

Black Sheep Farm Health

November 2022 Newsletter



Christmas Opening Hours

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

- Friday 23rd December - 8.30-4pm
- Monday 26th December - closed
- Tuesday 27th December - closed
- 28th-30th December - open as normal
 - Monday 2nd January - closed



While the office will be closed, vets will remain on call for emergencies.



Small Holders Meeting- A Goatkeepers Guide to Parasites

Monday 5th December 7pm
Longframlington Memorial Hall,
NE65 8AH

A **free** event open to anyone with an interest in controlling parasites in goats.

Cake and coffee provided

Please **RSVP** to

emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk or call
01669 838288



Medication drop off boxes

We have medication drop boxes at Rothbury and Bellshill, if you are going to arrive after closing please let us know when you call and we can pop it in the box for you. For the code to access the drop box please call the practice.

Charity Christmas Quiz

Thursday 1st December, 7pm
At Longframlington Memorial Hall, NE65 8AH
£20 per team (up to 6 participants)
Food provided and cash bar
All in aid of Farming Community Network

Northumberland Monitor Farm: Step Change - Making and Managing System Changes

Alnwick Castle Golf Club, Rugley Road,
Alnwick, NE66 2AG

Wednesday 23rd November,
10:30 am - 3.30 pm

Change is increasingly necessary to ensure farming businesses can remain viable amidst increasing pressures (policy, subsidies, input prices, climate change, consumer demand). But our systems are complex, and consideration needs to be given to planning any system change to ensure success. Alnham Farm has made considerable changes to their business, in particularly moving to an outwintering system. During this meeting we will hear how they have managed this and the impact it has had on their business.



Whatever the size of change - whether it be changing breed, lambing or calving date or even changing a whole enterprise, we hope that attendees will go away from the meeting with confidence in how to make and manage change on their own farm.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provide

To register your free place either book online, email KE.events@ahdb.org.uk or call **01904 771218**. Attendees must be over 16 years of age.



Future Farming Resilience Fund

GSC Grays are providing **free** and independent advice to farm businesses, and aim to support farms through the BPS transition period alongside planning for a resilient and successful future. All farmers and land managers, across all farming sectors, who receive Basic Payment Scheme payments qualify for this service. For more information, visit gscgrays.co.uk/services/fbas-sign-up or 03333 059059.

Fluke- test before you treat!

So far this autumn **all** fluke testing (antibody testing of lambs and calves) we have undertaken at the practice has come back negative. With the fluke risk low this year it is important to consider **if** your routine fluke treatments are required. The best way to do this is to blood test either calves or lambs for fluke antibody which will show if they have been exposed.



Trace element testing

We have been seeing a lot of trace element deficiencies this year, thought to be due to the drought conditions causing poorer uptakes from forage. Trace elements are important for production with deficiencies causing ill thrift and poor fertility among other things. Testing ensures you know the status of your stock and enables you to supplement them accordingly. It is also important to consider that any forage harvested this year will likely be reflective of the summer conditions meaning forage could have lower trace elements than normal.

Scab antibody ELISA

With winter approaching some of you may be considering whole flock treatments with injectable ivermectins for scab control. Due to issues with the resistance both in scab and gut worms and the environmental effects of ivermectin products we would encourage blood testing 12 animals to determine if this is required. The best group to test is generally the tup group after they return from the ewes, but we can discuss this with you prior to testing.



Don't Waste a Blade of Straw!

With costs increasing across the board and the drought weather this summer likely to make straw and silage harder to come by it is important to ensure your not carrying any passengers through housing. Empty cows consume silage and use straw reserves without giving you a calf at the end of the winter meaning you are wasting resources. Pregnancy diagnosis is a reliable way to remove any free loaders and can be completed 6 weeks after the bull is removed.

Survey — Investigating Sheep Mastitis

Alberto, who is a resident at the University of Edinburgh, is completing a research project which is about sheep mastitis. He is aiming to gather information to help understand why some ewes get mastitis and why there is so much variation in mastitis rates between farms. Any answers would be much appreciated, regardless of how big or small your flock is. To complete the survey please go to the following link (<https://edin.ac/3S9fYX8>) or scan the QR code.



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

Joe Henry 07502 297 044

Jenny Hull 07734 432 212

Jack Sheldrake 07793 078 949

Emili Canavan-Hicks 07778 918 872

Claire Neillans 07717 752 034