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Issue 10



Tarff Valley Ltd

Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

Newsletter



Well done to our grain trader, Philip Broatch, who, along with 50 other men, had his legs waxed for charity. The money raised will be going to CLIC Sargent which helps support families dealing with childhood cancer.

Our Dumfries store is now taking orders for seasonal Christmas hampers.

The hampers are made up from a selection of products sold in the store – or choose your own contents. Prices start from £5. Competitively priced, they make excellent Christmas gifts!



Final total for the Great Glen Girls, raising funds for RSABI, is £2103.



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Preliminary Liver Fluke Forecast, South West Scotland 2017

SAC Consulting has put together a fluke forecast for the South West of Scotland. The information below compares 2012 and 2017 rainfall data by area for the May to July period. 2012 was selected for comparison as a baseline 'wet year'. The Scotland West area has seen more wet days than in 2012. The Dumfries, England North West and North Wales figures are slightly drier than in 2012.



May to July rainfall data 2012 and 2017

	Wet days ≥ 1mm rain 2012 (Total rainfall ml)			Wet days ≥ 1mm rain 2017 (Total rainfall ml)		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Dumfries (SRUC Crichton)	9 (69.6)	17 (171.6)	19 (128.4)	7 (48.9)	15 (163)	14 (120.5)
Scotland West*	10.5 (82)	15.9 (175.6)	18.6 (158.2)	11.3 (71)	18.7 (189.4)	18.9 (150.4)
England NW/N Wales*	9.7 (77.6)	18 (205.4)	18.3 (142.1)	9.6 (59.7)	14.9 (143.4)	17.7 (133)

* Met. Office regions.

See www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/datasets

Overall, the data points towards a high risk of liver fluke this Autumn. Below, Elanco have put together ten top tips to consider for effective liver fluke control.



Take the 'Whole Farm' approach.

Reduce snail habitats wherever possible.

Maintain ditches and drains, repair leaky water troughs & minimize poaching around troughs & gateways - mud snails thrive in poached areas.

Avoid high risk grazing wherever possible.

Areas with high snail habitats are high risk in late Autumn & Winter. Avoid grazing high risk fields.

Quarantine treatments for incoming stock.

Don't buy in liver fluke (or resistant liver fluke) if you don't already have them. Always follow SCOPs guidelines.

Get the basics right! Know your animals, weigh them & calibrate dosing equipment to make sure every animal receives the correct dose for body weight.

Know which actives kill which stages of fluke in the liver. Ask your vet or SQP.

Use the right active for the right stages of fluke at the right time.

Aim to use a different active for early, mid and late season treatments to avoid over reliance on any single active, and reduce the risk of developing resistance.

Know when the fluke challenge starts on your farm.

Monitor fluke forecasts and/or take samples from FIRST GRAZING SEASON lambs to detect the start of the fluke challenge on your farm.

Know what stages of liver fluke are likely to be present in the animals, as not all fluke products kill all stages of liver fluke.

For instance, in the early season you will mostly see early immature and immature fluke as fluke take 10-12 weeks to develop into adults. In the mid-season, you will see mostly immature and adult fluke as grazing animals pick up fewer fluke from the pasture. In the late season, mostly adults are seen as all the fluke in the liver have had time to develop.

Make sure any treatments you give are working effectively.

Follow up samples for coproantigen two weeks after treatment will let you know if treatments have been effective.

Starling Control

Starlings can cause major economic loss in livestock systems around the UK. Starlings feed selectively on maize grains, thereby reducing both the feed value of the ration and consequent milk output. There is also strong evidence that European starlings harbour E.coli, Salmonella and Campylobacter and can spread pathogens between farms. Therefore, this indicates that the losses on farm are not just caused by loss of feed, but by the milk production lost from reduced feed value and also diseases transferred to cattle from bird faeces.

What is the cost?

According to research by AHDB Dairy, starling infestation has been shown to cost dairy farms up to £153 per day per 100 cows (£4,590/month) in feed losses and health related issues. The cost of Avianex for 100 cows is £2.50 per day (£75/month) at a feed rate of 25g per head per day.

How it works:

Ingredients contained in Avianex will irritate the stomach of birds. They associate this ill feeling with the feed they have eaten and will therefore move elsewhere to find alternative feed sources. It also releases volatile polysulphides into the atmosphere, which create an odour that birds dislike. Experience over the past three years has shown Avianex to be effective at deterring starlings at a feed rate of 25g/day, although for severe infestations the feed rate can be increased to 50g/day. Depending on the local conditions it takes between 7-21 days for Avianex to cause birds to alter their feeding pattern.

Price:

25g/h/day - 2.5p per day based on a 1t delivery
50g/h/day - 5.0p per day based on a 1t delivery

Avianex contains an extract of garlic, which carries a risk of milk taint at high levels. Ensure feed is mixed thoroughly and feed rates do not exceed 75g/cow/day. No liability can be accepted for issues caused by milk taint. Higher levels can be fed to non-lactating ruminants with no risk. It may be useful to make dummy batches of TMR with waste maize silage, which can be left near clamps and includes Avianex, to feed starlings for a short period.

Please contact a member of staff for more details.



NEW STORE NOW OPEN!

The new store at Dundonald Olympic Park opened its doors on Monday 2nd October. To contact the Dundonald team, call 01563 475050 today. Or if you're in the area, pop in and see what we have to offer!



As you may have already seen on the Tarff 'News' section of our website, our new blending shed at our Longtown store is currently under construction. As part of this expansion, the shop is also being refitted. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

We were pleased to support the Gatehouse Horse Show on Sunday 17th September. Well done to Ashley Burns, who works in the Ringford store, for winning the M&M Class and being awarded 'Champion' in the senior ring with her horse, Armani.

On Friday 22nd September, Castle Douglas Mart held their Annual Sale and Show of Blueface Leicesters. As main sponsors of the event, Tarff was represented by Murray Elliot who handed out the prizes throughout the day.

Our Dumfries Town and Country store is stocked up for Winter! With the days becoming shorter, darker and colder, why not pop into the store and see our range of Winter clothing. From Hunter wellies to Hoggs of Fife tweed jackets, we have something to suit everyone!



The Dumfries store held its annual Equine Evening on Wednesday 27th September. Local McTimoney Animal Practitioner, Lucy Willis Fleming, carried out a live McTimoney treatment on a Shetland pony which helps align and balances the animal's musculoskeletal system. Suppliers were also present to answer questions. It was a very successful evening with over 140 people attending. We hope those who went had a great evening and managed to grab some bargains!

Ewe Fertility Preparation

It's now time to turn our attention to the start of the lambing cycle. With the nights drawing in, this is 'prime time' for ewes as they are 'short-day breeders', i.e. decreasing day length stimulates breeding¹. Many factors affect ewe fertility, including, age, breed, the stage of the breeding season and nutrition. However, at Tarff, we have a number of products which can help aid ewe fertility.

Crystalyx Extra High Energy Buckets (12% protein)

A bucket which is high in protein, energy and has a full complement of minerals, trace elements and vitamins. Trials have been carried out at Newcastle University, with two groups of mule ewes on grazing, one group having access to High Energy tubs. In the first six weeks of the trial, the Crystalyx group gained an extra 2kg liveweight and 96% of the ewes were tupped in the first 17 days, leading to a more compact lambing & more efficient use of feeds.



Supalix Super Energy & Fish Oil Buckets (15% protein)

This bucket is a high energy and mineral lick for sheep on grazing and low energy protein forages. It supports performance, health and fertility. Supalix contains Omega-3 fatty acids in the form of fish oil, which has been proven to improve fertility in ewes, as well as helping to produce thrifty lambs.



Beetlic High Energy Buckets (16% Protein)

Featuring a mixture of natural protein sources, this bucket has been formulated to help increase protein availability to stock fed poorer quality forages. As this product is high in energy from sugars and protected vegetable oil, this helps provide extra energy for sheep.



Beet Pulp

Beet pulp is rich in digestible fibre which is vital for good rumen function, helping to maximise fertility, milk production and growth. It is recommended to include a mineral and vitamin premix, and feed up to 0.5kg/head/day in troughs².



The products above are just a selection from the range stocked by Tarff for ewe fertility. For more information regarding any of these products, please contact your local store or rep for more information.

1. EBLEX, (2017). [online] Available at: <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Manual-11-Target-ewe-fertility-for-better-returns.pdf> [Accessed 13 Sep. 2017].
2. Trident, (2017). [online] Available at: <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Manual-11-Target-ewe-fertility-for-better-returns.pdf> [Accessed 13 Sep. 2017].

Managing Winter Forage 2017/18

Our compound feed supplier, Carrs Billington feel Spring 2017 started off well with very good weather and grass growth in early May. As a consequence some very high quality 1st cut silage was made in the first two weeks of May. We have seen some samples coming through at 40% dry matter, 11.8ME MJ/kg DM and 17% crude protein. Early indications suggest that this silage will feed very well. However, the season changed dramatically after mid-May leading to challenging conditions and a wide variety of forage quality and quantity thereafter.

2nd cut silage crops grew and matured very quickly after 1st cut. Some were cut between 30 and 35 days following 1st cut. Due to weather conditions some were unable to be cut until much later. These silages are much more mature at around 10.3 – 10.6 ME and appear to be yielding 2 -3 litres less than some 1st cut silages. Early analysis of 2nd cut and 3rd cut silage indicates that protein levels are higher than average. Although this protein can be very useful, diets must be balanced for energy and protein and supplemented correctly to utilise this protein efficiently.

There has been a move to multi cut silages this season with some farmers aiming for 4 or 5 cuts of grass at 5-week intervals. While this should yield more energy per hectare, the quality of these forages may be variable due to the growing season. As always, it is important to have all forages analysed, including mineral profiles, to ensure any winter diets are well balanced. While milk prices have improved

during 2017, forage utilisation and maximising milk from forage are still key factors in dairy farm efficiency and profitability.

What ingredients should I buy?

Overall raw material prices are looking steady as we head into the Autumn, although there is some day to day volatility caused by weather reports and market reaction. If you are buying starch, maize and barley look the best value for money. Barley is trading £15-£18/t below wheat. Maize offers higher energy than wheat at a much lower acid loading and the price gap compared to wheat has narrowed considerably.

In rations needing a high level of DUP, AminoMax-L rumen protected soya is the best value product per unit of DUP on the market. The GB Sugar Beet crop will be 50% higher in 2017 and Beet Pulp looks better value this winter, although Soya Hulls are still competitively priced*.

At Tarff, we are able to offer our customers a range of different straights. Bespoke blends are also available which our in-house nutritionists can put together.

Contact your local Tarff Representative and ask about forage analyses, top performing concentrates including maize, sugar beet, and much more.

*Prices subject to market volatility.