

RUMINANT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



@howellsvets



@howellsvets

www.howellsvets.co.uk

01347 823678

York Road, Easingwold YO61 3EB

WHAT'S ON

Join us for a pie supper and topical farm discussions at the Gavel Café, Thirsk Auction Mart



Monday 6th October 6:30-9pm: **What the Fluke?**

Rachael Pond MRCVS
Cattle and sheep farmers

Monday 10th November 6:30-9pm:
Cattle: Reaching the Finishing Line

Leanne Forde – Archer MRCVS
Ben Strugnell MRCVS

Making the Most of Medicines Course for Red Tractor Compliance

Monday 1st December 3-5pm: Please contact the practice
to book your place or email us at meetings@howellsvets.co.uk
Trainer: Ellie Button MRCVS



PRE-TUPPING TRACE ELEMENTS

Tupping time is well under way and for those tupping in November, there is still time to action trace element supplementation. Taking blood samples and analyses grass forages allows us to tailor supplementation to your farm's needs. We recommend blood sampling at least 6 ewes in a flock to ascertain current trace element status.

Speak to our experienced team to discuss your options:

Ruminal boluses: These deliver the daily requirement of each trace element. *Essential Sheep* contains optimised levels of iodine, selenium and cobalt. An added copper version is also available. Each application lasts 6 months.

Drenching- Each dose of the *Optigain* range lasts one month and delivers a range of vitamins and minerals.
-Increased B vitamins, vitamin E and anti oxidants
-Chelated Trace Elements; for increased bioavailability and efficacy
-Added Biotin; to promote wool and hoof quality.

Buckets- We stock a range of feed blocks and buckets. These can be very useful if individual dosing is not possible and can provide a wide range of nutrition.



Injectables: These are available on prescription only by a vet, so speak to our team if this may be a preferred option for your stock.

VET'S VIEWPOINT



Louise Conway MRCVS

The rain is finally beginning to make an appearance as we make our way into the autumn period. The leaves are already turning brown, the days are getting shorter, but worst of all, the acorn trees are sprouting.

Acorns, particularly when green and abundant, contain high levels of tannins which are highly toxic to livestock. In both sheep and cattle, ingestion can cause serious kidney damage, digestive upset and death. We are seeing more cases recently due to the late grass growth causing hungry stock to turn to acorns. Furthermore, the dry weather has caused a "mass stress release" of acorns earlier than expected.

So, stay vigilant: check your oak pastures regularly, restrict the access and always seek veterinary advice early if you suspect clinical signs.

PRACTICE NEWS

New Vet

We are delighted to welcome Iwan to the farm veterinary surgeon team. Originally from Wales, Iwan has spent the last few years at the University of Surrey. He's looking forward the most to getting out on the farm and meeting all our clients as well as putting some of his knowledge into practice. We're sure you'll make him very welcome.



DISPENSARY UPDATE- GET READY FOR TUPPING



Now is the time to make sure your ewes are at peak health and are getting everything they need to support their health, fertility and performance, including having the correct trace element status.

Bolusing your ewes before tupping can help ensure that all the essential trace elements are delivered to your ewe through pregnancy, lactation, and recovery.






Three is key for ewe nutrition

Optimum ewe nutrition from pre-tupping through to lambing is key to achieving lambing success

DOWNLAND PARTNERS IN FARMING HEALTH



-  Pre-tupping
-  Mid pregnancy
-  Pre-lambing

Supplementing with OPTIGAIN Sheep at three key times can help maintain ewe health, fertility and performance.

Vitamins and minerals play an important role in supporting ewe health - especially from pre-tupping through to lambing.

*Also available with or without copper



Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years