



May 2025

Red Tractor –Medicines Course New Dates + Liskeard Evening

Red Tractor now require someone on accredited dairy, beef and sheep holdings to have attended a medicine handling course ***within the last five years***. This will affect most farms in 2025, as the original requirement for Medicines course attendance was introduced between 2018-2019.



**CASTLE
VETERINARY
GROUP**

Therefore, we have updated our in-person training and will begin running courses again this summer. We have added a few dates + tried to vary the timings due to demand:

- May 27th 3.30-5.30pm, Lifton Community Centre
- July 2nd 5.30-7.30pm, Liskeard Castle Vets Branch, Heathlands Ind. Estate
- July 8th 5.30pm-7.30pm, Lifton Community Centre
- August 28th 10.30am-12.30pm, Lifton Community Centre

To enquire or book on, please contact our reception team.

Dairy Herdsperson Course

Due to our sold-out 2024 course, Castle Vets is again running a dairy herdsperson course in 2025! Attend six tailored sessions on Dairy cow and calf health, to gain your Herdsperson certification.

This course will be run over summer 2025, with sessions held 10:30am-2:30pm, at roughly two-weekly intervals. All sessions will be on local farms and made up of theory and practical components.

- Triaging + treating the sick cow – 3rd June (Tues)
- Managing + preventing lameness – 9th June (Mon)
- Fertility and calving tips + tricks – 25th June (Weds)

- Cow nutrition + deficiencies – 7th July (Mon)
- Mastitis + drying off – 21st July (Mon)
- Calf management, housing + vaccines – 6th August (Weds)

Feedback from 2024:

“I have really enjoyed the course. Meeting other farmers and learning from them, as well as Lucy, Helen and Bekky. Looking around other farms was really interesting as well. The course covered a wide variety of topics well”

“Five stars!”

“I think this course has been amazing and I would highly recommend it to peers”

The whole course, with certification, will be £695 ex VAT. If an individual session(s) interests you, there may be availability to attend without completing the course -please give us a call for details.

After a Warm February → March; watch out for worms!

After a fantastically sunny start to Spring, we’ve now had some (needed) rain. Hopefully this will boost grass growth but be aware that this combination is also a paradise for sheep gastrointestinal worms. You may want to start weight monitoring or performing faecal egg counts on your lambs a little earlier than normal this year.

Lambs will graze enough grass to pick up worm eggs by around three weeks old, and these eggs take 2-3 weeks to become adult themselves. This means that once your oldest lamb is six weeks old, you should consider gut worms as potentially harmful to their growth.

Keeping clean, fresh grass in front of growing lambs is, of course, the ultimate solution. Strip or rotational grazing of growing stock is labour intensive, but often the best and cheapest way to efficiently raise lambs in a parasite-free environment.

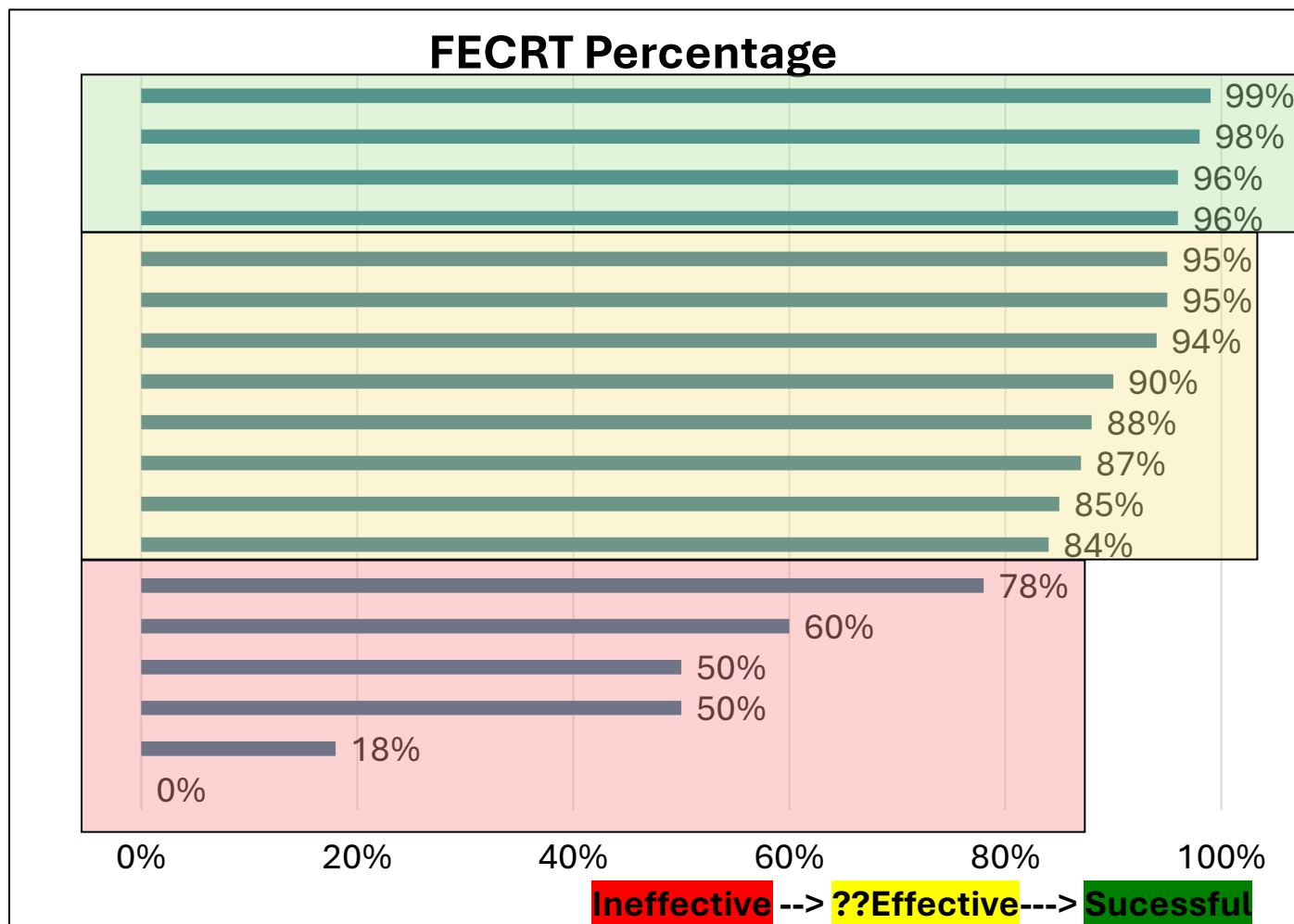


Where this isn’t possible, keeping a tight eye on weight gain is the next best option. Lamb growth rates will generally reduce before you see a high faecal egg count, and it is these ‘unseen’ weight gain reductions that can be most economically impactful in the long term. A higher number of days from birth → slaughter dramatically increases the cost per head of production on farm.

Equally, with 2025’s ‘prime’ worm conditions, we may see lambs show acute signs of illness. Adult sheep may also be affected, generally only if the *Haemonchus* worm is present (this worm favours temperatures >12C, and has already been reported causing issues this season).

Through the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway last year, Castle vets completed many more 'Faecal Egg Reduction Counts' than ever before. This test involves 10-15 x dung samples being taken from lambs in need of worming on the day the treatment is given. 10-15 lambs from the same group are then resampled 7-14days later (depending on wormer used). Ideally, we would like the reduction to be 100% (i.e. the wormer is totally effective!)

These are the results we had in 2024 (each of the lines on the graph represents a different farm):



Very few tests showed that the chosen wormer was successful at removing more than 95% of the worm burden. Wormers tested included white, clear, yellow and orange. This just shows how important it is to know whether the wormer you are using has been effective – lambs with a 50% reduction in worms will still 'look better' after a drench. However, they aren't reaching their growth potential, and drug resistance is being encouraged.

TBAS – free tailored TB Advice from our vets



Helen, Andy and Richard have all undertaken extensive training to become TBAS qualified advisors. Currently, the government is providing funding for them to come out to your holding(s). They can carry out tailored risk assessments, alongside giving advice and creating plans to reduce the impact TB may have on your business.

TB testing can seem a thankless task, and Cornwall and Devon are amongst the worst affected areas in the UK. Please give us a ring to book in for this free support.