

# December 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Christmas Opening Hours

Please make sure you are aware of our Christmas office opening hours:

**Monday 23rd December– 8:30am - 5:30pm**

**Tuesday 24th December– 8:30am - 4pm**

**Wednesday 25th December– Closed**

**Thursday 26th December– Closed**

**Friday 27th December– 8:30am - 5:30pm**

**Monday 30th December- 8:30am - 5:30pm**

**Tuesday 31st December– 8:30am - 4pm**

**Wednesday 1st January– Closed**

As always, while the office is closed, vets will remain on call for emergencies.



## Keep Ewe Lambs Growing Through Winter

Ewe lambs can struggle through the winter; some are expected to maintain pregnancies while continuing their own growth.

There are a few key considerations to ensure ewe lambs continue to grow through the winter months:

- **Parasite burden;** have they carried parasites through from the autumn? Worm Egg Counts (WECs) can be useful to monitor burden.
- **Vitamin B12;** many 'lamb' treatments will have run out by now. Consider long-acting B12 supplementation like boluses or long-acting injectables to allow lambs to get the most energy out of their food.
- **Feed;** is feed of sufficient quality for growth? Remember that gradual diet changes are easier to cope with and benefit health and growth greatly.

## Changes to Withdrawal Periods

Withdrawal periods (WPs) have changed for products prescribed 'under the cascade' or 'off-licence', i.e. when there is no veterinary medicines authorised for the specific condition for the specific target species.

One common example of a product used 'under the cascade' would be the use of Metacam in sheep. Under the old rules, the WP for Metacam in sheep was 28 days. Under the new rules, the WP is 23 days (15 day WP for cattle  $\times 1.5 = 22.5$  days).

Another important change in WP to be aware of is for imported products; an imported product with a 0d WP in the country of origin, was subject to a 28 day WP but this has been reduced to a 1 day WP.

### The New Rules:

WPs for meat and offal from food-producing mammals, poultry and farmed game-birds:

- the longest withdrawal period provided in the data sheet for meat and offal, multiplied by a factor of 1.5
- 28 days, if the product is not authorised for food-producing animals
- 1 day, if the product has a zero-day withdrawal period

## Consider Double Clipping

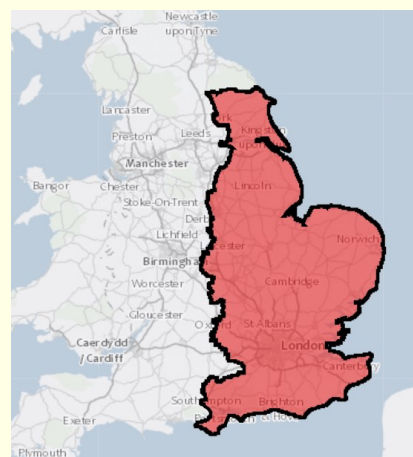
This autumn weather conditions have been mild with high humidity, causing stock with long thick coats to be at risk of overheating, pneumonia, and subsequently under-eating.

To reduce this risk, a second clip down the back of all the stock 2-3 months after their first clip, will cool them, and therefore increase their feed intake and level of performance.

### \*\*\*BLUETONGUE VIRUS MEETING\*\*\*

Ahead of the anticipated rise in BTV cases in spring when the weather begins to warm, we are holding a bluetongue virus meeting.

We will have **Fiona Lovatt**, RCVS Recognised Specialist in Sheep Health and Production and a diplomate of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management, joining us to provide the most up to date guidance on BTV.



\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

**Wednesday 8th January 2025**  
**Longframlington Memorial Hall, NE65 8AH**  
**Please arrive from 6:30pm for a 7pm start**

Refreshments will be provided, so please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Kindly sponsored by Ceva.

### Feeding the Stock Bull Through the Winter

Having a bull management protocol for winter can help to maintain good fertility and prepare them for the next breeding season.

It is important not to overfeed bulls, so that they are fit for the breeding season. Feeding bulls good quality silage alongside a concentrate such as barley should meet their energy demands. Ideally, bulls should be housed in individual pens, but where they are kept with others such as with in-calf cows, it is important to try and feed them separately to maintain their adequate body condition and meet their energy demands.

Foot health can have a large impact on fertility. Ensuring bulls have access to concrete as well as their straw bedding, and routine foot trimming can help to prevent foot issues.

Bulls should be fertility tested at least 6 weeks prior to the start of every breeding season, so that any issues identified during semen testing can be resolved.

### Scab Testing Tups

Through tugging time, your tups will have contacted every ewe on the farm, and so can prove very useful for monitoring for scab within your flock.

Blood testing your tup group for scab antibodies 2 weeks after they have come in from the ewes can tell us if they have been exposed to scab and inform us about whether whole flock scab treatments are required.



### Please join us for Christmas Drinks



\*\*\*FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER @ THE TURKS HEAD\*\*\*

We will be headed to the Turks Head in Rothbury from 7pm on Friday 13th December for a few Christmas drinks. First drinks on us. Hope to see you there!

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