

RUMINANT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



@howellsvets



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www.howellsvets.co.uk

01347 823678

York Road, Easingwold YO61 3EB

WHAT'S ON

Stock talk and Supper evening:

Monday 10th November 6:30-9pm:

Beef Cattle:

Reaching the Finishing Line

Leanne Forde – Archer MRCVS

Ben Strugnell MRCVS

Gavel Café, Thirsk Auction Mart

Pie supper included

Making the Most of Medicines

Course for Red Tractor Compliance

Monday 8th December

3.00-5.00pm

Trainer: Ellie Button MRCVS

Gavel Café,

Thirsk Auction Mart



Howells Veterinary Services, Roxby Business Park, Easingwold, YO61 3EF

Monday 1st December:

First Aid For Feet

Ellie Button and Luke Ramsden
Dairy Clients

Tuesday 2nd December:

Hoof Care Refresher Course

Ellie Button and Luke Ramsden
Dairy Clients

Friday 5th December

Q Fever

Ellie Button Dairy Clients
The Bay Horse Market
Weighton YO43 3AN

PNEUMONIA VACCINES

Pneumonia is a widespread problem for UK cattle. Recent studies estimate that 1/3 of UK dairy calves suffer from respiratory disease. This leads to poor growth rates and is estimated to cost the UK £60 million.

How do we reduce the impact of pneumonia on farm?

Ensuring a clean, well ventilated, dry housing environment is absolutely imperative. Pathogens thrive in moisture both in the bedding and stagnant air. However, depending on the type of enterprise you farm, infectious diseases pose a very serious challenge and so vaccination during quarantine or at housing can help reduce spread between animals.

Choosing which vaccine to use on farm can be a bit of a minefield, so screening for common pathogens allows us to tailor the vaccine program to your farm.

A good screening tool available is nasal swabbing. This technique is quick non invasive for the animal. However, good case selection is crucial. Animals must be swabbed when they are first showing signs, before treatment, to ensure we get a true picture of the primary agents involved.

These swabs can be taken either in the face of a sudden outbreak or gradually as a monitoring tool. Swabs can be stored in your freezer until you have 5 so we can send them for testing. The test used pools the swabs.

Other diagnostic techniques or approaches may be more suitable on your farm so speak to our experienced farm vets to determine the correct course of action for your farm this winter.



VET'S VIEWPOINT



Ellie Lynch
BVM, BVS, BVMedSci
(Hons), MRCVS

Tupping season is now well underway, and we have all been busy in the build up making sure ewes are in good stead for pregnancy and that tups are in tip top condition. Whether it is faecal egg testing, blood sampling for trace elements and infectious disease or fertility testing tups, our farm vet team are all hoping this all pays off for a successful lambing time. I know I am very much looking forward to my second lambing season at Howells!

Another area of growing interest for me is camelid medicine. We have both small holder and commercial camelid clients, and I enjoy working with both. A particular area of interest for me is care of the newborn camelid. Unfortunately, if a newborn camelid does not receive adequate colostrum within a few hours of birth, they are very susceptible to septicaemia and often the only way to save them is with a plasma transfusion.

In order to conduct a plasma transfusion, plasma is required. This has to be arranged in advance of the unpacking season. It involved us arranging with the pet blood bank to come and collect blood which is then couriered to the pet blood bank to be processed into plasma. This is then stored on your farm frozen ready for when necessary. It can be stored for a couple of years frozen. Please contact me or Sinead at the practice if you are interested in this service.

PRACTICE NEWS

New VCA Katy Reed

We are delighted to welcome Katy to our Veterinary Care Assistant team. She graduated from Lincoln university where she studied animal behaviour and welfare. She's been putting her degree into practice at a petting farm for the last 5 years and wanted to learn more in a veterinary setting. We're looking forward to showing her lots more.

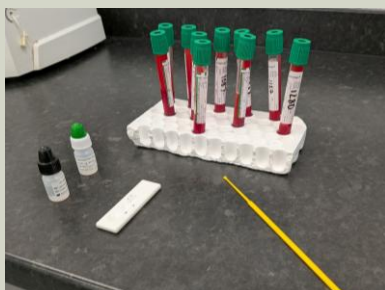


DISPENSARY UPDATE- LIVER FLUKE

As we come into winter, now is the time to be turning our attention to liver fluke and how you can treat your flock or herd effectively. The liver fluke lifecycle is dependent on environmental and climatic conditions. The hot, dry weather over summer means that, clinical cases will much later than they usually would be.

With the resistance to Triclabendazole increasing it is important that we aim to use the correct products at the right time. Diagnostic tests play a key role in the fight against fluke. As well as faecal tests, there is a new liver fluke rapid antibody test can be used to aid early detection. The tests pick up infection 2 to 4 weeks after exposure. The test uses blood samples and because the test is run in house results are back within 24 hours.

Please speak to our farm vets to discuss which tests is appropriate for your farm this winter. Our farm dispensary stocks a full range of flukicide products and our registered animal medicine advisors are available on phone or in the shop to discuss which treatment is right for your enterprise.



Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years