

Farm Newsletter

Castle Veterinary Group

June 2017

It's Showtime!

We are looking forward to attending two local shows this year. We have a marquee at Liskeard Show on Saturday 8th July then our usual spot at Launceston Show on Thursday 27th July near the entrance gate. Please pop in for refreshments and a chat.



A Word From The Vet...Ticks



Ticks carry disease as blood feeders. In livestock we find they carry Louping Ill, Red water and tick-borne fever. All these diseases are becoming more common in the south-west.

Louping Ill : The virus attacks the central nervous system leading to paralysis and death. We are fortunate to have an effective vaccine available. Please discuss the use of this with us.
Redwater: Infected animals develop a high fever, loss of appetite, depression and rapid breathing. They may show spectacular diarrhoea and the urine is coloured with blood pigment. If suspected call your vet as treatment must be rapid to be effective.
Tick-Borne Fever: The temperature rise will often cause abortion and the subsequent womb infection may be severe if untreated. Treatment is with long acting oxytetracycline and anti-inflammatories.

Tim

Tick Facts



Ticks can only survive if humidity is above 85% and so they are found in upland rough pastures and woodland. Improved, well drained pasture will not allow ticks to survive and of course ploughing destroys their home in the vegetation mat. Ticks are only active when the temperature rises above 7 degrees Celsius. We tend to see a peak in the spring and smaller peak in the autumn

Sheep Farmers – How to tell if your wormer is working

With so many wormer products on the market it can be difficult to know which to choose for your flock. There are currently 5 main groups available:

Group 1 BZ = **White** Group 2 LV = **Yellow**, Group 3 ML = **Clear**

Group 4 = **Orange** Group 5 = **Purple**

Groups 1 -3 are the products which have been in use for the longest. On your farm you could have resistance to one, two or even all three groups. It is very simple for us to test for resistance in our lab at the surgery and save you spending money on a product which may not be effective.

Drop in a pooled dung sample for a worm egg count. Treat with your wormer of choice then bring in a sample post-treatment (14 days later if using a white Group 1 or clear Group 3 product or 7 days later if using a yellow Group 2 wormer). We can then calculate the reduction in the worm egg count to determine whether there are resistant worms on your farm.

We are very fortunate that we have 2 new groups of wormer that have become available more recently, orange Group 4 and purple Group 5. Currently in the UK there is no known resistance to these two groups. It is therefore important that we use these wormers responsibly alongside the older 3 groups. This could be as a quarantine drench, to ensure you do not introduce resistance with bought in stock, or as a finishing drench for fattening lambs. Alternatively, Groups 4 & 5 can be used if we diagnose resistance to Groups 1-3 in your flock.

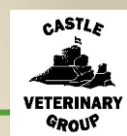
Blackleg Vaccine – Primary Course Intervals

Please be aware that there are two brands of Blackleg vaccine available. Both require 2 doses for the primary course, however, the intervals between the two differ.

MSD = 3-4 weeks apart

Zoetis = 6 weeks apart

Next GRASS Meeting



Date: Wednesday 5th July 11am – 3pm

Venue: Brinsabach Farm, South Brentor, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0NW

By Kind Permission of The Batten Family

New Faces Are Always Welcome, Please RSVP to 01566 772371