

December 2018

Issue 24

# TARFF VALLEY LTD

## Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

### Newsletter

We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Christmas & New Year Store Opening Times**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> (Xmas Eve)**  
All stores open as normal. St Boswells closes 3pm. Longtown closes 12pm.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> (Xmas Day)**  
ALL STORES CLOSED

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> (Boxing Day)**  
ALL STORES CLOSED

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
All stores open as normal.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
All stores open as normal.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Castle Kennedy (Bulk), Ringford, Castle Douglas, Dundonald, St Boswells & Longtown open until 12 noon. Dumfries open 8am – 5.30pm. ALL OTHER STORES CLOSED.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Dumfries Open 10am – 4pm.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> (NY EVE)**  
All stores open as normal. St Boswells closes 3pm. Longtown closes 2pm.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
ALL STORES CLOSED

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
ALL STORES CLOSED

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
All stores open as normal.

## Winter Feeding Critical to Lambing Returns

In order to ensure the production of strong, healthy lambs this coming spring, it may be necessary this season to consider extra supplementation throughout mid pregnancy. Once pregnancy is established, after the critical first 35 days of pregnancy the foetuses will appear relatively safe and undemanding until the final six weeks. Although very little foetal growth occurs during this 'mid-pregnancy' period, it is a critical period for the foetal membranes, including the placenta which provides oxygen and essential nutrients to the growing lambs, so if nutrition is compromised then placental size can be reduced.

Unfortunately, poor nutrition at this point, and its effects on ewe body condition and placental growth, cannot be compensated for later on in pregnancy and has been shown to result in the production of smaller and weaker lambs with higher mortality. Additionally, the surviving smaller and weaker lambs will require additional feed inputs in order to achieve target weights and markets, which are key to maximising profitability from each lamb crop – lambs sold in June this year benefitted from returns of well over £100 per head, compared to later finished lambs being worth just 60% of the value of those sold in June (AHDB, 2018).

Feeding in-lamb ewes to maintain or gain condition this winter in order to meet target lambing body condition scores (BCS) of 3.5 and 2.5, for lowland and hill ewes respectively, will not only impact directly on the success of lambing itself, but new research has shown it will also support the reproductive potential of female lambs that are to be kept as future breeding stock.

### What can Tarff offer?

Rumenco's MAXX Energy low moisture licks offer ideal nutritional support for in-lamb ewes throughout mid-pregnancy where extra

'little and often' controlled intake also means the product is long-lasting. Thus provides both an economic benefit whilst reducing the frequency with which buckets need to be replaced.

Rumenco's PROMAXX low moisture licks or Rumevite Hill Grazer feed blocks will help provide the additional necessary protein to support maintenance, weight gain and placental growth for the production of strong and healthy lambs with better growth performance. Whether blocks or buckets are preferred, both free-access supplements provide a mixture of natural protein and urea to help increase protein supply to in-lamb ewes whilst also supporting the digestion and intakes of poorer quality forages. In addition, Rumevite Hill Grazer contains a full measure of Diamond V XPC, an all-natural feed material which helps support rumen function for improved digestion of poor forages.

With ewes safely in-lamb the focus should not just be on pre-lambing, but also winter feeding of ewes to support them through the equally important mid-pregnancy period. Maintaining adequate supplies of energy and protein, plus minerals and vitamins, will be even more crucial this winter given the tough grazing conditions experienced earlier in the year, to ensure ewe condition is on target to produce strong and healthy lambs next year, with the possibility of better returns.

Phone your allocated Sales Representative now or speak to your local store regarding buckets and blocks.



## Christmas at Tarff!

With Christmas fast approaching, it's time to get the festive essentials! Throughout all stores, we have a selection of real Christmas trees available in two different sizes with prices starting from £34.99 (Inc. VAT). All branches have a range of Christmas gifts but our Dumfries Town and Country store has a huge selection of lovely candles, festive food stuffs, clothing and much more! There really is something for everyone!

Our special Christmas hampers will also be available with prices starting at £5. Our hampers aren't just for friends and family, we can put together bespoke hampers for dogs, cats, horses – you name it! If you're still unsure what to get despite these options, why not purchase a Tarff gift voucher for any chosen amount\*.



\*vouchers available from all stores.

## Introducing Holly!

Holly Dyer has recently joined the Tarff team as a Nutritionist specialising in Dairy. Holly originally comes from Haddington and studied Applied Animal Science at SRUC Edinburgh. Following her degree, Holly moved to the Castle Douglas area and worked for an animal feed company. In her spare time, Holly enjoys socialising, looking after her horse and is currently Assistant Secretary of Stewartry Young Farmers. Coming into her new role with us, she is looking forward to meeting customers and having a fresh set of challenges to face.



Fodder beet available now, great at stimulating forage intake.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, our Dumfries Town & Country store celebrated its 10-year anniversary of being at the Lockerbie Road site! To mark the occasion, special discounts were offered over the anniversary weekend and the café got involved and made a celebratory cake!

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, Steven Ritchie (Sales Manager), Calum McCall (Agronomist & Sales Representative) and Katie Sproat (Comms & Marketing) went along to the Douglas Ewart High School Careers Evening to speak to the pupils about the job opportunities which Tarff can offer.

Stocks of winter essentials are available from all stores! Make sure you grab them now, so you're prepared for when the cold, frosty weather comes!



Follow us,  
Join us,  
#teamtarrf  
@tarffvalley

## Fluke Control

Liver fluke is a growing problem for cattle farmers in the UK. While the impact of infection with this parasite on growing cattle is not always visible, it does affect productivity. Growth rates in youngstock can slow, reducing average daily liveweight gain and extending finishing times. This can be costly if additional winter feed is required. The presence of even 10 liver fluke has been shown to increase the slaughter date by up to 10 days, which can impact significantly on profitability.

### One treatment may not be enough

Housing cattle over the winter prevents them from picking up any new fluke infection, and treating them immediately has benefits in preventing clinical disease, improving productivity and reducing pasture contamination at turnout. However, one treatment at housing may not always be sufficient to remove all liver fluke present in an animal and protect its productive capability throughout winter.

### Test for success

Cattle may be infected with a mixed population of fluke, including varying ages and strains, which can potentially include a mixture of susceptible and resistant strains. No treatment is 100% effective, even when appropriate for the age of fluke present, so it may be necessary to test cattle for the presence of fluke after the initial treatment. The timing of this test will depend on the product used and will indicate whether a follow-up treatment is required to ensure cattle are as fluke-free as possible for the remainder of the winter and before turnout.

### Practice good resistance management

If a second fluke treatment is required you should consider using a narrow-spectrum product. From 10 weeks post-housing all fluke present in cattle will be late-immature and adult stages, even those infections acquired on the day of housing. This means it may not be necessary to use triclabendazole and instead an alternative treatment such as those containing nitroxylin (Trodax®), oxcyclozanide, closantel or albendazole may be more appropriate. This has the effect of targeting your treatment to the parasites present and practising good resistance management.

Your vet or animal health advisor can provide more information on testing cattle for fluke and advising on the most appropriate treatment for your situation.



## OptiCop

Have you considered using OptiCop? This is a range of complementary mineral feeds for livestock, available exclusively from Country UF, that deliver a prolonged release of copper for approximately 6 months.

- The bolus or capsule is inserted orally using a specially designed applicator
- Copper oxide needles are released and lodge in the folds of the animal's stomach lining
- Stores of copper build up in the liver as the needles dissolve slowly and at a steady and consistent rate
- The copper reserves that have built up in the liver are released gradually for approximately 6 months.

Pop into your local store for more information!

## Leptavoid Notice

Reminder: if you are looking to purchase Leptavoid-H, Tarff stores have a limited supply of the product in stock but we recommend that you contact us in advance to check availability or to book your requirements.

## Envirex Offer! Buy 9, get 1 free!\*

Envirex is a highly absorbent hygienic bedding powder for dairy cows, pigs, poultry and horses. Envirex contains a unique combination of 2% w/w of the proven biocidal product Virex in a base powder formulation comprised of mineral desiccants and essential oils specifically designed to maintain a dry, healthy environment for all types of livestock animals.

The Base Powder formulation is comprised of ingredients which:

- Ensure longevity of the product even under high humidity conditions
- Do not paste up to form clumps after drying
- Reduce greasiness in animal accommodation, aiding in promoting a non-slip environment.
- Have a greater absorptive capacity than that of any other clay.
- Help prevent the skin from drying, keeping it supple and less likely to suffer from lacerations.

For more information, please speak to your local store.

\*Whilst stocks last. Introductory offer £19 + VAT per 20kg bag.



## NEW! Country UF Wild Bird Food

United Farmers have recently brought out a new range of bird feed. Under the Country UF banner, United Farmers have partnered with a leading UK supplier, and have put together a comprehensive range that delivers excellent value for customers. The products have been carefully formulated to meet the nutritional requirements of a variety of birds and are sure to bring a whole host of visitors into your garden!

### Wild Bird Seed Mix (20kg)

- Suitable for year-round feeding
- Enriched with Sunflower Seeds
- Ideal for many species of garden birds such as robins, blue tits and house sparrows.

### Sunflower Hearts (15kg)

- High Energy
- No husks
- Ideal for many species of garden birds such as greenfinches, bullfinches and robins.

### Peanuts (20kg)

- High energy
- High in essential oils
- Aflatoxin tested

