



July 2023

This Summer, learn all about Dung Beetles, plus, gain insight into worming your stock

This joint Beef and Flock Club meeting will be held on August 31st at 10:30am on the Davey's mixed beef and sheep farm just off the A38 at Budge's Shop.

Castle Vets are pleased to welcome dung-beetle expert and Associate Professor **Nick Royale from the University of Exeter** and **Hannah Jones from the Farm Carbon Toolkit** to Penquite farm, to discuss the impact our drugs can have on the soil environment and growing potential of farms. Vets Tim and Andy will also be attending and speaking about the importance of correct wormer and fly-prevention treatment.

Details: 10:30 – 14:00
Penquite Park, Trerulefoot
Saltash, PL12 5BN
SX323 593

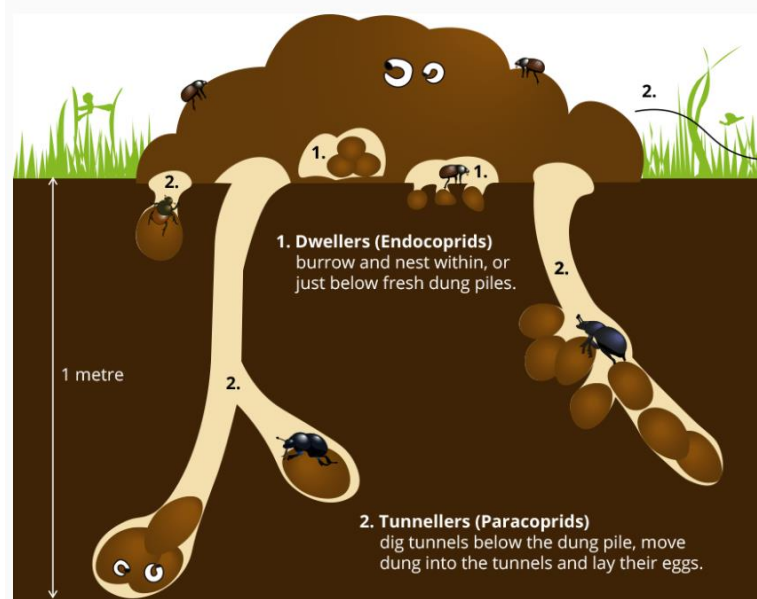
Why should I care? What do Dung beetles do for me?

- **Dung removal**
- **Reworking soils**
- **Pest suppression**
- **Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Improve soil quality and structure!**
- **Reduce surface runoff (improving water infiltration)**
- **Increased biodiversity**

Please give us a call to reserve your space. This meeting is free to flock and beef club members, and only £25 per farm (not person) if you aren't a member – everyone is welcome!



Dung Beetle Life Cycle



The Farming Community Network Are investigating the Impact of TB

The FCN have launched new research into the impact that the threat of TB and the compulsory control measures are having on farmers and their families in the UK.

“(The questionnaire) has been designed with input from colleagues and academics and is to be shared with livestock/cattle farmers in the UK. FCN want as many farmers as possible to fill it in so that we can gain a wealth of data from across the whole of the UK. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The results of the survey will help FCN to better understand how farmers and farm families perceive the threat of bTB, helping us to support those at risk or affected by a bTB breakdown.”



Please click this link to access the survey – the more evidence they can collect from farmers across the country the better. It is particularly important to get responses from where we are, as the South West is so badly affected with bTB:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3HG5YFG>

Dr Jude McCann, Chief Executive Officer, (FCN) has urged as many farmers as possible to respond, stating:

“We hope this study will help to shed light on this issue, provide farmers with the opportunity to share their own experiences with bTB, and help FCN and the agencies we work with to better support farmers affected.”



Come See Us at this Year's Agricultural Shows

Liskeard – Saturday 8th July, Launceston – Thursday 27th July,

Okehampton – Thursday 10th August, Holsworthy – Thursday 24th August



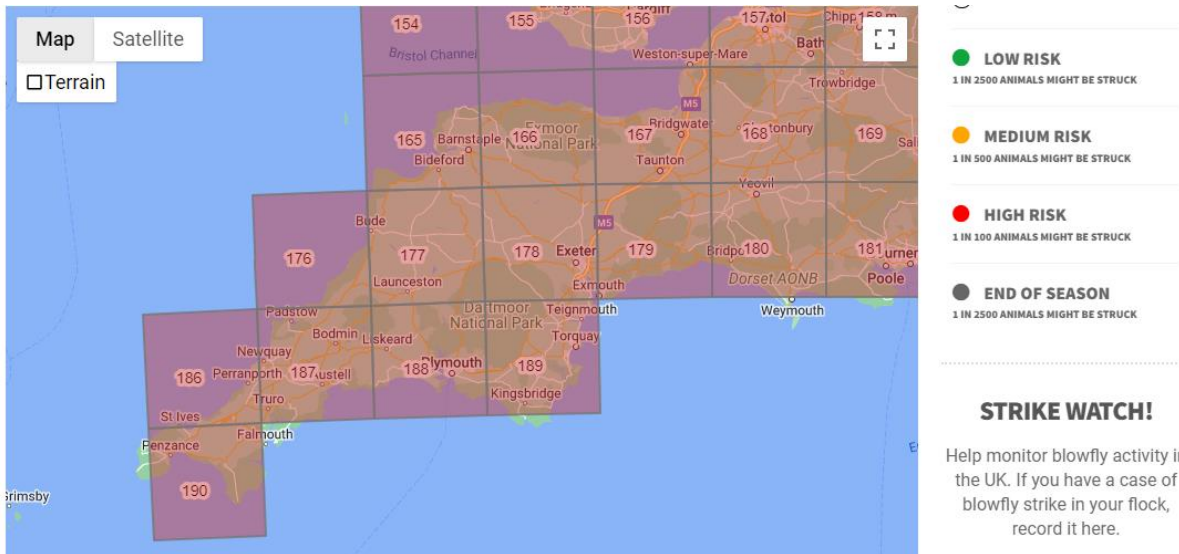
BlowFly Alert from NADIS

Recent hot weather has increased the strike risk substantially throughout the UK. The dry weather initially made animals less susceptible to strike. However, now that the fly population has grown, the rainfall over the past few weeks has increased the strike risk quickly, particularly in lambs.

<https://alerts.nadis.org.uk/>

Most ewes should now be sheared, and the short fleece should offer some protection until it regrows. However, if you haven't already, it is appropriate to treat your stock with a fly preventative. A full list of the options for fly control in sheep can be found here:

<https://alerts.nadis.org.uk/media/1036/table.pdf>



As well as shearing + regular dagging, local fly traps can make a real difference to the number of pests affecting your stock. Most flies will be local to a single field, with a maximum flight range of one mile (data from SCOPS and Oxford University). This means you can have a real impact on their numbers using basic traps. These are most effective early on in the season, and have been shown to reduce numbers by up to 80%, significantly reducing fly worry (and therefore increasing grazing time and growth rates!) of your stock.

Cull Ewe Screen

Post weaning, whilst sorting your ewes to cull or tup, please remember that (as last year) we will be offering discounted rates on blood sampling your cull ewes to screen for common diseases. You can check your flock's status by screening five ewes for the included diseases of *Enzootic abortion, Johnes, Border Disease and Maedi Visna* for just £25 per ewe, with no additional vet time or materials charges. This represents a saving of £15 per ewe so please contact us for details!

