

November 2026

NEWSLETTER



Client Meeting: Ticks, Ticks, Ticks Diseases on the march into Northumberland

Wednesday 25th November 2026, 6:30pm

Breamish Hall, Powburn, NE66 4HT

Hot food provided

We will be joined by Matt Colston from Elanco and Claire will be sharing results from recent tick surveys in our area

For catering purposes, please RSVP to the practice on 01669 838288 or email info@bsfh.co.uk

Kaiwaka Repairs

As the weather turns, a reminder that Kaiwaka offer repairs free of charge. If you bring them into us *clean*, we will get them posted away.

Turn around time is usually 3-4 weeks.
Postage costs £10.

Borrow Our Scales!

Weaning weights, as a percentage of cow weight, can be used in suckler herds to quantify how well the cows are rearing beef.

A weaning percentage of 40% should be a minimum target. **If weaning percentage is below this, consider:**

- Look at individuals producing below average and consider why– is it age, breed, or bull?
- Can fertility be improved? Target is weaning 95 calves for every 100 cows put to the bull, with more than 65% calving in the first 6 weeks.
- Are the calves suffering from a worm burden or other disease challenge?
- Look at above-average cows and use this as part of your selection criteria for breeding replacements

We have two sets of cattle scales that can be borrowed from the practice, please give the office a call to arrange!

GRIP: The Conversations Farming Families Keep Putting Off

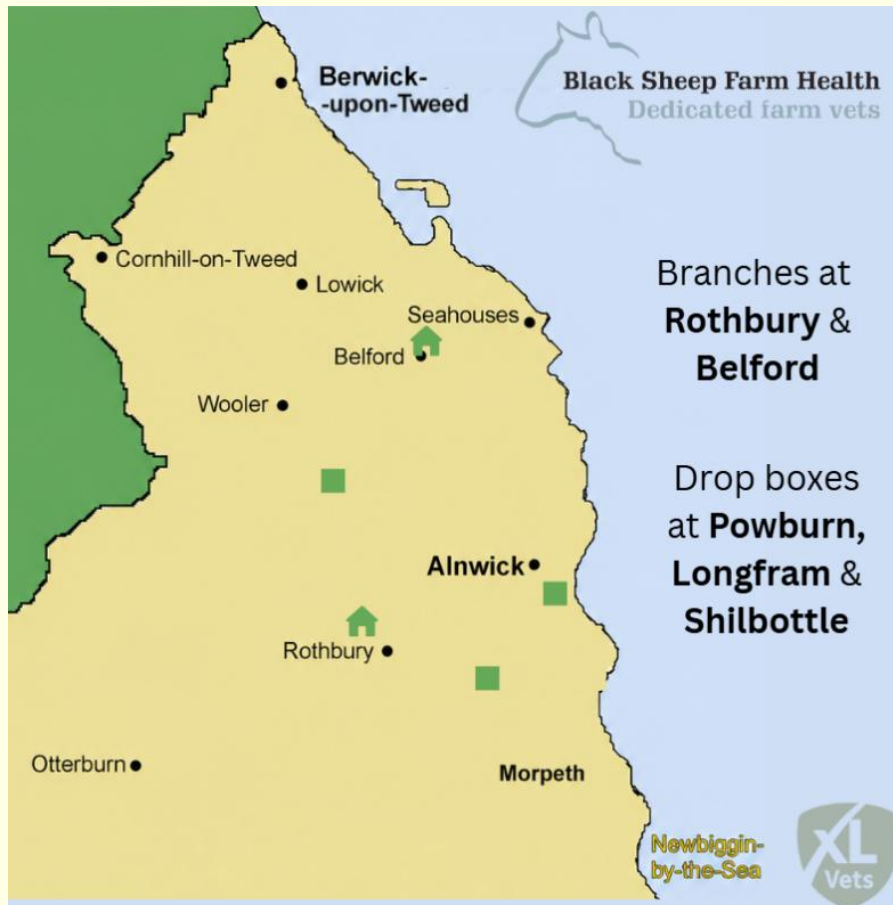
The hardest part of farming is rarely the work. It's the conversations: who's in charge of what, whether to spend money, a change one generation wants, and another won't hear of, or who takes over. It's so common for the same argument to go round for years, and it's not because anyone's being awkward.

GRIP is a one-day practical workshop run by Amy Hughes of EmpowerAg, who grew up on a beef and sheep farm in North Yorkshire and is a qualified mediator. In a small group of no more than 20, you'll look at why people dig their heels in, how to have difficult conversations without them blowing up, and how to get everyone pulling the same way. You'll leave with a workbook and your first steps written down, plus an optional follow-up session.

The nearest workshop is on Thursday 26 November at The Anglers Arms, Longframlington, 9.30am to 4.30pm. There are nine more dates across England.

Places are subsidised by AHDB Beef & Lamb, with priority for English beef and sheep farmers (a CPH number is needed to book). Bring a friend or a neighbour along. It's always easier with someone you know in the room. Book at tickets.empowerag.co.uk/events/empowerag

Reminder of Drop Box Locations



A reminder that we have several locations from which medicines and other supplies can be collected.

In addition to the main practice at Rothbury, we can arrange to drop medicines at Bellshill, Powburn, Longframlington or Shilbottle.

Please speak to Hazel or Donna when placing your orders to arrange.

Hazel and Donna can also remind you of the drop box padlock codes if needed!

Trace Elements for Weaned Calves

Trace element provision for weaned calves can be easily overlooked.

Copper plays a vital role in growth, immunity and enzyme function, while selenium is important for muscle development and disease resistance. Cobalt is essential for converting feed into energy, and iodine is needed for normal metabolic function and growth.

Trace element deficiencies can have a major impact on performance, often before obvious clinical signs appear. Affected calves may show:

- Reduced daily liveweight gain
- Poor thrive and reduced feed efficiency
- Increased susceptibility to pneumonia and other diseases
- Dull coats and poor overall condition
- Delayed development and reduced future productivity

There are several different forms of trace element supplementation suitable for weaned calves. Have a chat with one of the vets to discuss further!

Black Sheep Farm Health, Unit 4a, Rothbury Industrial Estate, Coquet View, Rothbury, Northumberland, NE65 7RZ Phone: 01669 838 288 Email: info@bsfh.co.uk

Joe Henry 07502297044

Jenny Hull 07734432212

Jack Sheldrake 07793078949

Kaz Strycharczyk 07557092760

Claire Neillans 07717752034

Emili Canavan-Hicks 07778456969

