



**CASTLE  
VETERINARY  
GROUP**

# Farm newsletter

Tel: 01566 772371 [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk)



## June 2023

### Precision Grazing Meeting - 5th July 10:30-13:30

James Daniel, a precision grazing consultant, will be speaking at our next Beef Club meeting in July. Steve Thorne of West Panson farm (Launceston) is kindly hosting this farm walk + meeting. Both club and non-club members are welcome to attend what should prove to be an interesting guide to getting the most out of your grass.



Whether you are a beef, sheep, or dairy farmer, this should be an enlightening day. James is an expert in the field, and we are very pleased to be able to learn from him! Lunch will be provided, of course, so please book in advance to confirm your place and numbers for food.

This event is free to Beef club members, or £25 per farm (as many people from that farm who want to attend are welcome).

The Farm address is Homeleigh, West Panson, St.Giles-on-the-Heath, Launceston. PL15 9SF  
Grid Reference: SX347 913

We can't wait to see you there!

### TB Testing

Castle Vets now has four dedicated TB testers on the road, Heather, Rowan, Chloe, and Torie. Alongside our 10 vets we can provide TB testing services to over 400 herds under our care. Please be advised that you will be asked if there will be any vet work on your test at the point of booking, to help us provide you with the most appropriate service. We are already booked up well into July – please contact us as soon as you receive your ministry letter with your testing window. This will give the best chance of getting the time and date that best suits you!



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Successful Research Event Held at Trefranck Farm

Castle Vets have been part of a ground-breaking research project, funded by DEFRA via Innovate UK grants. Partnering with Matt and Pip Smith, we have worked with the Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Livestock, and the Moredun Institute of Edinburgh to complete a 12-month pilot study into breeding lambs that are resilient in the face of high worm challenge. Over 100 farmers attended our knowledge exchange day in May, and 20 vets from practices in the Southwest, as well as other leading industry professionals, attended our Industry evening.



Through studying over 200 ram lambs, we have been able to show significant differences in their ability to cope with roundworms, depending on their sire (ram). Resilient lambs (ones that can 'resist' or 'tolerate' worms) were able to face high parasite challenge without a check in their growth. Under the average worm burden of 415 eggs per gram, the least tolerant sheep were 530g lighter than the most tolerant.

We were also able to discuss the allied 'whole farm' approach that is crucial in reducing worm burden on pasture, pressure on wormer-drugs and how to maximise lamb growth rates and efficiency. Most farms will have worms that show resistance to the commonly used wormer groups, and using drenches that aren't fully effective may still make your lambs 'look' better, and so mask the problem. Knowing what you should use and when is a crucial part of the battle against wormer resistance, and fully funded worm-egg reduction tests, to test which wormers will work for your farm, are now available through the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.





For more details on our project please see:

<https://cielivestock.co.uk/project/worm-tolerance-sheep-farming/> or chat to vets Lucy or Tim for more details!



## Watch Out – Worms About!

The grazing season last year was exceptionally dry, followed by a damp autumn. This led to very low worm burdens initially, followed by high levels of pasture contamination. Many of our farmers took advantage of Castle Vets in house faecal (dung) egg counting service, to track what parasite burden different pastures and stock were under. We have recently purchased a new in-house worm egg counting machine. This will increase the speed, reliability, and repeatability of our results. We now only need 3 grams of dung sample to get you an accurate roundworm egg count. Our turn-around time will be much quicker, enabling you to act as soon as possible, if you need to.

## Summer Shows

It is that time of year again! We're already planning for our summer shows 2023 and we would love to see you there:

**Liskeard – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

**Launceston – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Okehampton – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

**Holsworthy – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

