

There are three main groups of products which can treat and/or prevent flystrike. The products are summarised in the table. When deciding on the appropriate product for your situation it is important to consider whether you are purely looking for prevention, treatment, or a combination of the two. Some products will also treat lice and ticks. Please speak to one of our team for advice on the best product for your flock.

Insect Growth Regulators: <b>PREVENTION ONLY</b>	CLiK CLiK EXTRA CliKZiN Vetrazin
Synthetic Pyrethroids: <b>TREATMENT AND PREVENTION</b>	Crovect Ectofly 12.5mg/ml Vectocert 1.25% Dysect Zermasect Sheep
Synthetic Pyrethroids: <b>TREATMENT ONLY</b>	Deltanil Fly and Lice Spot On Spotinor 10mg/ml

Ben Harvey

### Drugs Supplies

Milking Cow Tube supplies remain very limited with only a couple of options available currently. If your normal tube isn't available please speak to one of the farm vets for advice.

### Sheep Breeding 2020!

This will be on us before we know it. As always the safest way to secure your vital supplies of reproductive drugs for AI and ET is to get them ordered and in your home as early on as possible. We are not aware of any expected supply issues with sponges or PMSG but based on the challenges of previous years these can come from no where so our advice would be to order your requirements as soon as you can. Please remember to order both your sponges and PMSG at the same time so you know you have both drugs needed before you start your breeding programme.

Like farming, the veterinary world has kept on turning during the current coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions. As mentioned last month, we have been able to work with you all and work within the current guidelines. We're also proud that our staff and vets have been able to offer a continuous and un-interrupted service to you, which has taken some organising behind the scenes!

As everyone emerges blinking into the sunlight, there are not many jobs that will have been delayed. Those jobs, such as castrations and dehorning of youngstock, which go better when there are few flies around, are probably best to be sorted out now- they only tend to get bigger and harder to do if they're left longer!

We've had some mixed and varied cases of respiratory disease in cows too this last couple of months- often in dairy cows, commonly linked to IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis). We endeavour to remind folks when vaccines are due, but even with the best of intentions treatments like IBR vaccination get missed when everyone's busy. IBR vaccination is usually best done every six months- unless there are specific circumstances on your farm which lead us down a different prescription path.

Now is also the time of year that we need to start looking out for lungworm too. A bit early, some may argue, but worms seem to love to emerge en masse when we get a lot of rain after a prolonged dry spell. That advice will also stand for other worms too, such as gutworms of cattle and sheep, especially *Nematodirus* spp..

At very dry times of year we can see that grass and other grazed plants have altered, stressed growth, such that the uptake of various minerals is changed from what we would expect. The SAC in Dumfries has reported a few cases of cows eating soil- a sure sign that something is up with the mineral balance of the animal. In that case they found that the animals were short of phosphates and sometimes magnesium, likely because uptake by the grass was reduced. Trace mineral imbalances are particularly important to be mindful of at this time of year, with regard to weaning lambs. This is now the time of year where we see cobalt pine and signs of selenium and sometimes copper deficiency. Please give us a call if you notice ill-thriven lambs at weaning as it may not be too late to do something about it.

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

## Abortion in Cattle

Good reproductive performance is essential in both dairy and beef enterprises and whilst sporadic abortions will occur in any herd, if several abortions occur in quick succession, or if the incidence is higher than 3%, it is prudent to undertake some investigation work to try and determine the cause and prevent further losses which can be significant, with it being thought that one abortion in a dairy herd costing around £630. Abortion is most often thought of as loss of the foetus between the age of 42 and 260 days of pregnancy, with those occurring before this usually referred to as early embryonic death and those after this defined as stillbirth.

Under UK law all abortions must be reported to the local animal health office which will decide whether an abortion investigation for brucellosis is required."

### Common causes

There are many causes of abortion, with them most often being split up into infectious vs non-infectious causes.

Non-infectious	Infectious
Physical E.g. trauma, heat stress or twinning	Bacterial E.g. <i>Brucella</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Leptospira</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria</i>
Nutritional E.g. iodine deficiency or toxicity, selenium deficiency	Viral E.g. BVD, IBR
Toxic E.g. ingestion of poisonous plants, ergot alkaloids, nitrate/nitrite in fertilisers or certain plants	Fungal E.g. <i>Aspergillus</i>
Genetic Either chromosomal abnormalities or genetic abnormalities resulting in malformation of the calf	Protozoal E.g. <i>Neospora</i>

### Dealing with cows that have aborted and deciding to test

Firstly, a cow that has just aborted needs plenty of TLC. She should have plenty of fresh food and water within easy access to her to help her recover. She may well have undergone significant physical trauma and may at more risk of retained cleansings and metritis so she should be monitored for any signs of illness, such as being off food or having a high temperature. It is also a good idea to isolate her to reduce the risk of further abortions should the cause be infectious. Keeping a record of cows that have aborted is always beneficial and noting information such as the sire may help to identify genetic causes. Investigating abortions can be unrewarding in that a single cause may not always be identified and therefore investigating every abortion may not be economical, although the quicker infectious causes are detected the better. Successful testing is somewhat dependent on how much good quality material can be sent to the lab with the full foetus and placenta, as well as blood from the dam giving the best chance of a diagnosis being reached. If you experience any abortions within your herd do not hesitate to contact one of the farm team for further advice.

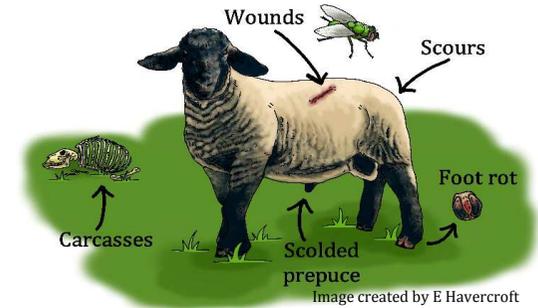
*Beth Collins*

## Fly Control for Your Flock

We have all been enjoying the warm weather but with the warmth comes flies. Of these flies, we are most concerned about the effect blowflies can have on our flocks. Up to 80% of flocks will experience a case of flystrike each year. Not treating promptly can result in reduced performance, secondary infections, and even death.

In the UK, the greenbottle fly is most associated with flystrike. Female blowflies are attracted to sites with dead or decaying material to lay their eggs. This can be sheep with:

- mucky back ends
- toes with foot rot
- any wounds
- urine scolded prepuces of rams/ram lambs
- carcasses



Each female lays up to 250 eggs which hatch within 12 hours to produce the larvae (maggots) which develop and can be seen feeding on the sheep.

Individuals affected by flystrike should be treated promptly. Firstly, the maggots should be removed to allow cleaning and disinfection of the wound and then apply an insecticide directly to the site. Supportive therapy may also be required including antibiotics, fluids, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. Please ring us if you want any advice including the prescription of these.

A prevention strategy for flystrike forms a key part of your flock health plan. The main points to be considered are:

- Inspection of stock daily for evidence of fly strike
- Management of fly populations through fly traps and prompt removal of dead stock
- Good parasite control to reduce diarrhoea
- Prompt treatment of any footrot cases
- Dagging, crutching and shearing of sheep before risk periods (weather dependent)
- Use of insecticides (see below) to provide cover for wounds or at risk periods

Continued over the page.....