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**In this issue: Schmallerberg; Parasites in lambs; Lameness Services; ITN; Dairy Dates**

### Schmallenberg Virus

Schmallenberg virus was first identified in 2011 and at the time spread throughout Europe. The first positive case in recent months in GB was diagnosed in a calf in Cornwall in October 2016. Since then there have been cases confirmed throughout the country from lamb and calf sample submissions.

**Number of premises with confirmed SBV locally in calves during winter 2016/2017:**

County	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Total
Cornwall		1	4	5
Devon		1	2	3
Dorset			2	2
Hampshire		1	1	2
Somerset			2	2



**What to look out for:**

Lambs and calves are born with congenital deformities including; misshapen spine, deformed joints and undershot jaw.

If you have suspicions when calving/lambing that it doesn't feel normal then you are more than likely correct and no amount of traction will get it out, so do call us!

In cases where lamb and calf malformations are identified and SBV is suspected, APHA are currently offering free SBV PCR tests on samples of fresh brain from affected animals.

Acute disease in adult dairy cattle was reported in late 2016 in mainland Europe, with clinical signs of milk drop, fever, sometimes with diarrhoea. In cases where we believe there is no other cause for these clinical signs then we can submit a maximum of three samples to APHA which will be tested by them for free.

**The plan going forward:**

At this stage pharmaceutical companies are not producing a vaccine because they do not believe it to be a large enough problem. This is why it is very important that we do submit cases of deformed lambs and calves to laboratories in order to get an idea of the scale of the issue in the UK.

## Parasites in lambs - Nematodirus Battus

Nematodirus Battus can be a particularly nasty cause of scour in lambs. It has a slightly different pattern of development than other parasitic diseases of lambs and it is important to be aware of.



### Unique features;

- Nematodirus larvae hatch from their eggs on the pasture, rather than within the lamb, meaning they cause acute disease as soon they are ingested off the pasture.
- **Signs include a profuse black watery scour and affected lambs are extremely thirsty and often crowd around water troughs.**
- Before the eggs can hatch they have to undergo a period of cold weather followed by warmer temperatures of 10 degrees. This can create mass hatching when ideal conditions have taken place.

### The main risk factors;

- Lambs grazing pasture that carried lambs the previous spring
- A sudden, late cold snap which is followed by a period of warm weather
- Lambs that are old enough to be eating significant amounts of grass (6–12 weeks old)
- Groups where there is also likely to be a challenge from coccidiosis
- Lambs that are under other stresses e.g. triplets, fostered, on young or older ewes.

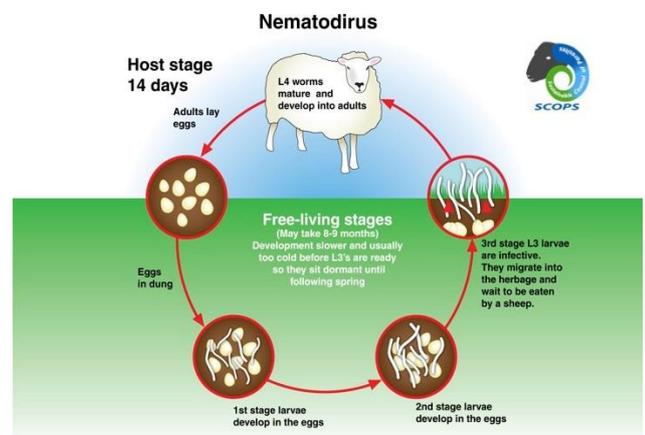
### Monitoring and treatment;

Immature larvae cause the damage to the gut lining and we will therefore not see any eggs in the faeces of lambs when we do a worm egg count, this is contrary to other parasites in sheep where adults cause the damage and we can monitor their presence by looking at eggs in the faeces. Therefore, the best way to know when to treat is based on risk factors.

SCOPS is a good website for gaining further information on parasites in sheep. They also produce detailed forecasts. They currently predict that our area is high-very high risk for nematodirus this year. Given we are currently experiencing a “cold snap” at the time of writing, be vigilant for signs of nematodirus in the coming weeks!

**Treatment should be with a white drench (benzimidazole eg. panacur)**

**Other parasites:** We would encourage you to perform worm egg counts throughout the season prior to drenching your lambs to avoid unnecessary treatment and the risk of increasing anthelmintic resistance on your farm. Please refer to SCOPS for more detailed information on control and treatment protocols for parasites in sheep.



## Lameness Services

### Foot Crush Update - Reduction in Hourly Rate

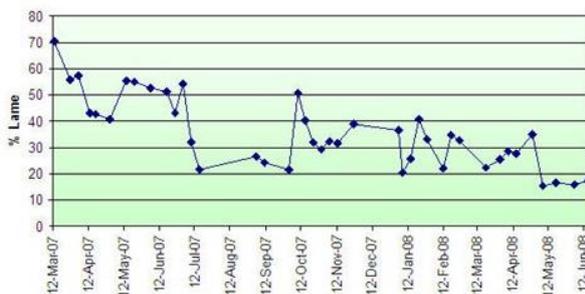
Many thanks to all of you who have enquired and booked one or more sessions using our foot crush. Having become much more used to the workings of the crush we have decided to reduce our hourly rate for this service.

The new hourly rate will be £75.00 plus VAT (reduced from £90.00/hr).

### Mobility Scoring

Our farm vets carry out regular mobility scoring and have recently teamed up with Kingston Maurward College where trained final year Veterinary students from the Royal Veterinary College are based and will also carry out mobility scores if demand requires it. We tend to find scoring the herd at an afternoon milking is best; we can collect the cow IDs whilst they are milking and then observe their mobility and score each individual as they leave the parlour.

The benefits of our Mobility Scoring system are greater if it is carried out regularly. Some milk buyers recommend monthly scoring, and most require a minimum of quarterly scoring. If this is something you would rather carry out yourselves, we can train a farm staff member too.



Results from a farm that performed fortnightly mobility scoring with immediate follow-up foot trimming / treatment of score 2 & 3 cows after each mobility score saw lameness rates drop from 70% to 17% in 15 months (see graph to left).

Whether you run your own Inter-herd or use our bureau service we recommend that your mobility score data is input in the system. We can easily use this data to create TotalVet and Interherd+ Lameness reports to help monitor trends and progress.

If you would like to book in a mobility score and or a follow up treatment session with a vet and the footcrush please contact us at the practice.



## Ischaemic Teat Necrosis

Ischaemic teat necrosis (ITN) is a condition that is seen in dairy cattle. The lesions occur on the teat and usually start with a dry, crusty scab at the base of the teat that spreads and can progress to the udder skin. It is often intensely irritating and painful and in rare cases cows have been known to chew off their own teats because of this!

It is considered an emerging disease and it is unknown what causes it. There are speculations that Treponemes; the pathogens linked to digital dermatitis are involved, alternatively it is thought to be associated with high yielding cows with large, tight oedematous udders.

The only way to know for sure what causes this debilitating condition is to investigate any suspect cases. We are working alongside researchers at the Royal Veterinary College and Kingston Maurward College in trying to identify any possible links between risk factors and the disease. If you have any suspect cases please let us know so that we can further investigate this condition and help you manage and treat the symptoms.



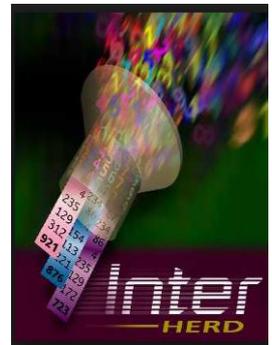
## Interherd Workshop

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am – 2pm @ Damory Veterinary Clinic**

Lunch provided - RSVP to Damory Vets

We are running an Interherd Workshop in collaboration with NMR for anybody thinking of running their own Interherd dairy management system on farm, and for those who would like to know more about the program.

Laptops will be provided with a demonstration farm's data, or we can set you up with your own herd's data to play with.



## GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Motcombe Turnpike Showground SP7 9PL

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Please come and join us for refreshments - we look forward to seeing you all at the show!