

White Lodge Farm Clinic

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Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

With Veterinary Receptionist week being celebrated at the end of April we wanted to take the opportunity to put names to faces for the wonderful ladies that keep the clinic running!



Claire- Branch
Manager



Liz- Receptionist



Marie- Receptionist



Lucy- Feed store
manager, VCA,
receptionist

Strike in Sheep

Blowfly strike is a major welfare concern with an average of 1.5% of ewes and 3% of lambs affected in the UK each year, with around 5% mortality. Strike does not only affect sheep, we have seen cases in alpacas, goats, cattle and even horses.

Signs include:

- ◇ Agitation/ kicking/ nibbling
- ◇ Isolation from the flock
- ◇ Wet/ discoloured wool
- ◇ Tissue decay
- ◇ Toxaemia
- ◇ Death



Monitor your local risk via "blowfly watch" by NADIS at: <https://alerts.nadis.org.uk/>

Speak to one of our vets about preventative products, worm control, and footcare to help reduce the risk.

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) Funding

Are you seeing respiratory disease in your calves?

Funding is available for lab testing normally worth £320 (excluding veterinary costs - visit fee, taking bloods & postage) for farmers experiencing issues. This funding aims to help build a snapshot of diseases circulating on the farm in youngstock, aiding vaccination and management decisions in future calving seasons.

How does it work?

- Testing for
 - PI3
 - BRSV
 - Bovine Coronavirus
 - *Mycoplasma bovis*
 - *Mannheimia haemolytica*
- 3-6 month old unvaccinated calves
- 5 blood samples per farm or management group
- Results in 4-6 weeks
- BRDScreen is not suitable for diagnosis of acute respiratory disease, it is utilised to get an idea of diseases circulating on farm to guide decision making for future preventatives measure, including vaccinations.



Bluetongue Virus Update

The UK has been in a seasonally vector low period, meaning that the transmission of bluetongue has been very low. However, this will change when daily temperatures rise. The virus will replicate within the midges at daily temperatures of 15 degrees Celsius, thus increasing the risk of transmission from midges to sheep and cattle.

There have been 143 cases of bluetongue confirmed in cattle and sheep in England. Although the Bluetongue restriction zone is yet to reach many of us this far west, it is inevitable that we will join the current 26 restricted counties.

CLINICAL SIGNS

Bluetongue is not always fatal but animals that survive may suffer complications such as kidney failure, effects on the reproductive system, and sloughing of hooves. Cattle are less severely affected than sheep and tend to show non-specific signs of disease, such as fatigue and milk drop. Sheep are much more severely affected, with 70% of infected sheep resulting in death.

VACCINATION

The general vaccine license has been extended to include all of England. Vaccination programmes on the continent have shown to reduce mortality to as little as 10%.

BTV-3 vaccines will not prevent animals becoming infected or from being infectious. Therefore, movement controls still apply to vaccinated animals at the moment. However, vaccination will reduce mortality and clinical signs.

There are three vaccines available under the general license in England only. All three can be used during pregnancy, but may cause high temperatures, thus may affect fertility in both males and females.



Bultavo-3 is our current recommendation due to cost effectiveness and least labour intensive.

- Available in 50 dose bottles
- Immunity can be expected 3 weeks after vaccination
- Vaccine protocol
 - Sheep: A single subcutaneous injection of 1ml from one month of age
 - Cattle: 1 ml intramuscular injection, followed by a second injection 3 weeks later
- Please contact us for up-to-date availability and prices

It is currently recommended to vaccinate as early as possible in the year, ideally before the weather warms up and risk of infection increases.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of BTV-3 vaccination further, please contact us and one of our vets will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

What management factors can help prevent the spread of bluetongue?

- Move animals to higher, windier ground when temperatures are over 15 degrees C
- Avoid dawn/dusk movements
- Quarantine incoming stock
- Pre/post movement testing
- Necessary movements only, and consider location of vendors
- There is minimal evidence for using midge netting, housing animals, and dipping/spraying with chemicals.

