

*******Small Holders Club*******

From a couple of pigs to a small flock of sheep to a herd of alpaca we understand that your animals are important to you. We aim to work closely with our smallholders to ensure that their livestock are healthy and productive.

We understand the importance of a transparent, fair pricing structure and are pleased to now be able to offer membership to our Smallholders club.

What is included:

- An on farm health planning meeting per year to review past performance and update herd/ flock health plan for the next year. This will include a management calendar and written herd health plan.

-Three worm and fluke egg counts to monitor parasite burden throughout the grazing season and allow an appropriate parasite control plan to be implemented.

-Quarterly smallholder specific newsletter.

-Complimentary access to our winter discussion group of quarterly evening meetings covering topical issues and technical advice including one "Ask the Vet" session!

All for only £12 per month

Please contact Rebecca at the surgery for more information



Happy New Year! Sitting by the fire writing this is the best place to be at the minute, especially after a morning slithering around on black ice!

Everything in the farm animal world seems to mostly be behaving itself at the moment- with the spectre of avian influenza (bird 'flu) present on the horizon, though. A case of the

Highly Pathogenic strain near Hawes is a bit too close for comfort. Anyone with birds will know the drill, with even backyard poultry needed to be kept inside, or under a netted area if that isn't possible. If you're not sure of symptoms of bird flu' or in a fankle with the rules then give us a call.

Main health issues at the moment are mostly those related to mastitis and fertility in dairy cattle. The old chestnut of energy deficiency in dairy cattle keeps coming up time and again. If heat expression is flagging, cows not cleaning up and discharging after calving, or if the milk protein has slipped a bit, then it's time to have a chat with us in conjunction with your nutritionist to see the best way to rectify the situation. Other signs we have seen of an underlying nutritional constraint include cystic ovaries and a pyometra (which is a uterine infection behind a closed cervix- they don't discharge and often don't come bulling too). Most resolve quickly with one treatment, however they can occasionally be a bit more stubborn.

If any autumn calving folks have had tight calvings in heifers before now, then consider getting us in to measure the internal pelvic diameter. This is best done at about a year old and is a useful way to reduce calving difficulties in your youngsters, especially reducing the risk of needing a caesar. When coupled with a suitable bull selection (smaller birthweight/ shorter gestation length), there's no reason that the risk of a difficult birth can't be reduced even further.

With the unfortunate announcement last night of a third lockdown we would like to reassure our clients that we will continue to provide the best service that we can, as safely as we can.. Both our sites are open and as ever we would ask for your cooperation in order to keep everyone safe.

As key workers our vets will continue to do their best to look after the health and welfare of your animals whilst doing all we can to minimise the Covid risks to our clients and team.

Richard Knight



Kendal Surgery

Monday to Friday 8.30am—7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12noon
Tel:01539 722692

Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery

Monday & Thursday 8.30am-7.00pm
Tuesday 8.30am-6.00pm
Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12 noon
Tel:015242 71221

Body Condition Scoring

What is Body Condition Scoring?

Regular body condition scoring (BCS) is a practical, simple tool which can be used to assess the performance of your herd. The focus is on picking up cows which may be in negative energy balance in early lactation. Negative energy balance in early lactation is strongly linked to diseases such as: ketosis, metritis, retained fetal membranes and displaced abomasum. Negative energy balance also has detrimental effects on fertility.

How do I perform Body Condition Scoring?

There are several different methods of performing BCS. AHDB have developed an easy-to-follow flow chart which can be found online. Please ask any of the Westmorland Vets team if you are interested in learning how to BCS your herd.

When should I perform Body Condition Scoring?

There are key times to record the body condition score of your cows to be able to track changes and assess trends. Assessing and recording the BCS of your cows need not add too much time. You will see each cow as she calves; we will then see her for a fertility visit 50-80D post calving; and she will always be looked at pre-dry off.

Targets

Stage of Lactation	Calving	60d Post Calving	Drying Off
Calving	2.5-3.0	2.0-2.5	2.5-3.0

Body Condition Scoring in Beef Herds

For beef herds having cows hit BCS targets is equally important. Cows which are at the correct BCS around calving will have less difficulty calving and is more likely to get back in calf quicker. EBLEX have produced an excellent document on how to BCS beef cattle. Please ask a member of our team if you would like further information.

Targets

Stage	Spring Calving	Autumn Calving
Calving	2.5-3.0	3.0
Service	2.5-3.0	2.5-3.0
Housing	3.0-3.5	3.0

How can Westmorland help with BCS?

FarmImpress is an on-farm software app that makes data recording for your herd quick and easy. The use of this software is free to our clients. It is a great tool for cow side BCS recording. There are numerous other functions of FarmImpress for you and your vet to use cohesively to better understand your farm and data. Each vet has a tablet they can bring to the farm to use to record data for their routine appointments. Talk to us about the FarmImpress software if you are interested to see how we can use it on your farm.



Ben Harvey

Twin Lamb Disease (Pregnancy toxoemia) and Hypocalcaemia in Ewes

As we start the New Year, many of you will be busy scanning your ewes this month. Scanning is a fantastic tool to help you with the management of your in lamb ewes. By separating your ewes into different groups depending on how many lambs they are carrying, you can ensure they receive the appropriate nutrition for their needs. This is extremely important, as both twin lamb and hypocalcaemia can be prevented by providing adequate ewe nutrition.

Both conditions can result in ewe death if not identified promptly and treated rapidly. They both occur in late pregnancy and can look similar in that the sheep are down, so sometimes it's tricky to correctly identify which disease the ewe has. Below is a summary table of both diseases.

	Twin Lamb Disease	Hypocalcaemia
Cause	Low levels of glucose in the blood-stream. Nutrition given not meeting the energy demands needed to grow the lamb/lambs.	Low levels of calcium in the blood-stream. Nutrition given not meeting the amount of calcium needed to grow the lamb/lambs.
Most susceptible	Ewes with a poor body condition score (less than or equal to 2) or over conditioned (greater or equal to 4). Ewes carrying more than 1 lamb.	Ewes carrying more than 1 lamb. Ewes that have been transported or sheared during late stages of pregnancy (or have had any other stressful event).
Clinical Signs	Lying down more often and for longer periods of time Aimless walking Teeth grinding Muscle twitching Blindness	Lying down more often and for longer periods of time Aimless walking, and walking with a stiff gait Muscle twitching Constipation
Prevention	Good feeding management. E.g. adequate feeder space for pregnant animals, sorting animals into groups depending on body condition score and foetal numbers.	Ensuring the amount of calcium present in the diet meets the requirements. Avoiding sudden dietary changes or other stressful events during late pregnancy.

It is really important to note that sometimes these diseases can go hand in hand, and the ewe may be suffering from both ailments. If you suspect either of these diseases on farm please don't hesitate to give us a call and one of the farm vets will be more than happy to advise you further.

Liz Aubrey