

Upcoming Courses

All of our training courses are open to any local farmers so please feel free to spread the word - there is no charge for any of the below meetings and you do not need to be a Wright & Morten client to attend!

Mastering Mastitis. Tuesday 13th August, 7.30pm at the Swettenham Club in our popular 'round the tables' format. All welcome, please ring 01477 571000 to book a place. Food provided!

How Could Genomics Make My Cows Healthier? Tuesday 10th September, evening meeting at Holly Tree Farm. Further details to follow but please phone the office to register an interest.

Dairy farmers; are you achieving maximum potential from your replacement heifers? We are having a meeting on the evening of **Tuesday 1st October** at Macclesfield Rugby Club with pie and chips included! Ring the office on 01477 571000 to book your place.

Action Johnes



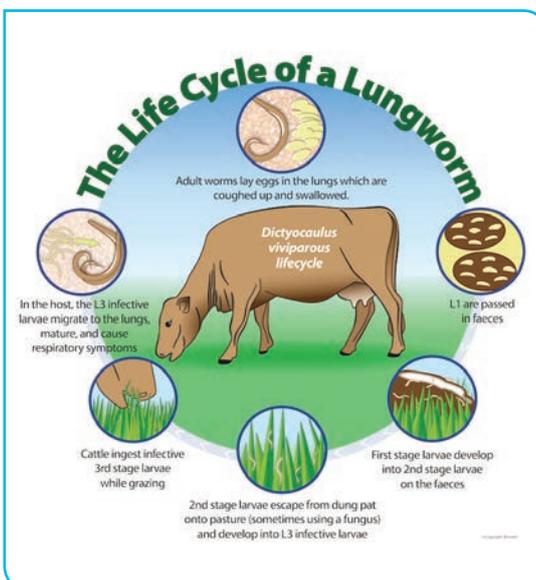
Phase two of the National Johnes's Management Plan for dairy herds is now well underway and all dairy herds will need to have a signed veterinary declaration by 31st October this year. The declaration confirms that you have reassessed

your Johnes risk and status within the last 12 months and reviewed your Johnes's management with one of our vets. It also confirms that you are implementing the correct protocols to adhere to the plan. If you have not completed a Johnes's declaration this year then please get in touch to arrange an appointment with one of our vets.

Look Out For Lungworm

As summer progresses the risk of lungworm increases. Disease is most commonly seen in youngstock during their first season at grass, however it can also be seen in older animals particularly where they have not had the chance to develop any immunity or their immunity has waned- examples of this include freshly calved heifers moving to a new farm, or older animals being grazed on pasture that has been used for youngstock.

The first sign of disease is a dry cough, particularly noticeable when animals are being moved. Disease can progress rapidly so seek advice promptly if you are concerned.



Teaser Tups



Sheep farmers, are you considering using a teaser tup this year? Used correctly teasers are a simple and effective way to synchronise your ewes giving you a compact lambing period that will make management of both ewes and lambs simpler and more efficient.

The best animals to use to make a teaser ram are shearing rams, alternatively ram lambs can be used but they must be well grown. We recommend that the surgery is carried out at least 8 weeks before you are planning to use your teaser meaning that for many flocks now is the ideal time. For more information or to book an appointment please contact the office.

Cheshire Farms Competition

It was wonderful to see so many of our clients represented amongst the winners of the Cheshire County Farms Competition this year. Congratulations to Ian Norbury on Reserve Champion, also to Roger and Julie Egglestone, Graham Parks, Worth Partners, C. Royle and Son and C.W. Shenton.

Product News

Both Toxovax and Cevac Chlamydia are now available to order through the office. Remember that the latest you can vaccinate ewes is four weeks prior to tugging, however they can be vaccinated upto four months prior to tugging. Ewe lambs must be at least five months of age when they are vaccinated. We are currently offering a 5% discount on all Toxovax ordered by 31st August, for more information please ring the office and speak to Rachael.



Lameness in Sheep



July was 'Lameness Month' - yes there really is such a thing! We still see and hear of too many lame sheep, and see too much antibiotic going out of the door for use on lame sheep. Whilst treating lame sheep with antibiotic is of course the best thing to do, we should all be working to reduce the amount of treatments needed and the number of lame sheep overall. In 2011, the government FAWC (Farm Animal Welfare Committee) set a target to reduce lameness to 5% by 2016, and 2% by 2021. That means that by the end of next year, you should all be aiming for no more than 2 out of every 100 sheep to be lame

on your farm, does that sound achievable? That means any level of lame - not just the crippled ones!

Alongside this push to reduce lameness, a control plan was developed by FAI and MSD Animal Health, to highlight the risk factors on individual farms which could lead to increased lameness levels. This is known as the 'Five Point Plan' and was adopted as the industry's way to tackle lameness. It focuses on the 3 main factors that help reduce lameness - Building resilience, establishing immunity and reducing the disease challenge, which are broken into 5 key areas, as shown in the image.

Building resilience

It is well known that there are breeds which tend to suffer more frequently with foot-rot, it is also common to find that a family line is more susceptible. With this in mind, we try to build resilience using culling. By removing repeat offenders that are lame more than twice, we hope to breed a more robust sheep which is less likely to contract scald/foot-rot.

Establish Immunity

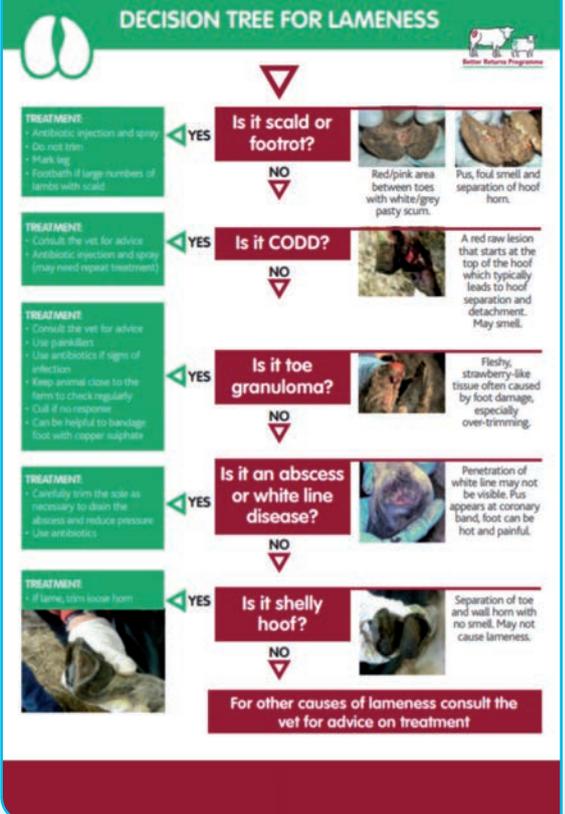
At the moment, we only have one vaccine for lameness in sheep - Footvax. This vaccine develops immunity against *Dichelobacter Nodosus*, the bug responsible for Scald and Footrot. Used correctly and at the right time, this can drastically reduce the number of lame sheep at high risk times e.g. housing.

Reducing Disease Challenge

Prompt AND correct treatment, isolation of affected animals, quarantine of incoming stock... These are all ways to reduce the disease challenge on your farm. Incoming stock (e.g. tupes, replacements, stock coming back from wintering) should all be isolated from the rest of the flock for 3 weeks before mixing. Any lame ones should be identified and treated as required.

Foot bathing also allows for chance to reduce lameness - however it can also increase lameness if done badly. Formalin in particular is inactivated when contaminated with muck so you need to ensure the footbath is clean and refilled as required. Always follow the instructions on a product to get the best results. Most require a clean, dry, hard standing for sheep to stand and allow feet to dry post-bathing. If you can't do foot-bathing properly, it is probably best not done at all as it just offers a chance for infection to spread even more rapidly.

It is also important to ensure you are treating the correct condition - in the case of CODD, the treatment used for Foot rot does not generally work. It can be useful to seek an opinion from one of our vets to double check you are dealing with the condition you think you are!



For his sins, Matt recently became a 'Lameness Advisor', trained to go through the 5-point plan with you and to highlight the areas you could improve. It isn't a long process; it just requires answering a few yes or no questions which highlight the problem areas and then discussing the results and what changes can be made. If its something you'd be interested in looking at, just give the practice a ring (01477 571000 / 01663 732564), or get in touch with Matt on 07816 440306.



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