

June 2025 Farm Newsletter

Ovacyte machine and FEC

While the weather allowing early turnout has kept lots of illness at bay this year, unfortunately it has led to a massive spike in parasite problems. Throughout summer, we would ideally test a sample from each management group every 3 weeks, as this is the lifecycle length of the strongyle species, to allow for early treatment if needed. If clinical signs are seen, a test should always be performed to identify the species of worm, so targeted treatment can be applied.

The nematodirus forecast should be closely watched over the next few months, as we head into likely high risk periods. This will help you assess the level of risk and decide if you need to take action to reduce the effects on your flock:

<https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/>

We often see treatment 'failure' at this time of year when coccidiosis is mixed up with nematodirus and the wrong treatment is given. As these two parasites cause such similar clinical signs, a faecal egg count is the simplest way to differentiate and avoid unnecessary treatment.

This is also a good time to check ewes for overwintered fluke, especially as we are seeing increasing cases of rumen fluke causing clinical signs.

Finally, the warm weather will increase the haemonchus risk, so its advised to start inspecting the conjunctivae using the 'FAMACHA' assessment system if you have any concerns: <https://wormboss.com.au/famacha/> this will allow targeted treatment.

Included in this issue:

- Upcoming farming connect talks
- Faecal Egg Counts
- Trace elements
- TB Roadshow



The poster features a teal background. At the top left is a logo with a stylized 'iD' and the text 'TB Roadshow'. To the right is a circular logo with a cow silhouette and the text 'Pembroke Project'. Below these is a photograph of three black and white cows in a field. The text 'Pembroke Project' is written in white below the photo. Further down, the text 'Giving back control of bovine tb to farmers & vets' is written in white. At the bottom, the text 'Tuesday 17th June 7pm' and 'International Pavillion RWAS, Bwlth Wells' is written in white.

TB Roadshow
Pembroke Project

Giving back control of
bovine tb to farmers
& vets

Tuesday 17th June 7pm
International Pavillion RWAS,
Bwlth Wells

Trace element deficiencies

After a couple of years of poor weather, we are seeing an increasing amount of trace element deficiencies coming back. This is just a brief reminder of some of the signs to look out for, if you have any concerns, speak to a vet.

Sheep

Copper deficiencies are commonly suspected if lambs are born with signs of swayback (such as ascending paralysis and a wobbly gait) or the growing lambs have poor fleece without its crimp. This is best diagnosed using blood samples. Selenium/vitamin E deficiency is often seen when feeding home-grown cereals and root crops, and the fastest growing lambs will often be affected first. This is usually diagnosed on clinical signs and response to treatment.

Cobalt deficiency is rare until late summer/autumn, and usually seen in combination with severe parasite burdens. Weaned lambs are often lethargic, with reduced appetite, poor wool quality and poor BCS. Diagnosis is best made by blood sample or a supplementation trial.

Cattle

Copper deficiency is often seen in poorly growing youngstock, with de-pigmentation around the ear margins and eyes in particular. Lameness and diarrhoea can also be seen. Reduced fertility may also be seen in the heifers. Blood sampling will give a good indication of any deficiency.

Selenium/vitamin E deficiency can be seen in the form of weak calves that do poorly from birth, or as a delayed form, that can show as a sudden stiffness and inability to stand, respiratory signs or sudden death

Hafren Veterinary Group

Newtown

01686 625344

Llanidloes

01686 413475

Knighton

01547 528292

Cross Gates

01597 851500



New Staff

We're happy to welcome Jon Cunningham to our Knighton branch.

Jon graduated from the University of Zaragoza in 2022, having enjoyed lots of mixed practice placements on the way. He started work at a small animal hospital in the Basque Country for two years, before moving to the UK. He started his UK work at a small animal referral hospital on the East Coast, so we're looking forward to him bringing his expertise to Hafren. Jon enjoys surgery in particular, but is looking forward to getting out on more farms soon.

Sheep abortion vaccines

MSD animal health are running their free Flock Check testing until the end of June for toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion. All we need is 6-8 **unvaccinated** barren ewes to be blood sampled. Remember ewes can be vaccinated from 4 months to 3 weeks before tupping, so if you vaccinate early you can avoid the vaccine shortages in the late Autumn.



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Farming Connect Summer Update

Animal Health Testing and Advice with your Vets

Up to 70% funding available on most vet advice and testing. Testing can include, but not limited to the following:

- Blood Testing – Trace Elements, Metabolic Profiling, Johnes
- FEC
- Ram or Bull Fertility
- Calf Health Review
- Breeding Review

*Testing will need to take place before the end of December 2025. Be sure to use the funding available before then.

Funding For Training Courses

Up to 80% funding available on various training courses, see full list on the Farming Connect Website. Here are some popular courses, dates are available upon request:

Machinery: ATV, Telehandler, Pesticides, Chainsaw

Livestock: Shearing, Wool Handling, DIY AI, Cattle and Sheep Scanning, Safe use of Sheep Dip, Safe use of Veterinary Med, Body Condition Scoring, Calf Management, Rodent Management

Business: Bookkeeping, VAT and MTD, Understanding your accounts, Emergency First Aid, Food Safety, Health and Safety, Social Media On Farm

EID Technical Advice

Do you have any EID equipment on farm that don't seem to connect? Do you want some advice on how to best use your on farm equipment? Get in touch now, we can arrange a free on farm visit to discuss your requirements!

One to One Advice on the following topics:

Grassland Management, Soils, Business Planning, Diversification, Marketing, Nutrition, Animal Health, Legal, Succession, Renewable Energy, Woodland

Upcoming Events:

- The Forage Advantage: Boosting Lamb Performance at Treforgan Farm, June 5th, 14:00pm
- Powering Your Future with technology and renewable energy – What is the real return on investment? Llanerfyl, June 18th, 11:00am

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