

**JUNE  
2021**



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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**BVD STAMP IT OUT ROUND-UP MEETINGS: Weds 9<sup>th</sup> June 12.30-1.30pm OR Tues 15<sup>th</sup> June 7-8pm, ONLINE.** *All clients who took part in BVD Stamp It Out are invited to a short FREE meeting on the outcomes of the project, this will also be an opportunity for questions and feedback. To be held on Zoom, RSVP by the day before to receive details.*

**WHAT IS CALF MORTALITY COSTING YOU? 13<sup>th</sup> July 12.30-1.30pm, location TBC**  
*Discussing the economics behind calf mortality, plus free anonymous benchmarking report for attendees. £20+VAT per person, RSVP by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July.*



**SAVE THE DATE:** We will be at Gillingham & Shaftesbury show on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August with our tradestand and as sponsors. This year the show is being held over 2 days, with a set number of tickets each day so make sure to buy in advance.

We'll have a hog roast on the stand so look forward to seeing lots of you there!

# STOP PRESS: SIX-MONTHLY TB TESTING UPDATE

**Over the next year, cattle herds in the High Risk Area (applicable to all our clients) will gradually move from annual to six-monthly surveillance TB testing.**

The aim is to identify infection earlier, reducing the time it can spread within/between herds.

**Lower risk herds with “earned recognition” will stay on annual testing.** This applies if:

- The herd has existed for at least 6 years
- With no TB breakdowns in the last 6 years
- Or, accredited by a scheme - CHECS TB Accreditation Level 1 or above (CHECS TB Entry Level Accreditation is NOT sufficient)

If you are eligible to stay on annual testing but would like to move to six-monthly, you will need to contact APHA.

## FAQs

### ***When will I have to start 6 monthly testing?***

These changes will apply from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Herds currently on annual testing will have their next Whole Herd Test between July 2021 & June 2022 as normal. Your first six-monthly test will take place six months after this Whole Herd Test.

If you are having your Whole Herd Test this month (June 2021) before these changes start on 1<sup>st</sup> July, your next test will be in June 2022 as normal and then start six months after that.

### ***Do we still have to do contiguous & tracing tests?***

Herds on six-monthly testing will NOT have to undergo contiguous tests (which are required if a neighbour has a TB breakdown).

Herds with “earned recognition” who remain on annual testing WILL still have to undergo contiguous tests.

Tracing tests will continue, but APHA will aim to synchronise these with the six-monthly herd test if it is not too far away.

### ***Can my six-monthly test be used as a pre-movement test?***

YES (provided it is clear!), usual rules apply.

APHA will write to farmers to notify them of these changes. More detailed information is also available at <https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/six-monthly-surveillance-testing-of-cattle-herds-in-the-high-risk-area/>

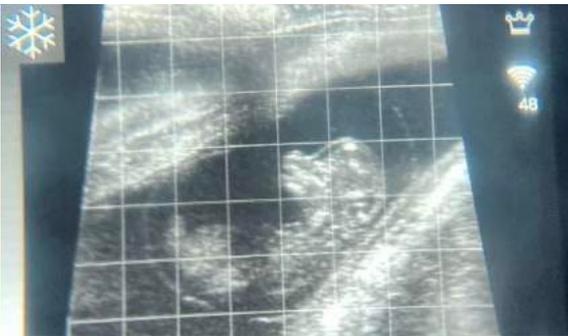
# THE BENEFITS OF SYNCHRONISING HEIFERS

Many of our dairy & beef farms use “sync” AI programmes in their bulling heifers with good success.

## What are the advantages?

- Serve heifers at the right stage of their cycle – maximum chance of conception
- Allow use of AI – access to different genetics
- Vet scans reproductive tract – checks each heifer is mature, cycling & ready
- Known service date and therefore calving date (must PD to check, especially if going with sweeper bull afterwards)

There are various sync protocols available, usually involving 2-3 vet visits on set days & times over 5-10 days, with a specified day & time to AI. It's vital to stick to these timings for best success rates. Our sync programmes are competitively priced but exact cost will vary depending on protocol - speak to a vet about which option would be best for you.



Any heifers that do not conceive to their sync service should come bulling again 21 days later. These can be identified with heat detection e.g. Estroprotect stickers to use AI again, or put in with a sweeper bull after their sync service.

## Other considerations

- Heifers must be physically mature (at least two-thirds of expected adult weight/size)
- Select your best heifers to sync & AI – **consider genomic testing: Clarifide are currently offering 4 for the price of 3**
- Other factors such as infectious disease & nutrition can affect results
- Several handlings through crush required
- Each stage of programme must be at exact time, including AI
- Ideally PD the heifers 6 weeks after AI, or at a later stage if sweeper bull used after

Give us a call for quotes/options & availability – as the programmes must stick to exact days/times, please give us notice to ensure we have a vet available on your desired dates.

## “COCCI” IN GRAZING LAMBS & CALVES



“Cocci” (short for coccidiosis) is a common problem in young lambs and calves. It is a gut parasite with similar symptoms to the usual worms & Nematodirus: scour, straining, sudden weight loss and deaths.

If you see these signs, the best next step is to bring a pooled faecal sample to the practice – for £10 per sample we can test in-house that day to identify what parasite is causing the problem and advise on treatment.

Coccidiosis will not respond to normal wormers and requires a specific oral drench so it is well worth having a proper diagnosis. Often fields have “hot spots” e.g. wet/poached areas around troughs/creep feeders/shelter, so minimising these can help with control.

### HAVE YOU DONE OUR POST-LAMBING SURVEY?

If you can spare a few minutes to complete & return it, you’ll receive a benchmarking report comparing your data **anonymously** with other flocks – giving you areas to focus on to improve your flock’s performance. Contact us for a copy if you haven’t received it by email.

## “TEASER” RAM VASECTOMIES & “RAM MOTs”

Teaser rams are a very effective way to get your ewes cycling and tighten your lambing block.

If you are hoping to use new teasers this autumn, make sure you plan ahead; they should be vasectomised at least 6-8 weeks before you plan to put them in, otherwise they could still be fertile.

Speak to one of the vets for more information about the procedure and its benefits.



We also recommend ram “pre-breeding MOTs” to ensure they are fit for tupping – this includes a thorough physical examination and semen testing. It is best to do this a month or two pre-tupping, to give time to treat any problems or source a replacement.

## **FLY TREATMENT REMINDER**

With the weather turning warmer & drier, now is the ideal time to apply fly control – reducing the impacts of fly irritation, flystrike, New Forest Eye & summer mastitis.  
Give us a call for bespoke advice and very competitive prices!

## **TICK SEASON IS HERE AGAIN!**

As well as causing irritation & swelling where they bite, ticks can carry a variety of diseases.

**Redwater** is the most common tick-borne disease we see in cattle. It is very farm-specific: some will have lots of trouble, others will never see a case.

As the name suggests, the most definitive symptom is red/dark urine. Animals also become anaemic & weak.

There is a specific treatment, but it has very long withdrawals (213 days meat, 7 days milk). If the anaemia is severe, very occasionally a blood transfusion might be required.



**Tick fever** is occasionally seen in cattle locally. Animals are anaemic (pale & weak) but otherwise show no specific signs, however it can be diagnosed with simple in-house tests.

**Tick pyaemia** is very occasionally seen in lambs up to 3 months old. It causes abscesses throughout the body (muscles, joints, brain) and lameness/paralysis.

### **How can we prevent or treat tick-borne diseases?**

- Grazing first-season calves on “redwater ground” means they are more likely to become immune as adults; unlike most diseases, with redwater animals are more susceptible as adults than as calves!
- Redwater treatment can be given as a preventative dose, but its long withdrawals can be problematic.
- There is a redwater vaccine but it is not licensed and not always 100% effective – speak to one of the vets if you are interested
- Fly products containing cypermethrin or deltamethrin (e.g. Crovect, Spot-on) are licensed for ticks in sheep, so may have an effect in cattle too. The AHDB parasite control guide (available online) is a very useful tool

**REMEMBER, TICKS CAN ALSO CAUSE DISEASE IN PEOPLE, DOGS & CATS**  
Speak to a vet for advice on tick control in your farm dogs/cats

# HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WORM EGG COUNT SCHEME?

Our new scheme aims to make worm egg counts easy, convenient and cost-effective. Currently available for sheep flocks (and goat herds) of all sizes, as well as a separate alpaca scheme as specialised testing is more accurate for alpacas.

For any questions, prices or advice on which plan might be best for you, see our recent email or contact the practice.

## SHEEP & GOATS

### ALL INCLUSIVE

*Includes reminders, sample collection pack delivered to your door, return postage & laboratory fees.*



### DIY

*Includes reminders & laboratory fees.*

<p><b>GOLD</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Coproantigen</p>	<p><b>GOLD</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Coproantigen</p>
<p><b>SILVER</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Egg Count</p>	<p><b>SILVER</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Egg Count</p>
<p><b>BRONZE</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts</p>	<p><b>BRONZE</b> Includes: 6 x Pooled Worm Egg Counts</p>

We are offering a 15% reduction in any further worm egg count testing for anyone enrolled on the scheme. Further worm egg count testing may be required in flocks/herds that experience heavy worm burdens or may be necessary to establish resistance profiles on farm. Prices are based on a yearly subscription to the scheme.

### ALL INCLUSIVE

*Includes reminders, sample collection pack delivered to your door, return postage & laboratory fees.*



### DIY

*Includes reminders & laboratory fees.*

<p><b>GOLD</b> Includes: 4 x Individual Modified Stoll's Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Coproantigen</p>	<p><b>GOLD</b> Includes: 4 x Individual Modified Stoll's Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Coproantigen</p>
<p><b>SILVER</b> Includes: 4 x Individual Modified Stoll's Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Egg Count</p>	<p><b>SILVER</b> Includes: 4 x Individual Modified Stoll's Worm Egg Counts 1 x Pooled Liver Fluke Egg Count</p>
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## ALPACAS

We are offering a 15% reduction in any further worm egg count testing for anyone enrolled on the scheme. Further worm egg count testing may be required in herds that experience heavy worm burdens or may be necessary to establish resistance profiles on farm.

Prices are for 2 alpacas based on a yearly subscription to the scheme (a minimum of 2 alpacas are required to enrol onto this scheme). Each additional alpaca enrolled on to the scheme will incur the following fees: £57+VAT (All Inclusive) or £48+VAT (DIY) per alpaca per annum.

## MEDICINES NEWS



**Rimadyl** is an anti-inflammatory/painkiller for cattle. It has the advantage of ZERO milk withhold (like Dinalgen/Ketofen) but lasts for up to 3 days, reducing the need for daily injections. Meat withdrawal is 21 days.

It can be given under the skin or in the vein and is very useful for conditions where no antibiotics are used (such as lameness, hard calvings etc) to ensure milk can stay in the tank. It is also convenient for beef cattle as it's longer acting.

**Multimin** has an increased meat withdrawal of 28 days (previously 8 days), milk withdrawal is still zero.



## SMALLHOLDER NEWS



Don't forget fly control in your sheep & alpacas – flystrike season is well & truly here. Give us a call to order or speak to a vet for advice on product choice.

**\*\*\*CHECK OUT OUR WORM EGG COUNT SCHEMES ON PAGE 5!\*\*\***

### Skin conditions in sheep, goats & alpacas

If your animals are itching and losing hair, they may have parasites such as mites or lice.

**Lice** are relatively easy to treat, and depending on type will respond to a “spot-on” treatment or an injection.

**Mites** are more difficult to treat. There are several types e.g. Sarcoptes, Chorioptes, Psoroptes ovis (sheep scab) which might all require different treatments, such as repeat injections.

It is often hard to tell which parasite is causing the problem just by looking, so we will take skin scrapes to examine under the microscope to identify the cause and best treatment. There is also a blood test for sheep scab.

Whilst some mites live in the environment, many (especially sheep scab) are brought in by new animals, so quarantine measures – isolation & treatments – are essential; call us for advice.

