

RUMINANT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



@howellsvets



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WHAT'S ON

Show Season:

It's been lovely to see our clients at the agricultural shows. We'll be Show Vets at the next two shows:

- **Osmotherly Show Saturday 1st August**
- **Tockwith Show Sunday 2nd August 2026**

Farmers Training:

Making the Most of Medicines Course

When: Monday 14th September 2026

Where: The Gavel Café, Thirsk, YO7 3AB

When: 3pm to 5pm

To book: email meetings@howellsvets.co.uk

THE GAVELCAFE
& BAR



Calf Rehydration Therapy

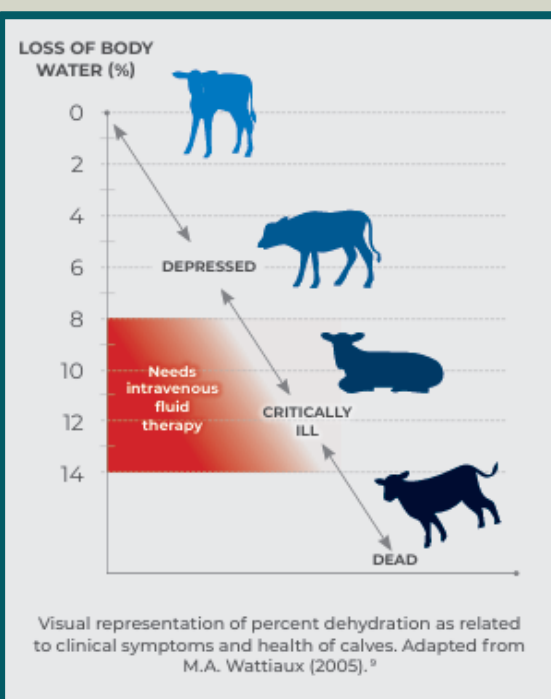
Research has shown that continuing milk feeding during calf scour is very important to maintain calf strength and aid recovery. However, Hydrafast is much more effective than milk at rehydrating the calf and preventing metabolic acidosis, keeping the calf bright, so using Hydrafast alongside milk from the onset of scour is vital.

Ideal protocol:

- At first signs of scour feed 2 litres of prepared Hydrafast solution twice daily and continue for at least 2 days. Also continue milk feeding the calf or allow calf to suckle as normal if possible.
- Ongoing nutrition from milk is important for the calf's recovery. If milk feeding, ensure a 3-hour gap between Hydrafast and milk feeding.
- Administer Hydrafast orally, preferably using a feeding bottle with teat. Alternatively, bucket or tube feeding can be used.

Consider IV fluids if any of the following apply:

- The calf can't maintain sternal recumbency.
- The calf is extremely depressed with no suckle reflex.
- The calf still appears dehydrated after 48 hours of oral Hydrafast.



Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years

Trace Element Testing

Know what you are up against...

It's now coming to the time of year where trace element testing in your flock should be considered. This is ideally done 6 - 8 weeks before tupping to give enough time to get results and action a plan. It is advisable to conduct analysis on both forage/ grass and the sheep. This needs to be conducted annually as status.



Forage/ Grass testing

- Mineral analysis can be conducted at the point of bailing as mineral levels remain stable. We have collection kits in dispensary.
- Soil testing does not give a reflection of animal mineral status.

Blood testing

- At least 6 animals per management group
- An average representation of the flock; not the poor ewes and not the fattened cull ewes.
- The bloods take 2 – 3 weeks to come back so make sure you leave plenty of time.

Mineral Range from our Farm Dispensary

Minerals

Minerals are essential nutrients for Cattle and Sheep, they support growth, health, reproduction and production. They are generally divided into Major (Macro) minerals and trace (Micro).

Major minerals:

Calcium, phosphorus, Magnesium, Sodium & Chloride, Potassium & Sulphur.

Trace minerals:

Copper, Zinc, Selenium, Cobalt, Iodine, Manganese & Iron.

Providing cattle and sheep with balanced mineral supplement either through mineral licks, boluses, fortified feed or mineral drenches helps ensure optimal health and productivity.

Products we stock

Optigain Sprint – specifically formulated oral drench by Downland supports rapid growth and rumen development in growing lambs. Available in a 2.5litre – dose 2.5ml per lamb, every 4 – 6 weeks.

Downland essential boluses - Essential boluses have a uniform density through their active life meaning each bolus is effective from start to finish. Trace elements are evenly distributed in a wax matrix to provide a consistent daily supply of nutrients. Duration 4-6 months

Essential Cattle >400kg = 1 bolus

Essential Growing Cattle + 200-400kg = 1 bolus

Essential Sheep >40kg = 1 bolus

Essential lamb >25kg = 2 bolus

Downland Opti-Mol – We stock a range of Opti-Mol mineral buckets. Specially formulated to match a wide range of on-farm feeding systems and an ideal way of supplementing livestock whilst reducing labour demands.

If you would like more information on our mineral range, please contact our experienced Farm dispensary team 01347 823678 Option 2.

