • Lucy Hughes • Sybil Legge • Laura Langford • Alice Mainwaring • Ros O'Sullivan • Sophie Powell • Sharon Powell • Andrea Smith • Pam Strange • Vicky Tully • Katherine Whistance • Millie Whitlock

PELVIC MEASURING HEIFERS

Thinking about putting your heifers to the bull? Heifers can be tricky customers when it comes to calving. Farmers and vets alike frequently struggle with the dynamics of fitting a large calf through a small pelvis and calf - mother disproportion contributes to higher calf mortality rates.

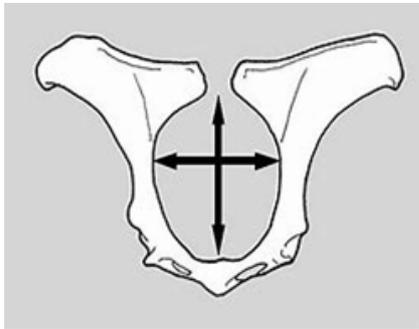
At best these situations are resolved with a live calf and cow, but too commonly we still see stressed calves, down cows, increased numbers of caesareans and other associated problems.

Measuring a heifer's pelvic area before she is put to the bull is one method of reducing the incidence of calving difficulties on your farm. Ideally, pelvic measurements should be performed between 12-14 months of age, it is however possible to perform these measurements anywhere between 11-24 months.

As simple measurement of the height and width of the heifer's pelvic canal allows us to calculate her predicted pelvic area at 2 years old and therefore whether she will be able to deliver an average sized calf.

Ultimately, this process will aid you in the most appropriate heifer selection to prevent calving issues on your farm in the coming season.

If you are interested and would like to discuss measuring your next batch of bulling heifers then please contact the office.



Emergencies and Out of Hours

In the unfortunate event that your animal requires veterinary attention out-of-hours please dial the usual office number where you will be given the telephone number of the on-duty vet.

It may be useful to keep a pen and paper handy to take this number down.

On the rare occasion that the duty vet is out of reception your call will be forwarded to a helpful member of our answering service who will ensure someone attends the emergency as soon as possible.

The answering team at Kernow can be contacted directly on 01432 381 440, if for any reason you are unable to reach the duty vet.

BVD STAMP IT OUT SCHEME

Over the last 2 years, we have been running the BVD stamp it out scheme. The aim of the scheme was to test 50% of all breeding cattle with England and engage with 8000 herds. Here is a quick snapshot of the figures so far.

	Nationally	Belmont Farms
Total Farms enrolled	5855	97
Dairy Farms	2367	13
Beef Farms	3408	84
Antibody tests performed	10,388	845
Antigen tests performed	11,869	N/A
Antibody positive	1,547 (14.8%)	48 (5.6%)
Antigen positive	645 (5.45%)	8

Overall, the scheme may not have met its target but has engaged with a very large number of farmers and shown that BVD control is possible. If you are wishing to set up a BVD control plan on your farm, please call one of our vets to discuss.



We are Farming Minds is a Herefordshire based charity set up by farmers for farmers, to help break the stigma surrounding Mental Health and encourage those suffering to seek the appropriate help and treatment!

We are looking to recruit several volunteers for our 24-hour helpline, providing a listening ear to the farming community within Herefordshire, who may be facing Mental Health issues. We are looking for people who really want to make a difference within the farming community.

Volunteers will need to have the following qualities:

- Empathetic
- Reliable
- Open minded and without judgement
- Able to work on own initiative
- Good communication/listening skills
- Discretion, whilst respecting confidentiality

We particularly encourage people from the farming community who have a **good understanding of farming life** to become volunteers with WAFM.

Previous experience in advice is not necessary as this role will **give you the opportunity to develop your skills** and receive full training and support.

A **full DBS check** will be required.

We have other volunteer roles available, including fundraising and administrative.

To find out more, please contact Emily
Mobile: 07506 567500
Email: wearefarmingminds@gmail.com



'Taking the bull by the horns' to tackle Mental Health in the farming community

WeAreFarmingMinds

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