

# September 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Autumn Client Meeting:

### TAKING THE BRAKES OFF

Covering iceberg diseases of sheep & trace elements for bovine youngstock

**THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

Food from 6:30pm for a 7pm start  
Longframlington Memorial Hall, NE65 8AH

All welcome

Please RSVP to the practice on  
01669 838288 or email [info@bsfh.co.uk](mailto:info@bsfh.co.uk)

## Endemic Disease Funding for Sheep

This is a good time of year for completing the endemic disease follow up for your sheep flocks as part of the animal health and welfare pathway.

The 'Endemic Disease Follow Up' funding is worth £639 for each flock present on farm. This funding is very open ended but we have some suggestions of what might be useful at this time of year:

- Cull ewe screen
- Disease screen incoming sheep
- Trace elements
- Worms / fluke
- Lameness

Please note; the initial review and worm egg counts need to have been completed before you can do the 'endemic disease follow up'. This initial step is worth £436 for each flock present on farm.

Please speak to Emili or Claire if you would like more information. If you have any trouble with applications or claims, we're familiar with the steps and happy to help!

## Using FerAppease at Weaning?

FerAppease is a bovine maternal appeasing pheromone that can be applied to cattle to reduce the production of the stress hormone, cortisol. This pheromone is a naturally occurring substance that is secreted by the skin of the udder.

FerAppease can be used during stressful events such as weaning, castrating/ dehorning/vaccination and moving/ transportation/mixing to reduce stress. Stress has significant detrimental impacts on livestock, from reduced feed intake and growth, to decreased fertility and increased susceptibility to disease.

A UK based trial involving 120 calves at weaning **quickly demonstrated the return on investment**. The group averaged 257kg at 185 days old, half were treated with FerAppease, and the other half were not. **Daily Live Weight Gain (DLWG) in the group treated with FerAppease was 340g more at 21 days post treatment, and 180g more at 60 days, than the control group.**

Studies carried out in America demonstrate further benefits of using FerAppease in cattle. Studies into the use of FerAppease in sheep are ongoing.

As it is not a medicine, the product has a nil withdrawal period.

FerAppease is an American product that has only been available in the UK for the last year and we don't yet have much experience of using it on our farms.

Please get in touch if you'd like to try FerAppease!

For more information: <https://ferappease.com/#what-is-ferappease>

## Thinking Ahead to Housing

Housing comes around quickly each year. Ensure that you get calf pneumonia vaccines administered in plenty of time before the risk period for best effect.

This is particularly important if you use injectable pneumonia vaccines.

Pneumonia is a multifactorial disease, alongside vaccine use, it is important to consider:

- Provision of adequate feed space and adequate nutrition- get your silage tested!
- Provision of clean water troughs
- Trace element status of calves- consider calf boluses or injectable supplementation
- Ventilation- consider shed design and stocking rates. Smoke bombs can be used to assess ventilation in each shed.
- Method of weaning; abrupt, fence-line, quiet-wean nose flaps

## Tupping Ewe Lambs?

Tupping ewe lambs is not for everyone. For farms that chose to tup ewe lambs, there are a few key considerations to maximise the chances of them getting in-lamb without negatively impacting their development.

### Selecting the right ewe lambs:

- Will ewe lambs be up to weight prior to mating? Ewe lambs should be at least 60% of their mature weight at tupping to maximise their chance of a successful pregnancy.
- Ensure ewe lambs retained for breeding are not from ewes that have caused problems ie persistent or repeated lameness, excessive dagging, prolapsed, poor mothers.

### Management at tupping:

- Utilise the 'ram effect'. Consider using a teaser to induce cycling in adolescent ewe lambs.
- Careful tup selection is important. Experienced tups should be used for ewe lambs; ewe lambs experience shorter oestrus, demonstrate subtle heat behaviours and are less likely to stand for mating. Breed or type of tup should be carefully considered in order to avoid lambing difficulties.
- Consider clipping ewe lambs? Shearing ewe lambs before tupping has been demonstrated to decrease barren rates; lower progesterone levels in ewe lambs leave their early pregnancies more susceptible to heat stress.

### Management after tupping:

- Is there sufficient feed available during the winter to ensure that ewe lambs can maintain their own growth on top of pregnancy requirements? Maintaining ewe lamb growth until lambing is important for reducing lambing difficulties.

### Plan ahead to lambing:

- Make provisions for spare lambs. A ewe lamb should only rear one lamb, be prepared to lift twins and set them on or rear as pets.
- Plan provision of staff in case of lambing difficulties.

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