



For many, the annual reviews of National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) will be approaching. To satisfy the requirements of the NJMP three steps need to be completed on farm along with a BCVA Accredited Johnes Veterinary advisor;

1. Risk assessment to identify risks for Johnes spread on your farm
2. Testing to establish Johnes's disease status on farm
3. A written Johnes's disease management plan

All three steps must be completed and reviewed annually in order for an accredited vet to be able to sign an Action Johnes declaration which is required for Red Tractor Farm Assurance and by milk buyers. Management strategies differ between farms depending on their individual statuses. If you would like to clarify what steps you need to take in order to be able to complete your annual review please contact the surgery and one of the farm team will be able to advise you.

*Please note the deadline for declarations has been extended from the 31st October 2020 to the 31st December 2020.*

### **Abortion Vaccines – Place your orders now.**

With tugging season getting closer on the horizon, now is the time to get your abortion vaccines ordered if you know your requirements and injected if you have your breeding replacements selected or sourced already. Don't forget that Toxovax needs to be given at least 3 weeks pre-mating and Cevac Enzootic Vaccine at least 4 weeks pre mating.

We aren't aware of any supply issues at the moment but as we know from previous years Toxovax supply can be fickle and due to its short shelf life demand can often exceed manufacturing supply capacity in peak weeks. If you know what your needs are then please order your Toxovax for your desired delivery date asap to avoid disappointment. (Orders are non cancellable once placed).

### **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 nowhere so our advice would be to order 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.



**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

[www.westmorland-vets.co.uk](http://www.westmorland-vets.co.uk)



# PRACTICE NEWS

KENDAL ○ KIRKBY LONSDALE ○ ULVERSTON

September 2020

With the weather feeling decidedly autumnal these last few weeks, the summer sunshine feels like a distant memory and its not just our tans that'll suffer! Worms and fluke are two constant challenges. The dry weather earlier this year meant that we saw lower than normal worm burdens in lambs as larvae were not able to spread across pasture as effectively. However, now the rain has come we are finding that many lambs are struggling. Sampling before treating for worms is always a good idea as it allows us to ascertain the extent of the problem and decide whether drenching is required. Knowing the type of worms that are causing the problem also helps us to advise you on the most appropriate type of wormer to use to avoid resistance developing on farm.

Also due to the climate this year, we may see a change in the seasonal pattern of fluke cases; hopefully for the better. A reduced number of snail habitats due to drier weather should translate to fewer fluke infected snails and hence fewer metacercariae on pasture now. We can monitor for fluke exposure using the Fluke Coproantigen Test, which will help us determine the best time for dosing.

Many people are now looking ahead to tugging time. Getting everything in order for a successful breeding season isn't without its challenges. Now is the time to get your pre-tugging vaccine orders in so that they arrive and can be administered in good time.

With so much riding on their mating ability, a Tup MOT is essential. Ideally, these should happen at least 8 weeks before they are due to go in with the ewes to give time for treatments or management alterations. This time is needed to allow sperm production to recover after an illness or respond to changes, which takes 6 weeks.

If you are buying in replacement stock or new tups remember that it is not just the animal that you are bringing back home with you. Following gold standard quarantine procedures may seem like a hassle but it is time well spent. Purchased stock can be carrying infection or parasites that can cause you a greater headache later – not least of all resistant worms. We are now able to dispense single doses or small amounts of Zolvix (a group 4 orange wormer with little reported resistance) so that you can effectively guard your farm against this. Don't hesitate to give us a call if you need advice devising a quarantine protocol.

*Bethany Collins*

### **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.

## Dynamic Parlour Testing

A single cow in your herd will pass through your milking parlour around 730 times a year. Any extra time spent milking is inefficient for the cow and for you. Therefore, optimising milk let down whilst ensuring the process is still gentle on your cow's teats is what we aim for. A dynamic parlour test allows us to assess how well your parlour is performing for your cows.

### **What is a dynamic parlour test?**

A dynamic parlour test is performed whilst the cows are being milked. A small device called a VaDia is attached to the side of one cluster shell. The VaDia takes vacuum pressure measurements throughout milking from two mouthpieces; one short pulsation tube and one short milk tube. The VaDia stays on throughout milking so will give us information for every cow which is milked on that cluster. During the test we also perform teat end scoring to see how to clusters are affecting the cows.

### **What information does a dynamic parlour test give us?**

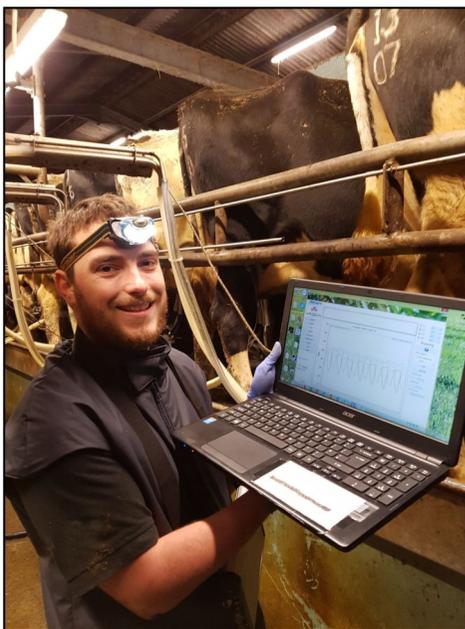
As the test is performed during milking we are able to see how the parlour performs with different cows. For each milking we get information about:

- Liner fit
- Presence of bi-phasic milking
- Pulsator function
- ACR function
- Vacuum fluctuations during milking

When all this information is put together we have a full picture of how the parlour is functioning. We are then able to advise you on any alterations which need to be made to increase milking efficiency.

Westmorland Vets now have the equipment to perform dynamic parlour tests. If you would any further information please contact Ben at the surgery.

*Ben Harvey*



## Purchasing Sheep for your Flock

Somehow we've got back to that time of year again when you might be purchasing sheep to add to your flock. It's really important to make sure that added animals don't bring disease and parasites onto your farm, and the easiest ways to keep your sheep safe are to purchase from sources at the same or higher health status than your own, and to isolate any new animals on the farm before they are mixed in.

Isolation:

Added animals should be isolated for 28 days away from all of your existing sheep. The isolation area should be at least 2 metres away from other stock and not in the same building so that the airspace is not shared.

Health and disease prevention:

Any ill health or abnormalities during isolation should be investigated by seeking veterinary advice; respiratory signs, scour, lameness, swellings, skin disease, etc. All sheep should have their feet examined and good practice is to footbath them 3 times at 5 day intervals during isolation.

Purchased animals should be vaccinated to the same status as the flock and it is important to remember that vaccinations will not start working immediately.

Parasites:

The objective of quarantine treatments is to minimise the chance you will introduce resistant worms (and sheep scab) into your flock. Quarantine should be applied to all incoming sheep. This includes those purchased from other flocks, and your own sheep that have been grazing on other farms where the resistance status is unknown or likely to be different from the home farm. These recommendations also apply to any goats.

1. Yard all sheep (ewes and rams) on arrival for 24-48 hours. Why? Because any worm eggs already in the faeces when the sheep are treated will escape exposure to the anthelmintic. Yarding makes sure these are not dropped onto pasture. It also gives you time to have a good look for other problems, such as CODD, CLA or orf.
2. Treat to remove resistant worms and sheep scab. We suggest giving us a ring to discuss the most appropriate quarantine treatment. Usually this will involve treating with two wormers sequentially in order to kill all of the parasites present.
3. Turn out to contaminated pasture (pasture that has carried sheep this season) and keep isolated for at least 3 weeks. Why? Because you need to make sure that should any worms survive treatment, they don't go on to reproduce alone and populate a clean pasture. Incoming sheep need to pick up the worm population present on your farm as soon as possible. Remember it is your flock you are trying to protect, not the incoming sheep.

*Rebecca Howard*