

January 2025

NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year!

With the turn of the new year, Black Sheep Farm Health turns SEVEN!

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all the best for 2025.

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.

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

As always, refreshments will be provided.
Kindly sponsored by CEVA.

All welcome.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Small Holder Meeting: Pain Management for Routine Procedures

We will be discussing pain management for routine procedures, an important topic in the build up to lambing, calving and kidding!

Thursday 20th February 2025, 7pm
Longframlington Memorial Hall, NE65 8AH

All welcome.

As always, coffee and cake provided.

Please RSVP to emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk if you plan to attend.

Be Aware of VMD Changes before Lambing Time

Changes to Veterinary Medicine Regulations came into force on 17th May 2024.

The new regulations state that *'a veterinary surgeon may not prescribe a veterinary medicinal product which is an antibiotic for prophylactic purposes'*.

Prophylactic means administering a medicinal product to an animal or group of animals before clinical signs of disease in order to prevent disease.

The rules have changed to further prevent the over-use and misuse of antibiotics, as this contributes to antibiotic resistance.

We will always prescribe antibiotics when they are required. However, as lambing nears for some flocks, please expect some more questions and follow up from us when we are prescribing antibiotics for newborn lambs, and remember there are steps we can take to prevent disease at lambing time.

Please get in touch to discuss pre-lambing metabolic bloods in ewes, colostrum management and hygiene in the shed.

For those eligible, this could be covered by Resilience Funding or the AHWP.

Resilience Funding Reminder

The resilience fund **expires at the end of March 2025**. For those eligible, resilience funding can provide:

- **Up to 4 fully-funded vet visits**

If you are not sure if you are eligible for these funded visits, please get in touch.

We may need your SBI number to check that you have not accessed this funding through other channels.

BVD Check Test

BVD is recognised as one of the most economically important diseases of cattle; it causes immunosuppression thus increasing prevalence of other diseases, in addition to reproductive problems such as infertility, abortion and birth defects.

As spring born calves approach nine months of age, this is the perfect opportunity for BVD surveillance. The BVD check test requires five animals aged 9-18 months from each management group to be blood sampled for BVD antibody.

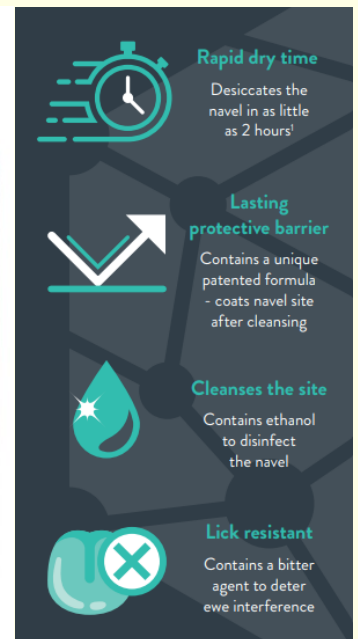
The Animal Health & Welfare Pathway (AHWP) for cattle is focused on BVD control, and any keeper with 11 or more cattle is eligible to apply for the funding (£737 for BVD -ve herds, £1359 for BVD +ve herds) towards their check test and health planning.

NoBACZ

Ready for lambing and calving, we will be stocking NoBACZ. NoBACZ is a unique, patented solution that rapidly disinfects and dries the navel, and contains a natural coloured resin that forms a lasting waterproof seal at the site, keeping bacteria out.

As NoBACZ should be used on navels in the same way to iodine, it works best when the navel is covered all the way up to the body wall; dipping navels tends to provide better 360° coverage.

This product has been extensively trialled and all feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The trial work revealed that **for every 1000 lambs treated with NoBACZ rather than iodine, there were 17 more lambs alive and 400kg more lamb weight at 8 weeks old.**



Calibrate Your Drench Guns!



In order for a wormer to work properly, it must be given at the correct dose rate. It is important to calibrate dosing guns regularly to ensure that they deliver the required dose.

Before Christmas, Jack calibrated one of his own dosing guns to find that his gun had to be set a 7mls to deliver a 4ml dose—checking this prevented quite a significant underdosing!

Avoiding underdosing is important as this can drive resistance to our worming products and we may see treatment failures.

Calibration of dosing equipment can be done quickly and effectively using a syringe barrel or a measuring cylinder; we have some free measuring cylinders available from the practice.

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