

# Meetings and Training

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we had to make the difficult decision a few months ago to cancel our training courses. In the meantime we have run a number of virtual meetings which have been a great success. **However we're pleased to say that we are now in the position to start planning our events again.** Please be assured that safety of both our clients and staff are paramount, therefore we will either be running these online or face to face as socially distanced, COVID-19 safe courses.

To find out more on how to join us, or to book your place, please contact: [courses@synergyfarmhealth.com](mailto:courses@synergyfarmhealth.com) or call 01935 83681.

### Faecal Egg Counting Workshop

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2pm-4pm - Online**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2pm-4pm at Lower Coombe (£100 + VAT)**

This is a general parasitology course looking at how we can reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic resistance in our flocks and control parasites in a sustainable way. This course will include an afternoon online session followed by a practical wet lab the following day. Spaces on this course are strictly limited in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and there will be a closing date for bookings prior to the course. Guidance as to what equipment is needed will be given. This course is spread over two afternoons, the first online and the second held at Lower Coombe.

### Safe use of Veterinary Medicines for commercial sheep flocks

**6<sup>th</sup> October 10am-1pm - Online (£75 + VAT)**

"How do we realise full potential from our investments in medicines?" and "How to use them effectively and safely". It is now a Red Tractor Recommendation that one person from each farm has attended a course on the handling and administration of veterinary medicines. Our course satisfies this recommendation and is aimed at commercial shepherds and members of the team administering or handling medicines. This course will be run entirely online but teaching materials will be provided before the course. Deadline for registration 28th September.

*Certificate for Flock Plan at end of course*

Please let us know if you have an interest in attending a Welfare of Sheep and Humane Slaughter Course for commercial flocks. We ran a course last year with the Humane Slaughter Association, which will include captive bolt use and maintenance and a wet-lab practical session. If there is suitable demand we will hopefully be able to arrange another course ahead of lambing 2021.

### Lamb Loss Forms

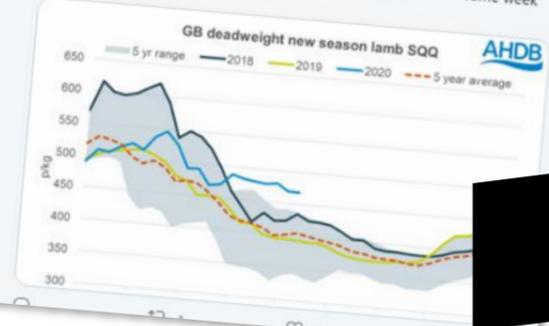
Whilst it seems unlikely that we will be able to run our lamb loss meetings in our normal format, we are still running our annual lamb loss survey for the sixth consecutive year. We have had a number of forms returned already but please keep them coming in! You'll find the form on the back of the Summer Sheep News which is also available from reception. **Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> October**

#TopTweetsBleets!

We hope to start up many more of our courses again soon, which we would run safely under COVID-19 current restrictions. **Please let us know if you'd be interested in a Post Mortem Course** - if there is suitable demand we will hopefully be able to arrange another course in the near future.

**Dineley farming @stonehillromney · 10h**  
Don't think we're on for an early Friday finish! Bag, mouth, and BCS this lot #measureto manage

**John Royle @JDRoyle · 2h**  
GB dwt lamb price average 468.3p/kg which is 73.9p above the same week last year

**Next issue in December!**



## Sheep News

### Maedi Visna Monitoring Scheme

Maedi Visna (MV) is an infectious virus of sheep which causes respiratory disease, chronic wasting and increased mastitis. You may have come across the disease in discussion with your vet looking at cull ewe screening ie. if too many thin ewes or if there is excessive mastitis, or you noticed the exclusion of some animals from the main show tents at agricultural shows in the "MV accredited tent". The most common way to introduce MV into a flock is either with the purchase of infected carrier animals who shed the virus and infect others, or through contact with other flocks at boundaries on the farm. We have been encouraging flocks to consider screening for MV and looking at a snap-shot of the flock to begin the investigation and a "12 ewe cull screen" is a good place to start. However, if you find that there is an absence of disease you may wish to begin the process to being an "MV monitored flock with Axiom". This involves some biosecurity amendments and blood sampling an annual snap-shot of the flock. The number of animals needed to be sampled is less than full high health "MV

accreditation" but would give us a 95% confidence that the level of disease within the flock accounts for less than 5% of the animals. The following table shows the number of animals which would need to be sampled to achieve this. It is important to note, that participating in this scheme would be an added benefit for establishing and maintaining the flocks own health status and a benefit if selling to a flock of equal merit, but this is not the same as MV Accreditation and animals would not be allowed to enter the MV Accredited tent at shows, sales etc.



### Autumn 2020

- Maedi Visna Monitoring Scheme
- Weaning Weights - "Bigger is Better" Virtual Meeting Round Up
- Store Lamb Finishers
- Beware... of autumn pasteurellosis
- Dispensary News
- Meetings and Training
- #TopTweetsBleets

Flock/group size (round up to nearest number)	No. of sheep over 18 months old to blood sample* (no more than six rams to be included in the sample. Additional rams/sheep can be tested over and above, if desired)
1-20	All
25	20
30	24
50	33
80	44
100	46
150	51
200	53
300	56
500	58
1000	60
2000	61

For those wishing to achieve elite health status, **MV Accreditation with Scotland's Rural College - SRUC (formerly SAC)**, involves blood sampling all animals over 18 months twice, 6 months apart, followed by annual/biannual sampling. Accreditation status also requires strict boundary maintenance.

To discuss the most appropriate strategy for your flock, please speak to your routine sheep vet or to the office and ask to speak to a member of the sheep team.

*Emily Gascoigne*



### Weaning Weights – "Bigger is Better"

The sheep team were proud to host the first ever Synergy client virtual meeting at the start of July, with around 40 clients in attendance. The topic was weaning weights, with a focus on how to collect weaning data and start to analyse it, troubleshooting disappointing results and decision making around when to wean.

Clients were moved around virtual stations, hosted by some of our TeamSheep vets to discuss some of these topics in more detail. Some of the take home messages from the evening included:

- Weaning weights matter because milk is arguably our cheapest and most energy dense feedstuff we can offer lambs so we want to maximise growth rates from milk!
- Target pre-weaning growth rate is 300g/day (500g/day is possible!)
- When to wean should be a moveable goal post year-on-year depending on food availability, ewe BCS and lamb growth rates
- The industry target for average weaning weight in 30kg

#### Plan for this evening

- Why are we interested in weaning weights and what are the targets?
- How can we collect the data and start to interpret it?
- What factors should we consider when deciding when to wean?
- Troubleshooting disappointing results

Pushing up weaning weights - "Bigger is better"



through cyberspace. Another big thank you must go to all of the clients that attended and participated so enthusiastically on the evening. If anybody was not able to attend the meeting and would like to view some of the material, some of the meeting was able to be recorded. Please contact reception and one of the sheep team will email you the details to access the recording online.

If you are collecting weaning weights, please bring your data to your next flock health plan visit – we would love to discuss with you. If you want to find out more about how and what data to collect, speak to your sheep vet.

*Charlotte Moulard*



## Store Lamb Finishers

For those of our clients who buy and rear store lambs, it looks to be an uncertain start to the season, with a very strong store price and also general lack of fodder around. As you buy in, it is timely to have a think about health status of incoming animals and ways to minimise the potential impact of buying-in disease.



### Worms

An extensive project in Wales in 2015 (Waard Project) identified that 94% of farms had resistance to white drenches, 68% to yellow, 51% to clear ivermectins and 19% to clear moxidectin. Furthermore, a third of flocks in the project had triple resistance (resistance to white, yellow and clear ivermectin). This profile is not unique to Wales; some similar work was done in Devon more recently, identifying a very similar resistance picture.

This means that when you buy-in, there is a high chance that incoming store lambs will be carrying worms that are resistant to at least one drench-type. Using a new generation wormer e.g. **Zolvix** or **Startect** on arrival to farm will work to knock-out resistant worms.

In addition, don't forget liver fluke! **Triclabendazole**-resistant liver fluke is also on the rise so consideration needs to be paid to fluke risk of incoming animals. Our recommended quarantine treatment is the use of an adult flukicide e.g. **Closantel (Solantel)** twice five weeks apart on arrival.

Please see our Seasonal Promotions or talk to our Vets or SQP's.

### Sheep Scab

Unfortunately, as many of you will be more than aware, scab is again rife across the UK. The impact of sheep scab in a flock is huge, not only through reduced weight gains, treatment costs and withdrawal periods but also due to significant welfare consequences. Scab mites can remain dormant for many months before causing itchy sheep, so the store lamb system is high risk for introducing scab to farm. For flocks that also have their own ewes, introducing scab can have huge knock-on effects on their ewe performance too.

**Quarantine treatment** for scab on arrival to farm can be done either by plunge dipping or injectable products. We must also bear in mind that there have been isolated cases of scab mites that are resistant to the injectable products now too. The other option is blood testing 12 animals from each group of animals bought-in for exposure to the scab mites. This test costs around £80 and can identify exposure to scab from 2 weeks after infection. Speak to your sheep vet for more information.

**TeamSheep would like to set up a "Store Lamb Discussion Group" for farmers that run store lamb enterprises. We want to create a forum to discuss issues and topics specific to store lamb businesses. In the light of COVID-19 we have held off setting up a meeting this Autumn but would love to hear from farms that would be interested in joining such a group and welcome any ideas for meeting topics. Please speak to Emily or Charlotte on 01935 83682.**

Charlotte Mouland



## Beware... of autumn pasteurellosis

Pasteurellosis is the most common cause of lamb mortality during the Autumn season. It is caused by a complex of bacteria that usually lives in the tonsils and throats of healthy animals. However, when the animal is stressed, the immune system becomes suppressed, causing these bacteria to multiply rapidly and descend into the lungs. The result: outbreaks of pneumonia or septicaemia resulting in sudden death. We get cases throughout the year, but there is a definite peak during Autumn.

considerable strain. Mixing animals, transport and overstocking are common during this time of year as well. All these factors can trigger a pasteurellosis outbreak.

It is very difficult to control all these stress-related factors, so the best thing to do is make sure the lambs have the best vaccination induced immunity possible. Any protection received through the colostrum from a vaccinated dam is long gone by now, so it is vital the lambs receive a full primary vaccination course of 2 injections when they are young. On top of that, a third dose in August/September can make all the difference during the Autumn and is strongly advised, as this will give the immune system an extra boost to fight these bacteria.

For any farm specific advice on vaccinating please contact one of our sheep vets or SQP's.

Charlotte Mouland



Now why is this a particularly risky season? Autumn can be a very stressful time for the lamb. A build-up of gastro-intestinal parasites, trace element deficiencies and adverse weather all put the body under

## Dispensary News....

### Vaccinate today against Foot-rot with Footvax

Now is a good time of year to think about the most common cause of lameness in sheep-foot-rot, which is an extremely painful disease that affects sheep of all ages. **Vaccination**



**with FootVax** is an aid to preventing lameness by stimulating immunity to the bacteria causing foot-rot. Vaccination should be on a whole flock basis and combined with the other points of the **Lameness Five Point Plan**. With Topping around the corner it is

important to vaccinate at least 6 weeks before tups go in to ensure maximum protection during this risky period. Footvax is a 2 dose course, giving 1ml per dose 6 weeks apart. After the second booster you can move to once or twice yearly doses depending on the high risk times for your flock. A single annual booster may be enough once the foot-rot has been reduced to a very low incidence. **Please contact our dispensary on 01935 83682 to order products or to speak to one of our SQP's or sheep vets for advice.**

Rachel Light, SQP



### CHANGES TO ALAMYCIN LA

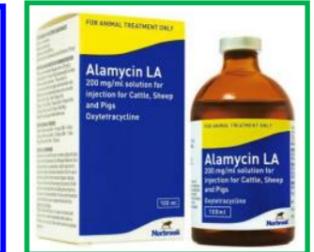
There is a formulation change and a new withdrawal period for Alamyacin LA. Please note that this change does not apply to any current Alamyacin LA you may have on farm, it applies to the new formula only. **Please follow the withdrawal period as detailed on the bottle of Alamyacin LA that is used at the time of treatment.**



OLD WITHDRAWAL PERIOD

Meat & offal: Cattle - 31 days  
Sheep - 9 days  
Pigs - 18 days

Milk: Cattle - 10 days  
Sheep - 7 days



NEW WITHDRAWAL PERIOD

Meat & offal: Cattle - 41 days  
Sheep - 24 days  
Pigs - 20 days

### Abortion Vaccine Reminder

Remember to order and administer your abortion vaccine in good time before tupping. Toxovax, which offers protection against Toxoplasmosis must be given at least 3 weeks before tupping. Please allow at least 10 days turnaround for Toxovax orders.

Cevac Chlamydia, which offers protection against Enzootic Abortion of Ewes, must also be administered at least 4 weeks pre-mating. **Please contact dispensary on 01935 83682.**



**ZOLVIX**  
50ML £99.50  
1L £153.80

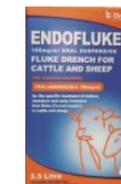


**ECTOFLY**  
2.5L £33.70  
5L £58.90

## Sheep Seasonal Promotions



**FOOTVAX**  
20 doses £28.50  
50 doses £59  
250 doses £230



**ENDOFLUKE**  
2.5L £52  
5L £80



**SOLANTEL**  
1L £30.43  
2.5L £58  
5L £86.70

For large volume orders and a full list of promotional items please speak to our SQPs on 01935 83682.

All prices EX VAT. Prices correct at time of print: 01.09.2020



### DID YOU KNOW?

Vets Emily Gascoigne, Charlotte Debbaut and SQP Mikey Yard are now **Sheep Lameness Reduction Advisors**, certified by MSD Animal Health. Get in touch today to see how they can advise on a plan for your flock.