

**AUGUST**  
**2020**



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## NEW PRICE LISTS – WORMERS AND MUCH MORE

We can now supply non-prescription products at very competitive prices, including:

WORMERS  
FLUKICIDES  
VACCINES

COCCIDIOSIS TREATMENTS  
FLY CONTROL  
BOLUSES

We can also provide tailored advice on product choice and usage for your farm.

Contact us for a quote or see our new price list.

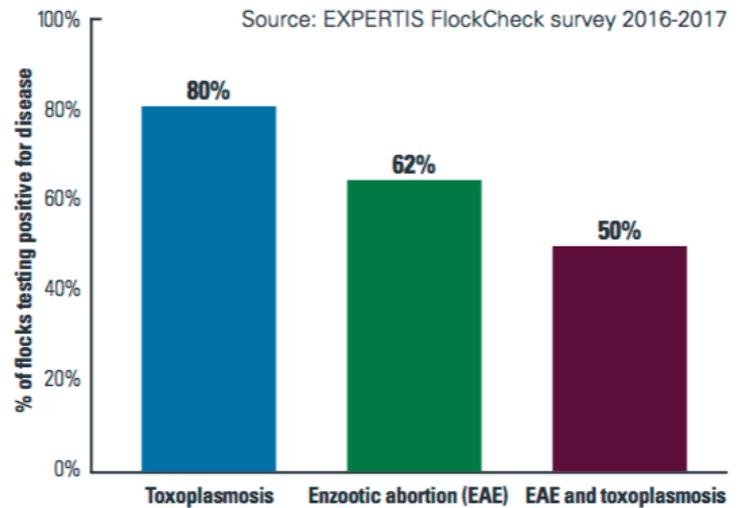


## OFFICE UPDATE

The office is now staffed from 8.30am instead of 8am. Of course the phones are still manned for emergencies 24/7 so do not wait to ring if you require an urgent visit.

## WHY VACCINATE FOR SHEEP ABORTION?

Enzootic abortion (EAE) and Toxoplasmosis are the most common causes of sheep abortion – in a recent survey over 50% of tested flocks were positive for both. Even a small number of lamb losses will have a huge impact on the profitability of your lambing season, so prevention is better than cure.



### Enzootic abortion (EAE, Chlamydial abortion)

EAE usually causes late abortions. Bacteria spread from sheep to sheep - it is very contagious. Ewes can become “carriers” and spread disease to the rest of the flock; ewes infected at lambing can abort the following year.

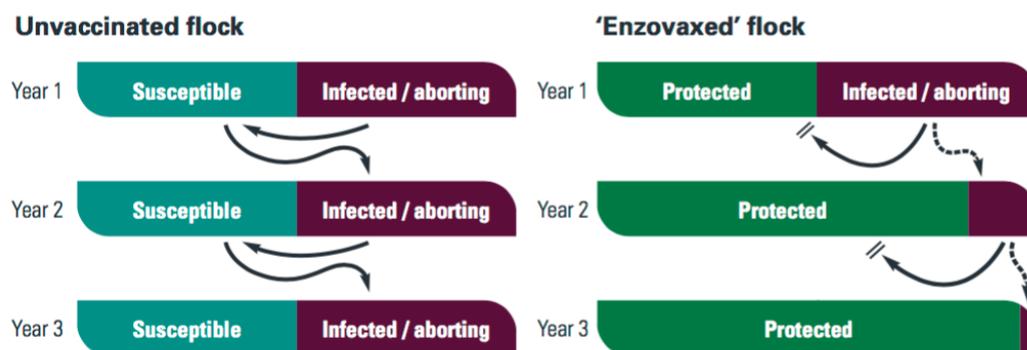
Vaccination reduces shedding & prevents new infections; you may still get infected lambs from carrier ewes, but vaccination will break the cycle over a few years.

The vaccine: ENZOVAX

Single dose lasts up to 4 years – no annual booster

7 days withdrawal

Must not be given to animals under treatment with Alamyacin/Engemycin





The vaccine: TOXOVAX

Single dose lasts up to 2 years – no annual booster

42 days withdrawal

Very short shelf life (approx. 1 week) – need to pre-order for specific date

### Toxoplasmosis

“Toxo” has a complex life cycle involving cats. It is found in the environment i.e. feed, bedding, pasture contaminated by cats. Various effects depending on timing of infection e.g. resorption, abortion, weak/dead lambs born with live siblings.

There is no treatment – vaccination is key to control; in-feed preventatives are available but much more expensive. Other control methods include preventing cat access to feed and keeping farm cats to a small, stable (neutered) population of adults.

### Other considerations for Enzovax & Toxovax:

- Must be given at least a month before tupping (up to 4 months before)
- Never give to pregnant ewes
- Can administer both at the same time (at different sites, NOT mixed)
- After the first year, you will likely only need to vaccinate replacements each year

Speak to one of the vets to discuss the risk-benefit for your flock.

## PREPARE YOUR RAMS FOR TUPPING

“**Ram MOTs**” can be a very valuable tool, identifying issues before tupping instead of at scanning. This will involve a thorough physical examination and fertility testing with our specialist equipment.

For those using **teaser rams**, vasectomies should be performed at least 6-8 weeks before they are used. Teasers can be very useful to tighten the lambing period, but remember ewes must be kept away from the sight/sound/smell of rams for at least a month before introducing the teaser for maximum effect.

## MEDICINES NEWS

**Tetra Delta alternative** – we are now able to source Gamaret, a European equivalent of Tetra Delta with only 72 hour milk withdrawal (7 days meat).

**Combiclav** antibiotic is back in stock, this is the equivalent of Synulox with the same dosage & withdrawals.



## CLARIFIDE PLUS – OFFER EXTENDED!



If you are interested in genomic testing, the Clarifide Plus offer has been extended to November. It is currently **BUY 2, GET 1 FREE** and you will also save money by testing through us rather than NMR. Contact us to take advantage of this offer.

Clarifide Plus testing looks at health predictors (for mastitis, LDAs, lameness, calf disease and more) as well as productivity, to help you select and breed the best replacements for your herd.

## THINKING AHEAD: SPRING CALVING PDs

There are several benefits to having your herd scanned, including expected calving dates and identifying barren cows.

The simplest approach is to scan 6 weeks after the bull is out. Scanning at housing is also an option to reduce handlings but still identify empty cows, who can be sold before taking up their share of winter housing & feed; however ageing the pregnancies will be much less accurate at this stage.

Give us a call to get your visit booked in.



## INTERESTING CASE: TICK FEVER

Ticks carry several diseases harmful to farm animals, such as redwater (babesiosis). This year tick burdens have been particularly high and we have seen a few cases of “tick fever” in cattle, a less common disease that causes anaemia.

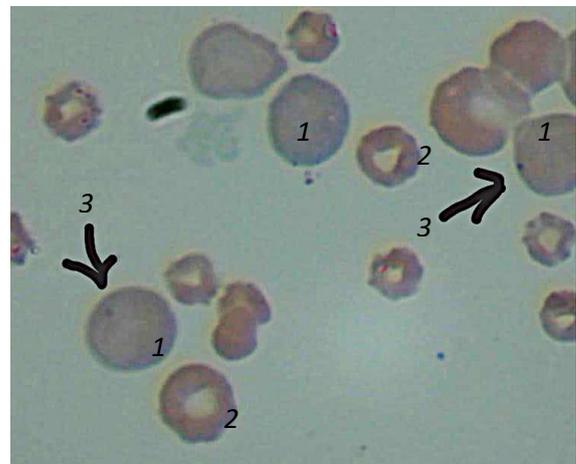
Animals with tick fever present as “weak” or just “not quite right”. On examination they might have pale membranes and a fast heart rate. A blood sample is taken for a “PCV” (amount of red blood cells, to check for anaemia) which we can do very quickly in our lab.

Our cases had a low PCV of 12-15% (normal range 24-40%) indicating anaemia. Although there are many other possible causes, tick-borne disease was suspected due to the lack of other signs, location and time of year. Redwater was ruled out by the normal urine.

We then performed blood smears on microscope slides in our lab with a special stain to check for “*Anaplasma*”, the cause of tick fever.

*Anaplasma* appear as tiny dots at the edge of red blood cells. Here we could also see the animal was making lots of new red blood cells to try and correct the anaemia – a good sign for potential recovery. If PCV is less than 10-12%, a blood transfusion is required.

*Right: PCV test after 3 days treatment (24%)*



*Blood smear stained for Anaplasma*

1. Red blood cells
2. New (immature) red blood cells
3. *Anaplasma* (tiny dots identified by arrows)



With *Anaplasma* confirmed, more specific treatment could be given – it only responds to a few antibiotics. PCV was monitored where possible to ensure recovery. Tick fever is hard to prevent as no products are licensed for tick control, but fly products such as Spot-on may have some effect.

## STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to be welcoming two new vets to the team next month.

**Abi Charlesworth** graduated in 2016, then completed a post-graduate diploma at the Royal Veterinary College whilst working in farm practice based in West Dorset. After 3 years in practice, mainly focusing on nutrition, youngstock and genomics she decided to locum for a year in the South West whilst developing her own business, including farm diversification, her stabiliser suckler herd and small flock of sheep. She's looking forward to really getting stuck back in to veterinary work here at Damory.

**Charlotte Luther** recently graduated from the University of Liverpool, having grown up locally in Dorset. Outside of work she has her own small flock of Herdwick sheep. She is looking forward to working in all areas of farm practice and has particular interests in lameness and youngstock management.



## SMALLHOLDER NEWS



Did you know we are a “Chicken Vet” associated practice?

We stock some poultry-specific medicines which can be dispensed in small amounts for your flock.

Regular worming is recommended, particularly if you notice any loose droppings or weight loss – Flubenvet wormer comes in small tubs to mix with feed.

Vaccination is not usually practical for backyard flocks, and the risk of infectious disease is relatively low, but most ex-laying hens will already have been vaccinated for many diseases as chicks.



We have seen several cases of flystrike in sheep recently. Make sure you re-apply your fly prevention product if necessary – some only last 4-8 weeks.

Consider treating your lambs now they are bigger, if the product is safe for them and withdrawal period is suitable; unshorn lambs are at high risk of flystrike.