



Welcome Lewis!

Many of you will have already seen Lewis out and about on farm. He joined us in January and has been a great addition to the team.

Originally from Cornwall, Lewis started his career there working as a farm vet close to his family beef and sheep farm following graduating from the Royal Veterinary College in 2024.

Lewis has a varied interest in all aspects of ruminant health but particularly enjoy surgery and fertility. He also enjoys a difficult but rewarding calving!

When not out on farm, Lewis enjoys being outdoors with his dog, Koda and is enjoying getting involved with the local rugby club!



Congratulations to Harriet and Louis

At the start of February, Harriet and her partner Louis welcomed a baby boy, Freddie Thomas Aylesbury. Mum and baby are both doing well and are enjoying settling in at home.

It didn't take long for Freddie to be properly introduced to farm life... he has already been helping at TB testing!

Congratulations to you both.



Dispensary Update

✓ BACK IN STOCK



Blackleg vaccine

Is back in stock with good availability.



Synulox Lactating Cow Tubes

Are back in stock with good availability.



Leptospirosis vaccines

Spirovac is back in stock with good availability.

! ALTERNATIVES

Vetrimoxin LA

Is currently out of stock. However, **Citramox LA** is available as a suitable alternative (withdrawal times will remain the same).

Betamox

After months of unavailability, we finally have **RedyMox** as an alternative.

Withdrawal times:



Cattle: 18 days (meat)
24 hours (milk)



Sheep:
10 days (meat)



Pig:
16 days (meat)





Proactive Farmers Update



Skittles league

At the start of March, we wrapped up our 2026 Skittles League for our Proactive Farmers. It has been a fantastic few months, and we have really enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with everyone off farm.

A huge congratulations to this year's winners, "Misfits," who bowled their way to a well-earned victory. And a big well done to our runners-up, "Dairy is Better Than Beef." Although on this occasion, it seems beef may just have had the upper hand!

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the league so enjoyable. We are already looking forward to next year and seeing who will take the title in 2027.

Bestico Biological Fly Control

With summer approaching, now is the ideal time to start thinking about fly control before populations build. Flies are not only a nuisance but can also impact livestock health, welfare and productivity, as well as spread disease.

Over the past two years, we have seen good results on farms using biological fly control, with a noticeable reduction in fly numbers when used alongside conventional products.

As every farm is different, effective control often needs a tailored approach depending on housing, muck management and stocking density. If you would like to discuss biological fly control this season, please contact the practice to arrange a plan suited to your farm.

Post-Mortem Course With Ben Strugnell

At the end of March, we were delighted to welcome Ben Strugnell, from Farm Post Mortems Ltd, who travelled down from County Durham to deliver a full day of training for both our vets and clients.

Throughout the day, our vets had the opportunity to refresh and develop their post-mortem skills, with a particular focus on recognising key gross pathological changes to support more confident and definitive diagnoses in the field.

In the evening, we hosted a client-focused session which highlighted the real value of carrying out on-farm post-mortems. Ben discussed the practical benefits, what can realistically be identified and how findings can be used to inform decisions and tackle herd-level health issues.

The day was a great success, with excellent feedback and plenty of practical knowledge gained by all involved.



Worm Egg Count Collection Service and Wormers

Our worm egg count collection service has now started for this season, helping to take the hassle out of parasite monitoring. This service offers **FREE** dung sample collection, with our vet techs coordinating regular visits throughout the grazing season - so there is no need to remember when to sample or organise it yourself.

Samples are analysed in-house at the practice, with full interpretation of results provided, along with tailored advice on whether treatment is needed and which products to use. We also stock a range of competitively priced wormers, ensuring you have easy access to the right products when needed. **Please contact the office if you would like to sign your farm up for regular collections.**

Bluetongue Update

Recently, we hosted a Bluetongue Q&A Session. A session, for those who were unable to attend, our current advice remains to vaccinate. We recommend ensuring animals are fully protected at least three weeks before the anticipated risk period (early June). This applies both to animals requiring a booster (if vaccinated last year) and to those starting a vaccination programme this season.

Please see the latest guidance from APHA or contact the practice if you would like to discuss a plan for your herd.

Riddle Time...

What can fill a room but takes up no space?

Light

Useless Fact...

A group of porcupines is called a prickle.

Spring Turnout Considerations

With spring upon us after a wet winter, turnout is something many of you are looking forward to. While grazing brings clear benefits, poor preparation can quickly lead to avoidable problems. Planning ahead is key to making this transition a success. Preparation will vary between farms depending on grazing systems, stocking density, disease history and weather. However, most farms will encounter at least some of the common challenges outlined below.

Gastrointestinal worms

Turnout is an ideal time to review your worm control strategy. Monitoring through faecal egg counts can help guide treatment decisions, avoid unnecessary dosing and reduce production losses.

Lungworm

Lungworm often reappears at turnout, particularly in naïve animals without prior exposure. Signs include coughing and respiratory distress. If you experience issues with lungworm this grazing season, vaccination (e.g. Huskvac) could be considered in the future, administered 6 weeks before turnout.

Hypomagnesaemia

Lush spring grass is low in magnesium, increasing the risk of staggers. Affected cows may be down and trembling and require urgent veterinary attention. Preventative measures include magnesium supplementation through licks and flakes in water and monitoring at risk groups through blood samples.

Toxicoses

Poisoning at turnout is common but largely preventable. Check fields in advance and remove hazards such as:

- Ragwort
- Bracken
- Yew
- Acorns
- Water dropwort
- Lead batteries

An animal that has been poisoned can present in any number of ways and can start as something as subtle as being inappetent.

Blackleg

This clostridial disease is often seen after turnout, especially on disturbed ground. Animals are frequently found dead with few prior signs. Vaccination is the most effective control, as treatment is rarely successful.

Management

Diagnosis is based on oocyst counts, but high counts do not always indicate disease, therefore speciation is recommended. Treatment includes anti-coccidials such as toltrazuril or diclazuril.

Oocysts are very resilient and can survive on pasture and in buildings for long periods, including over winter - avoid previously contaminated areas where possible.

Coccidiosis can be difficult to eliminate once established, but good management and planning can significantly reduce its impact. Please contact the office for further advice.

Dates For The Diary



Calf Pneumonia: Prevention, Performance and Practical Vaccination Choices - Tuesday 12th May

A farm walk with Georgina and Emily, in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim, discussing when vaccination is likely to add value, how to choose between products and how to build a programme that fits your farm system.

Bluetongue dispensing day - Wednesday 20th May

Katie will be organising another Bluetongue vaccine dispensing day for those with smaller herds/flocks wishing to share bottles. Get in touch with the office if you would like to be included.

Cattle Foot Trimming Course - Wednesday 24th - Thursday 25th June

Join BCVA cattle hoof trimmer and mobility mentor James Ryder and NACFT accredited foot trimmer Rob Tood for a two day course aimed at beginners to gain a solid understanding of cattle foot trimming.

Farmers BBQ - Wednesday 15th July

Join us at the practice from 7pm onwards for our annual Summer BBQ.



Coccidiosis in Pre-Weaned Lambs

As lambing begins to slow, it is important to remain vigilant for coccidiosis. Lambs aged 4-8 weeks are most at risk. The disease is caused by a protozoal parasite picked up from contaminated pasture or bedding, with disease occurring when exposure is high before immunity develops. Risk is increased by stress, poor nutrition, concurrent worm burdens (e.g. nematodirus), and cold, wet conditions.

What to look out for

Dull, tucked-up lambs

Poor growth or weight loss

Diarrhoea (often with mucus or blood)

Straining

In severe cases: sudden death

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