

## CLEVEDALE FARM NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

**B**ovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV) continues to be a steady source of problems on farms that do not vaccinate, with substantial losses being experienced. It is not just the prevention of pregnancy loss which is targeted but also the prevention of Persistently Infected calves, otherwise known as "PI's". These "PI's" are calves born from dams which were infected in the first three months of their pregnancy but which did not abort – although the dam produces antibodies and subsequently becomes immune, the calf is unable to do so and becomes infected for life, churning out vast quantities of virus into its surroundings after it is born. These PI calves often fail to thrive and indeed most die in the first year or two of life after a short illness; they may also cause other calves in the group to become ill. In the last year we have seen several farms suffer with the problems just described and the **message continues to be to vaccinate all breeding stock if not already doing so.**  
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### Flock Health Planning

In November, a meeting was held at Hall Farm, Kildale, courtesy of Messrs Proudley, in association with ADAS, to discuss Sheep Flock Health Planning. The first of three meetings, the idea was to bring together a group of sheep farmers to discuss issues impacting on the health and productivity of flocks. After an introduction by Odelle Walker of ADAS, we were given an insight into the farming practices

at Hall Farm, including a look at the Easycare sheep now being farmed there, as well as a quick look at the herd of pedigree Luing cattle. Kate Philipps, a sheep specialist from ADAS, gave us an informative talk on minerals after which specialist sheep vet Paul Roger discussed the causes of lameness and its control.

The second of these meetings is to be on **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June** where a "post-lambing" follow-up discussion will take place. The topics to be covered will include parasite control (worms, cocci, scab, fluke) but it will be an open discussion and farmers attending will be encouraged to raise any issue of concern to them and benefit from the presence of a sheep specialist. Anyone interested in coming along who was unable to attend the first meeting should contact Andy Barber at the surgery.

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Many thanks again to all of our clients for your generous sponsorship of Andrew Knox's *Lands End to John O Groats* cycle last summer. Over £3,000 was raised for charity.

This year Andrew is taking part in another fundraising event – a circular challenge walk of 100km (62.5 miles) in the Yorkshire Dales which must be completed within 30 hours, although Andrew hopes to finish inside 24 hours. The charity this time is Oxfam who have done so much great work recently, particularly following the terrible earthquake in Haiti. Anyone able to help with sponsorship should contact Andrew directly

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*Finally, I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing our vet Kirsty the very best for her forthcoming marriage in May. Kirsty joined us in February 2009 and quickly made herself an important member of our team but, unfortunately for us, she decided to accept Alistair's (not our vet Alistair Love!) proposal and so will be leaving us in June. We will certainly miss her but wish her a wonderful future together with Alistair.*