

October 2025

NEWSLETTER



Alwinton Show

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025

Please pop by our stand for a drink, slice of cake and a catch up!

Client Meeting: TAKING THE BRAKES OFF

Wednesday 22nd October, 6:30pm

Thropton War Memorial Hall, NE65 7LT

A Mast Year For Acorns

The warm, dry summer has put a strain on everyone's grass and forage and, with the oak trees laden with acorns, we should be vigilant for acorn poisoning in livestock.

Green acorns contain tannic acid which causes inflammation in the kidneys and can lead to kidney failure.

Signs of acorn poisoning include dullness/lethargy, loss of appetite, constipation followed by diarrhoea and frequent urination.

There is no specific treatment, but affected cattle should be provided with access to plentiful, clean water while waiting on a vet.

Acutely affected animals may die in spite of supportive treatment, while animals that survive may become chronically ill.

Therefore, prevention is important:

- Avoid grazing of fields with abundant acorns or fence off the area under trees with green acorns – especially after a windy spell!
- Ensure stock are provided with sufficient forage to discourage livestock from ingesting acorns.

Thank you to vet student Tally McGowan from the University of Edinburgh for contributing to our newsletter!

Get AHWP Number BEFORE Your BVD Check Test

Animal Health & Welfare Pathway funding is still available. For cattle, this funding is for a BVD check test.

Please ensure that you have an AHWP agreement number in place BEFORE we come out to sample calves for your BVD check test. Agreement numbers should be 12 digits and start with 'IAHW'.

If you are having any problems with this, please get in touch with Claire or Emili.

Remember, you can now claim for multiple herds and multiple flocks under the same agreement number.

Consider AI for autumn calvers?

Artificial insemination (AI) allows you to access a greater range of genetics for your herd without having to buy a new bull.

Alongside providing superior calf genetics, AI also tightens the calving pattern, resulting in a more uniform and more easily managed calf crop. AI can also be used to extend the working life of your stock bull, when used to breed un-related replacement heifers.

Due to the differences in management, autumn calvers often experience more calving difficulties than spring calvers.

Assessing EBVs (estimated breeding values) and selecting sires from an easy calving bull can help to reduce these difficulties.

Our AI programme **only involves three handlings** for synchronisation and service. These handlings are often more convenient for housed autumn calvers than spring calvers at grass.

Please talk to Jack about our AI programme and choosing an appropriate AI bull.

An Overview of The Barbers Pole Worm

As a result of the very dry summer, we have diagnosed *Haemonchus contortus* (HC), or the barbers pole worm, on a number of farms for the first time.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of haemonchosis seen in the UK this year. This increase is likely due to climatic and animal conditions allowing *Haemonchus* to predominate in the worm population.

Clinical Signs

Haemonchus is mainly a disease of sheep and goats, affecting all ages of stock. Clinical signs include:

- Acute = weak, pale mucous membranes, shallow breathing, sudden death. These animals are still in good condition and generally not scoured.
- Subacute = bottle jaw. Looks like clinical liver fluke.
- Chronic = general ill thrift and failure to thrive.

Diagnosis

- Clinical signs – often clinically distinct, FAMACHA (a scoring system looking at mucous membrane colour) and BCS / weight changes.
- Post-Mortem examination – easily identifiable in abomasum with barbers pole appearance.
- Faecal worm egg count – often very high as *Haemonchus* is very fecund.
- Peanut Agglutination Test– further testing on dung to confirm presence of *Haemonchus* and assess the percentage of worm eggs present that are HC.



Treatment

Treatment of haemonchosis is either with a wormer or with closantel (e.g. Solantel / Flukiver). Treatment choice should consider class of stock affected, history of wormer use and history of anthelmintic resistance on farm, and therefore, should be discussed with your vet.

Treatment should be selective and based on clinical signs, FAMACHA score and body condition score of individual animals. A post drench check should also be completed to monitor for treatment failure, as HC can build resistance to wormers very quickly.

Quarantine

It is important to avoid buying in *Haemonchus* and appropriate quarantine should be used. All incoming sheep should be dosed with either Zolvix and Startect, or Zolvix and Cydectin injection. This should be followed by 48 hours confinement in a yard and then turn out onto worm contaminated pasture.

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