

February 2026 Newsletter

START THINKING ABOUT ORDERING HUSKVAC

Lungworm vaccination at a glance

- **Timing** - two doses given **four weeks apart, before turnout**
- **Age**– calves must be over **eight weeks** of age and **older** at the **first dose**
- **Protection** - builds natural immunity before exposure to **lungworm** on pasture
- **Economic impact** - Outbreaks can cost **£50-£140 per affected cow**, with daily milk losses of up to **4kg/cow**
- **Sustainability**– Reduces need for wormers and helps protect against anthelmintic resistance.



PRACTICAL LAMBING COURSE WEDS 18th FEB 1:00pm

This event is **FREE** to 'Sheep and Goat Club Members', £30 + VAT to Non- member clients and £50+ VAT to non-clients.

Where? Lane Farm, Dommett, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JN

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Please call any of our branches to book your place OR to sign up to become a 'Sheep and Goat Club Member' 01278 663399

ENERGY FOR EWES MEETING - FREE TO ATTEND

An introduction to the **Commercial Flock Club**, this free meeting will give an overview of the **FVSW CFC**. Topics covered include: Twin lamb disease- prevention and treatment strategies, using Nimrod including discussion of Selekt Re-Ewe-Venate.

Forage Analysis: Understanding results, key ranges, and practical application, presented by David Taylor B Vetmed, MRCVS Dip RN.

Nobacz - new product update: review of recently launched naval dip with strong evidence showing positive impacts on lamb mortality and growth rates.

Where? - Manor Farm, Stawell, Brdigwater, TA7 9AD.

When? Tuesday 17th February

Time: 2:30pm

Please phone us on 01278 66 33 99, OR email us on office@thefarmvets.co.uk to book onto the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there!



PNEUMONIA MEETING KEY POINTS

Monitoring Pneumonia outbreaks

qTUS is a technique that utilises an ultrasound scanner to identify lesions in the lungs, allowing farmers to sell/remove problem cattle earlier, identify calves with pneumonia before clinical signs appear, and scan arriving stock to separate those at risk of spreading infection.

Research indicates that at any one time around 30% of calves are suffering with pneumonia, of these only 11-16% show any clinical signs. While up to 90% of calves without clinical signs will have lung lesions visible on ultrasound, this positions qTUS as the best method for detecting pneumonia in a group of calves.

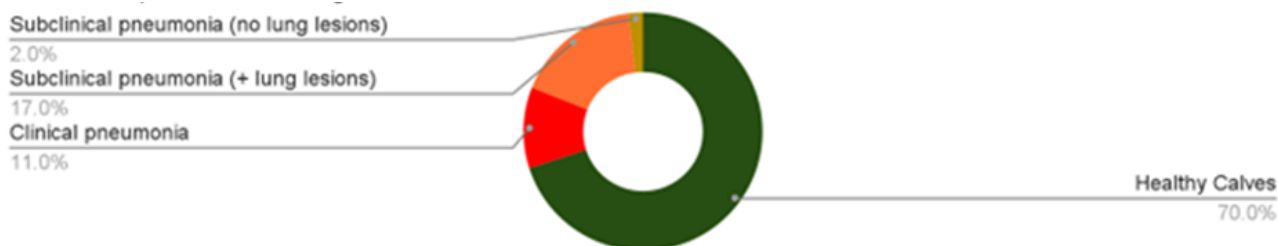
Cost of pneumonia - In a 2016 study, calves were scanned and weighed between 5 and 56 days, those that had lesions detected on qTUS gained on average 9kg less than calves without lesions at 163 days old. Over the course of their life a beef calf with lung damage from birth will gain around 100g less per day from birth to slaughter, while those with severe disease can gain up to 202g/day less.

Accounting for cost of treatment and carcass losses, the cost of a single moderate pneumonia case has been put as high as £1117, and a severe case £243. On top of this a heifer with lung lesions in the first week of life will produce on average 4% less milk in the first lactation and 8% less in the second, contributing to a lifelong cost of around £1000.

Benefits of qTUS

Better cure rate with early treatment, reduced ongoing costs of pneumonia, identification of problems early on (especially subclinical outbreaks)

Can uncover cases that would have never been noticed - justifying vaccination.



FVSW Vet Chiara is a qualified qTUS scanner - phone the office, or Chiara to discuss qTUS or to book in an appointment.

Thank you for attending our Lameness Meeting

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our clients who attended the dairy cattle lameness meeting on Tuesday 27th January. Your commitment to improving herd health was especially appreciated given the challenging conditions, with many of you travelling despite the ongoing floods. Your support and engagement made the meeting a real success.



A special thank you goes to Wouter Germis, who travelled from Belgium on behalf of Kela to deliver an informative and thought-provoking presentation on lameness in dairy cattle. His insights and practical experience added great value to the discussion and were very well received.

One of the key take-home messages from the talk was the importance of early and effective pain management in lame cows. In particular, the cost-benefit analysis of kelopropfen and other NSAIDs clearly demonstrated that appropriate use of these treatments not only improves animal welfare but also makes strong economic sense through faster recovery, improved mobility, and reduced produc-

Thank you again to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve lameness management and overall herd performance.