

## Our Team



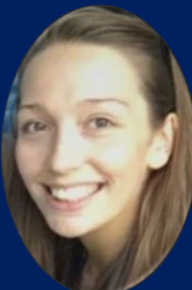
Mary Walters



Rhian Matthews



Clive Moynan



Morgan Richards



Tom Searle

## Living And Working In Your Community

May 2019

Hello and welcome to the May Newsletter. I hope you all had a very Happy Easter – especially enjoying the very kind weather over that weekend in particular.

Lambing is drying up slowly, calving has really kicked in – leading to some exceptionally busy weekends and nights for us. Just as well we all enjoy it!

Due to the higher than normal emergency workload, we are struggling a little to keep to all of our appointment times. Most of us leave home or the office in the morning with a long list of calls and timings, and we do our best to keep to these.

TB testing is a part of all of our lives and it is here to stay for the moment. We try to share our testing duties out equally and fairly between all of us and try to accommodate you with your choice of testing dates and times. You may be surprised to know that we are paid approximately £1.85 per animal per test (shared across both days) and £40 per test travelling expenses (all journeys). So a 60 cow test yields £150 over the two days – whilst the time it takes varies enormously. It is an important part of our job and I think it is important that it remains a job that your private veterinary surgeon does rather than being subbed out to lay testers or someone who does not know you or your farm. It is an important opportunity for us to see every animal on your farm and talk about any aspects of disease and management, or just catch up on how you and your family are and refresh our friendships. It would help us enormously if you could be ready for us when we arrive – set-ups set up, animals in from the fields, personnel present. We all appreciate the unpredictability of our jobs – we try to let you know if we are going to be late, please let us know if unforeseen circumstances mean you will not be ready.

Let's hope the weather holds up for good silaging, and the odd barbeque!

Mary

### Growing Lambs

As lambing is winding down, our focus turns to ensuring they grow, so how do we go about efficiently achieving this?

The importance of a good start cannot be overemphasised; preweaning performance can be considered the most important phase of lamb growth with the potential to achieve the biggest daily liveweight gains (DLWGs) in lamb production. Maintenance requirements are low when lambs are small (energy required for day to day function) while ewe milk is the most energy-dense substance that lambs consume, meaning lactation is the easiest, most efficient growth time.

Peak milk yield in ewes occurs two to four weeks post-lambing, with nutrition requirements far exceeding that of pregnant ewes. Soon the requirements of the lamb begin to exceed the ewe's milk production. From 4-6 weeks old lambs begin to graze and from 8 weeks old their energy intake is greater from grass than milk. Pasture quality therefore has a double whammy effect on lamb growth from this stage, affecting both ewe milk production and energy available to the lamb through grazing.

Regular weighing of lambs is important to assess DLWG so that targets can be set, assessed and groups underperforming can be identified, and therefore treated, early reducing losses. Table 1 shows suggested target DLWGs.

Continued PTO



Sian Fuller



Russell Fuller



Rachel Davies



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

Table 1: Suggested target daily liveweight gains (DLWGs)

Parameter	Target	What is possible	Commonly achieved
Pre-weaning DLWG	300g/day	500g/day (e.g. single male lamb with milky mother)	< 200g/day
Post-weaning DLWG	200g/day	350g/day (e.g. clover & grass ley grazed at optimum efficiency)	<100g/day

Energy restriction of the lamb can have significant negative effect on growth with ongoing effects depending on the stage of development. If restricted before 30% maturity, key organs such as the liver and intestine are smaller and the capacity of muscles to reach mature size is reduced leading to more fat and a poorer carcass grade. Any disease process that reduces feed intakes or the lamb's ability to utilise the feed can cause energy restriction.

To discuss every possible cause would lead to an exceptionally long article, whilst the treatment and prevention of these conditions are farm and flock dependent. Table 2 is a summary of the main diseases affecting lamb DLWG.

Table 2: Diseases affecting lamb growth

Disease	Timing	Signs	Treatment	Prevention
<i>Nematodirus battus</i>	Prewearing, lambs 6-12 weeks old	Sudden onset, lethargy, scour, sudden death	White wormer – may need to be repeated.	NADIS forecast, grazing management and flock history
Coccidia	Prewearing, lambs 4-8 weeks old	Scour, fever, loss of appetite, straining	Multiple options, discuss with vet	Grazing/flock management
Orf	Anytime	Scabs around mouth, reduced feeding	Symptomatic	Vaccine
Lameness	Anytime	Increased lameness and lying time	Depends on cause, antibiotic injection or spray (pain relief?)	Lameness control plan, vaccine for footrot
Worms	Anytime	Scour, reduced wool quality and appetite	Wormer – group depends on farm and other factors	Grazing management, flock health planning
Trace element deficiencies	Anytime	Depend on deficiency, include: illthrift, poor coat quality, white muscle disease, anaemia, sway-back, scabby ears	Drench, injection or bolus	Drench, injection or bolus

If you think any of these could be affecting your flock, contact the surgery to get an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment advice. There is currently funding available to Farming Connect registered farms to aid with this.

### Calf Rearing Meeting

The long awaited Calf rearing meeting has been confirmed. We will be presenting an interactive farm walk based meeting discussing the rearing of milk fed calves, both dairy and beef cross systems.

Location: Sutton Newydd Farm, Wick

Date: 13th June

Time to be confirmed just contact the practice to register your interest.



### Cows on tour

Good luck to the guys at Cows on Tour as they take on the Snowdon Challenge, trekking their livestock up the Llanberis route to the top of Snowdon. Here's hoping for good weather.

"May the fourth be with you"

