



Sheep News

It has been a busy quarter - lots of preserved forage being made after a slow grass growing period means on the whole stocks are full, but some ewes many have had a tough summer. As Charlotte discusses, investigating unexpected thin ewes may be prudent to establish status of iceberg diseases (relevant for both open and closed flocks). Worm egg counts in the last 2 weeks seem to have shot up with Haemonchus rearing its head in both ewes and lambs - remember the importance of a faecal egg count for both surveillance and checking effective treatment. A good time of year to consider a mid season knock out drench with either an orange or purple product (speak to your team

sheep vet or our RAMA team in dispensary!).



On a personal note, it seems a good time to reflect (just before the tups go in) on how team sheep has evolved over the last 12 months. With new additions to the sheep veterinary team we now have now 8 vets enlisted in TeamSheep, our Sheep VetTech team Andrew and Molly (Andrew heading up hill and down dale with the new plunge dipping lorry) and our expanding team

Autumn 2021

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of RAMAs and our "lab rats" keeping the worm egg counts going. Our team continues to need to expand. Testament to yours and our combined enthusiasm for progressive, proactive, sustainable sheep production! Something we can all be very proud of!



Emily Gascoigne

CULL EWE SCREENING: is your flock getting involved?

Have you finished your pre-tupping checks and have you separated the cull ewes, ready to go to slaughter? Hold on right there! Your cull ewes are a valuable source of information. With some targeted sampling we can investigate the presence of certain diseases in your flock.

A ewe that ends up on the cull list because she is skinny for no apparent reason (she has sound feet, a full mouth, etc.) could be suffering from a chronic disease that may affect several more, currently asymptomatic, animals in the flock. Maedi visna (MV), Johne's disease and caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) are possible culprits. A simple blood test on some cull ewes can tell us if they have been suffering from one of these three diseases and it can give us an idea about the disease status of the flock.



If you want to take it one step further, then this is a good time of year to start one of the **SRUC or Axiom 'monitored free' schemes for MV and/or Johne's disease**. These schemes require a selected number of under-conditioned ewes to be sampled. The benefit of the

'monitored free' schemes is that you don't have to comply with all the regulations for 'accredited free' flocks, which are hard to implement on some farms. Being monitored free does give you some confidence these diseases are unlikely to be present in the flock and if disease does become prevalent in the flock you will detect it early. Being 'monitored free' will also give potential buyers some re-assurance about the health status of the animals they buy.

If you are interested in joining one of the SRUC or Axiom schemes, or if you would just like to do some private sampling, then please speak to your vet to find the best fit for your flock regarding testing and scheme requirements.



Charlotte Debbaut

Red Tractor Updated Standards

As many of you may know, over the last year, Red Tractor have re-evaluated their current Standards in all sectors. Following industry wide consultation, their final standards have been confirmed and the changes are set to come into place on November 1st, so as a practice, we want to make sure our clients are ready.

Your Health Plan

Firstly, Red Tractor will now require all sheep holdings to have a **health plan** that is signed, dated and **reviewed annually by your vet**. The health plan will look at how your flock has performed over the last 12 months and this will be done by looking back at data with your vet. This allows a performance review and lead to the development of key targets for you and your flock for the next 12 months. For many this will not be a change of procedure, but if this is, there are some top tips to help get the most from this process

When booking your health plan, reception will provide you with a template to complete prior to the visit with some key numbers to have to hand - this isn't onerous but helps focus your health planning meeting

on analysis, rather than searching records.

We have our longstanding health packages available for example the "Flock Health Advisory Package" for commercial flocks and "Large Flock Consultancy Package" for those over 1000 ewes. Your flock plan preparation is included in both of these packages. The aim of these visits is to focus on and improve flock performance, lamb sales and flock efficiency. Highlighting these areas focuses our attention and time into them so we can improve farm efficiency and decrease wastage within the system. As a sector, we come under regularly scrutiny for our carbon footprint, antibiotic usage, wormer resistance and will become even more pertinent with evolving farm support. Please give us a call to discuss your requirements .

Medicine training

Currently, it is only a recommendation that someone on the holding should attend a medicine training course. However, after Nov 1st, it will now be mandatory for at least one person to have done this. This follows the same change in the dairy sector in 2019. The training

focuses on reducing and refining your antimicrobial usage and discusses the risk of antimicrobial resistance development on farms. At Synergy, we run a sheep-tailored '**Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (SUVM) Course for Sheep Flocks**', which has been approved by Red Tractor. It has been well attended by many clients over the last few years. For those of you wanting to attend a course before the deadline, our next sheep SUVM course is set to run on **28th October at Evershot** so please contact the office on 01935 83682 should you wish to attend.



If you require our assistance in health planning to maintain your Red Tractor status or are considering becoming Red Tractor assured if you are not already, please do contact the practice, who will happily put you in contact with a member of Team Sheep.

Imogen Rogers



Congratulations and Good Luck!

Congratulations to one of our flocks - **Tim White from Warminster is a finalist for Sheep Farm of the Year with the Farmers Weekly Awards**. Tim is part of Exlana Sheep Improvement Group whom have developed the Exlana breed. The judges have commented on Tim's technical and business expertise, thinking outside the box, enthusiasm for new entrants to the sector and getting value from low-value land. We wish Tim the best of luck at the awards ceremony in October.



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Dispensary Reminders and Offers....



FOOTVAX

20 doses £25.60
50 doses £61.80
250 doses £240.00



OVIVAC-P PLUS

50 doses £34.00
250 doses £132.87



ZOLVIX

1L £162.15
2.5L £397.72

All prices EX VAT. For a full list of promotional items please contact Synergy dispensary on 01935 83682. Offer ends 30/09/21.

Our Dispensary are currently taking orders for this year's abortion vaccines:

Cevac Chlamydia – to reduce abortion caused by Chlamydia abortus in susceptible breeding ewes.

Toxovax – to reduce the effects of infection by Toxoplasma gondii, namely early embryonic death, barrenness and abortion.

These vaccines can often take time to come into stock. To prevent delay in getting your order, please contact the dispensary on 01935 83682 to inform them of the dates that you will be using it on farm.

Group 4 and 5 wormers – “Why should I use them?”

By now, you will all have heard of the ‘new wormers’ but how and why to use them may still be somewhat of a mystery. Here we look at why they should be considered in every flock’s worming strategy and when is the most appropriate time to use them. The ‘new wormers’ consist of groups 4-AD (orange) and 5-SI (purple), more commonly referred to by their trade names of Zolvix and Startect. Used under the correct circumstances, they can help to prolong the use of the other, older wormer groups, therefore protecting wormer efficiency and slowing wormer resistance on farm. However, wormers should not be relied on solely for controlling worm populations in flocks. Instead, worm control strategies should also include pasture rotation; risk mapping; and ensuring good overall animal health by limiting infectious diseases. Faecal egg counting should be used throughout the grazing season to ensure that animals are only dosed when necessary. If you are not using faecal egg counting regularly, please do speak to us about how best to use this on your farm.

Mid-season knock-out drenches

The new wormers can be used as a mid- to late-season drench, for the most part of our flocks this is any time from late summer onwards. These should be administered to new season lambs following a high faecal egg count. Using these wormers at this time of year will ‘re-set’ the pasture by aiming to remove any

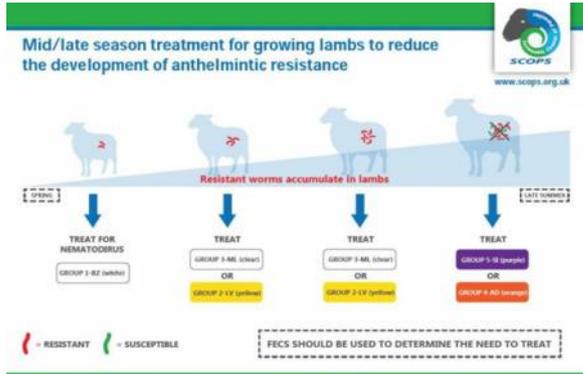
worms which may have resistance to other wormers used over the season – i.e., clear, white, or yellow drenches, as shown in the diagram. This means that the number of resistant worms present on pasture will be reduced at the end of the season, thereby allowing the continuation of the older groups to be used. Zolvix and Startect should not be routinely given at any other time of year or to any other age of sheep, unless under veterinary guidance and on a case-by-case basis. It is crucial that we *don’t* wait until resistance has been found to the older wormers before reaching for the ‘new groups.’ Otherwise, the flock will become over-reliant on a limited number of wormers and this is likely to accelerate resistance to these newer groups.

Quarantine drenching

Zolvix or Startect should also be used as part of the quarantine protocol for incoming stock onto the farm. New stock should be dosed correctly, housed for 48 hours and then turned out onto a quarantine field for 3-4 weeks. This will reduce the risk of bringing (further) resistant worms into the flock.

Follow SCOPS principles

As with any wormer it is crucial that each animal is dosed correctly. When using Zolvix or Startect, we



recommend that all eligible stock should be wormed – i.e., don’t leave any untreated. Make sure that you follow the principles of appropriate worming as outlined by SCOPS:

- Ensure that you know how to deliver the product correctly
- Calibrate your equipment – remove the plunger from a clean syringe and ensure that the correct dose is delivered into the syringe.
- Weigh and dose to the heaviest animal in the group.
- Move sheep after worming onto clean pasture.
- Ensure that the wormer has worked correctly – collect at least 10 faecal samples 14 days after drenching for a post-drench faecal egg count.

If you have any questions about how best to integrate these groups of wormers into your flock, or for more worming advice, please don’t hesitate to get in touch!



Nicky Ogden

#TopTweetBleat!

Farmers Weekly @FarmersWeekly

The Mouland family near Chard have reduced lameness from 10% to 2% and cut antibiotic use by 30% in their flock of 2,300 North Country Mules. #sheep365

How a farm has reduced lameness to 2% in an open flock - Farmers Weekly
The Mouland family have reduced lameness from 10% to 2% and cut antibiotic

NEW SERVICE

NEIL FELL AND SYNERGY FARM HEALTH

MOBILE PLUNGE SHEEP DIPPING

New industry leading service for all sheep flocks across the Southwest of England and South Wales
Fly Control | Sheep Scab | Pre Sale

To book or for more information please contact Neil Fell on 07967 596134 or Synergy Farm Health on 01935 83682

Meetings, Discussion Groups & Training

We are pleased to say that the next quarter sees the relaunch of some of our discussion groups, meetings and training. COVID-19 precautions will be in place and numbers will be limited so let us know if you would like to attend to avoid disappointment.

****NEW** Store Lamb Discussion Group**

East Lease Farm Haselbury Plucknett Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7PG
23rd September, 1 - 3pm

New for 2021 we are launching our inaugural store lamb discussion group meeting - aimed at those buying in store lambs or ewe lamb runners and focusing on performance over the winter and into the spring. The first meeting will focus on buying in decision making and quarantine strategies. The meeting is sponsored by **MSD** and there will be a light lunch. If you would be interested in attending please let Nicky or reception know on 01935 83682.

Safe use of Veterinary Medicines for Commercial Sheep Flocks

28th October 10am - 2pm, Evershot (£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 requirement from 1st November that one person from each farm has attended a course on the handling and administration of veterinary medicines. Our course is Red Tractor approved and is aimed at commercial shepherds and members of the team administering or handling medicines.

**Certificate for Flock Plan
at end of course**

The AHDB Challenge Sheep Meetings are kickstarting again. You can book onto the meetings directly with AHDB or let the Synergy Team at Evershot know to reserve your space - spaces are limited.



"Investigating Anthelmintic Resistance on Farm - where to start!"

AHDB Challenge Sheep Meeting, Phil Pearse and Nicky Ogden

Hornsbury Mill, Eleighwater, Chard, Somerset, TA20 3AQ
2nd November 5 - 7pm

The meeting will highlight the importance of assessing wormer efficiency on farm. We will discuss the importance of investigating how well wormers are working for your flock; what the results mean; and how to go about reducing the effects of any resistance on your farm. We will look at trial data from Phil's flock and look at the costs associated with any resistance. A great meeting to get your teeth into worm control and to take the step into protecting your flock's future.

"EID for the TECHNOPHOBE" with Rob and Anna Hawke, Throop Farm, Salisbury SP5 4AY
17th November 1 - 3pm

The use of EID has been important for Rob and Anna's journey improving flock performance and in particular shearling ewe management. This meeting will focus on how to get on the ladder with EID and the journey the Hawke's have taken. An ideal meeting for anyone thinking about investing in EID equipment or getting more from equipment already on farm. Light refreshments included.

****New** Sheep Welfare and Emergency Euthanasia**

Wednesday 15th December 9am - 3pm
Evershot (£100 + VAT)

New for 2021! We are running a Sheep Welfare and Emergency Euthanasia Course. The course is a whole day course focusing on use of a captive bolt equipment, their care and use for emergency euthanasia. Attendees are not required to bring their own equipment and there will be an opportunity to practice with cadavers. Numbers will be limited.

Things coming up...

Lamb Loss meetings for all in December
Large Flock Discussion Group re-launch in December