

Hello and welcome to the June Newsletter.

Thankfully, the weather improved dramatically in May – after what seemed like months of rain, the sun has been out constantly for a few weeks now – and we could do with a few showers!! At least you have all had the opportunity to get on with some silage and planting.

The sudden warm weather has led to more than usual cases of fly strike being presented to us – coupled with the sudden demand for shearers, creating a backlog. Watch out!

Sadly, we are losing Dom this month – he has been with us for nearly 2 years and has decided to go travelling – Europe over the summer and then over to New Zealand for an extended working holiday. We hope he has an excellent trip and thank him for all his hard work.

We have made the difficult decision this year to not have our usual stand at the Vale Show, for a few different reasons. We are however supporting the show through sponsorship, I will be there as the honorary vet, Rhian will be showing sheep and Morgan will be attending all day. In lieu of the expense, we will be making a substantial donation to Velindre—unfortunately few of us are untouched by their services.

Later in the newsletter Russell reports on his meeting last month about minerals and trace element – more about ‘mineral audits’, see below. Tom has written about jobs for June – this year we are doing a drop and collect vasectomy day on 26th June – worth getting this sorted out now.

Hope the sun keeps shining and that you have a productive month.

Mary

June Newsletter

After a recent trip to a local garden centre (I've definitely embraced my 30s!) they had a billboard with gardening tasks for the month ahead. Stealing this idea read on for potential tasks and thoughts for the month of June:

Sheep Jobs for June

Weaning weights: Lamb weight at weaning is a great indicator of lambing issues and how well their mother performed in milkiness. Recording which ewes reared lambs well will help with cull decisions. Likewise a weaning weight will give you great information for daily live weight gains through the summer.

Worm egg counts: Monitoring egg counts will aid timings and selection of worming products. Previous dry summers have had low counts in growing lambs so monitoring egg counts may save you a worming job this June.

Teaser tups: Utilisation of vasectomised rams can help tighten up lambing periods plus are very useful when carrying out advanced breeding work. Ideally they need to be created 6-8 weeks before use. We are holding a Teaser operating day at the practice on the **26th June** (£80+VAT including medication), please call the office to book your place.

Directors:

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Enzovax and Toxovax: Previous years there have been vaccination shortages when the mad rush to vaccinate descends pre-tupping. Once you know your vaccine requirements order them in advance. Bear in mind ewe lambs can be vaccinated from 5 months of age and its advised to vaccinate yearlings in the 4 months before tupping (no closer than 4 weeks before mating).

Fly treatment: Flystrike season is truly upon us. Shearing and reducing scour will aid prevention however the use of cypermethrin (Crovect), diazinon (Golden Fleece dip) and dicyclanil (CLiK) are recommended.

Scab: Gwaredu Scab is now live. This is a Welsh Government funded scheme to promptly identify and treat cases of scab, **free of charge** to farmers. More information on sheep scab to follow in July's newsletter, but contact us if you are concerned re itchy sheep.

Cattle Jobs for June

Fly control: Spot on treatments (deltamethrin) for preventing flies will help reduce spread of New Forest eye conditions and Summer mastitis, as well as reducing production issues associated with high fly numbers.

Faecal egg counts/lungworm: Monitoring DLWG over the grazing season is key for performance. In youngstock, worm egg counts can help monitor burdens and time treatments, plus we can also monitor for lungworm presence before issues present themselves.



Shed hygiene: With sheds now empty a full shed clean and disinfection will put you in good stead ahead of next year. Diseases like coccidiosis and ringworm can survive in sheds for prolonged periods. Using a steam pressure washer and an appropriate disinfectant will reduce the environmental load.



Advanced Small Ruminant Breeding

Our diary is now open for the upcoming advanced breeding season. Call Tom at the office to discuss your needs and reserve your dates for AI, embryo work and semen freezing.

This month's author was Tom



Mineral audits

- It's not all about minerals – we have to get energy and protein supply right first
- Testing forages is the best way to start
- We need to look at mineral supply from boluses, drenches etc.
- Non-mains water should also be checked
- Where we suspect deficiency, this can be confirmed by testing the livestock
- We look at the total mineral supply throughout the year, and compare it with requirements
- From there, supplements can be targeted
- There will be a farmer meeting on mineral audits sometime soon – watch this space for information

Office opening hours

Monday – Friday (Except Bank Holidays)

8.30am - 5.30pm

Emergency out of hours service

Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am

Saturday & Sunday all day