



May 2023

Castle Vets Collaborate in Sheep Research Project

Since June 2022, vets Lucy and Tim have been involved in a research project held at the Trefrank Farm, St Clether. We have worked with the Moredun Institute (who are the UK's biggest small ruminant research facility, based in Edinburgh) and the Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Livestock to explore the concept of breeding worm tolerance into sheep.



<https://www.farmersguide.co.uk/free-events-to-explore-worm-tolerant-sheep-breeding-open-to-farmers/>

Breeding worm tolerant sheep can lead to improved growth rates and financial returns, improved animal welfare and production, while reducing anthelmintic use and associated labour costs. We'd love you to join us to discuss the project and have a lamb spit roast! Please note, the stations will be running to a schedule, so we encourage prompt attendance at 10am.

[Tickets for this event are free](#) and available on a first-come-first-served basis through clicking the above link (which takes you to the *EventBrite* website). Participants are invited to make a voluntary donation for the Farming Community Network. You can find out more about them [here](#).

Invitation

Farmer Awareness Day: Breeding for worm tolerant sheep - an innovative approach to tackling worm resistance

Wednesday 17 May, 10am-2pm

Trefranck Farm, Saint Clether, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8QN

[Register for the day](#)

How has your lambing gone?



This April has given us all the extremes in terms of weather! Those lambing later outdoors have had a mixed experience, and several of our indoor lambing clients had to hold back on turning out lambs too. We have been running a scheme with our flock club to analyse colostrum quality using refractometers on farm.

This bit of kit allows us to see the level of *protein* contained in the sampled colostrum. This is a crucial indicator of how 'good' the colostrum is. It is an indication of how adequate the ewe's nutrition was leading up to lambing. The cost of cake this year led many people to consider closely how much they could supplement, and group individuals into singles and twin bearing ewes has proved a money-saver for many.

Colostrum is a vital energy source but also crucially contains antibodies. These are the proteins from the ewe's immune system, that allow the lamb to defend itself from the bugs that cause diseases like watery mouth and joint ill. The aim is that ewes' colostrum should have a protein reading of at least 26.5%, and we have found that many of the ewes we are sampling have measures of over 30%. These measurements are a good check early-on into lambing, as if the level is low, supplementing your remaining pregnant ewes can increase the colostrum quality in as little as seven days.



One of our clients also tested the powdered colostrum she makes up, and found the protein to be sitting at 18%, well below the natural colostrum her ewes were producing on farm. This was an interesting finding and proves that there is nothing better than the real deal! Stripping colostrum from single bearing ewes and storing in freezer bags is a good way to ensure you have a supply on hand and can prevent problems with the lambs you're having to supplement further down the line.

We have sampled over 50 individual ewes across 20 farms. The difference in pre-lambing nutrition across all these different systems lead to varied, but generally very positive, results.

Upcoming flock club meeting:

How did your lambing go? Discussion of this year + the colostrum study results.

Launceston practice, May 25th, 6:30pm

*Free to flock club members, or £25 fee per farm (not person) to attend

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 8th July

Launceston – Thursday 27th July

Okehampton – Thursday 10th August

Holsworthy – Thursday 24th August



Struggling to get your head around all the transition grants?

There is a huge amount of change happening in our industry, and for better or worse, we need to change with it. Business Information Point are based in Devon and now has the contract for the whole of the Southwest, to spread the word about all the different options for your farming business going forward. If you haven't already, please consider attending one of their free workshops. These group meetings are the gateway to free, one-on-one, on-farm consultancy (paid for by DEFRA) OR you can just sign up directly for the one-on-one advice.



We have had over 80 farms sign up and had great feedback. The list of all their dates and details of how to register can be found here:

<https://businessinfopoint.co.uk/ffr/>

Spring Update

TEST BEFORE YOU TREAT

Talk to one of the team about our faecal egg counting service, which can help you to make informed choices about whether there is the need to treat your animals, and what product you should be using.

Spotinor®

Deltamethrin spot-on for the treatment and prevention of infestations by lice and flies on cattle; ticks, lice, keds and established blowfly strike on sheep and lice and ticks on lambs.



For more information please contact the practice on:

01566 772371



Manufactured and distributed in NI by: Norbrook Laboratories Ltd, Station Works, Newry, Co. Down, BT35 6JP Distributed in UK by: Norbrook Laboratories Limited, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, BT35 6QQ.
Legal Category: PVM-PS Spotinor® 10mg/ml Spot-on Solution for cattle and sheep contains deltamethrin 10mg/ml. Use Medicines Responsibly. For further details on these products including the dosage regimens, side effects, precautions, warnings and contraindications please see the summary of product characteristics (SPC) available at www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Search.aspx
[Advice on the use of these products should be sought from the medicine prescriber.]
4870-LA(C/S)-v2a-UK-24/02/23

Bird Flu – Update

As of the 18th of April, mandatory measures to house captive poultry were lifted. Bird flu risk levels have reduced, meaning poultry no longer need be housed unless they are in a Protective Zone.

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has thanked everyone who complied with the order + reminded all owners to stay vigilant and practice high standards of biosecurity. These include regular cleaning of hard surfaces poultry contact, fencing off ponds and introducing wild bird deterrents if needed.

A very comprehensive report has been produced looking into the unprecedented outbreak we saw this year. It talks about ways to move forward and what to expect in future. Its free to access, just scroll to the bottom of this webpage and give your name and email:

<https://cielivestock.co.uk/expertise/bird-flu-report-2023/>



New Face



Abi Lucas - Apprentice

Abi joined our farm reception team in April 2023 whilst completing her Business Admin level 3 apprenticeship.

When she isn't at work, she enjoys helping on her family's sheep farm, socialising with her friends and going to young farmers.