

Join Cath & Nikki at Tarff Longtown branch on Wednesday 11th March from 10am – 3pm for an Allen & Page Equine Weigh Clinic day.

Booking is essential as there are limited spaces. Please contact Cath & Nikki at longtown.branch@tarffvalley.co.uk or phone 01228 792244 to confirm your space. Booking deadline is Friday 6th March.

There will be special offers in-store on the NEW equine range which is being launched on the same day. Make sure you don't miss out as there are great offers to be had on hats, tack and equine essentials! Liz Smith from Allen & Page will also be on hand to answer any questions on nutritional issues.

Huge congratulations to Jennifer Veitch, Assistant Store Manager at our Dundonald branch, for winning National Member of the Year at the SAYFC Young Farmers Competitions weekend held in Dunfermline in February.



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# TARFF newsletter

March 2020, Issue 39

## Surplus lambs chewing feeder teats?

Surplus lambs are a fact of life. These lambs will either need to be adopted onto another ewe or be artificially reared. Lambs can be successfully reared artificially without the problems of fostering onto an unwilling ewe. Several methods are available. One method is ad-lib milk feeders. If you're struggling with surplus lambs chewing on the teats of your milk feeders, try a few of these tips to help prevent the issue.

### Lamblac's Top Three Tips...

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| <b>1. Select the right teats</b>           | Lambs typically learn how to suck quickly. Make sure that as soon as lambs are sucking strongly you are using the tougher teats (red) as they are more robust to deal with more forceful sucking and any chewing.                               |
| <b>2. Use the correct number of teats.</b> | Too few teats can lead to the lambs being prevented from suckling often enough, and then sucking too fast and vigorously when given access. Ensure a maximum of 10 lambs/teat for ad-lib systems - 6-8 is ideal.                                |
| <b>3. Maintain the milk supply</b>         | It is essential that milk is always available when feeding surplus lambs ad-lib. The lambs are far more likely to chew the teats if they are not receiving the appropriate amount of milk or if the milk has run out when they attempt to feed. |

Lambing essentials can be purchased from all Tarff stores. If you have any queries about lambing products, speak to your local sales representative.



## RSABI Sponsor Renewal

We are delighted to have renewed our subscription as a Business Sponsor of RSABI. Why not consider joining the 'Individual Supporter Scheme'. You never know when the need for help or guidance may arise.

The number to phone, if you have a concern, is 0300 111 4166 and a representative will be on hand to guide you.



## Secure Covers

Secure Covers silage clamp nets and gravel bags are known around the world for their unique design and longevity, helping customers improve their silage quality.

### Why should I use Secure Cover netting on my silage clamps?

Secure Covers unique, flexible and wind resistant design stops them blowing off your clamp like a conventional net, ensuring your silage sheets stay firmly in place.

Secure Covers stop bird damage so no more holes in your silage sheets and no more silage waste!

Secure Covers netting and gravel bags replace the need for tyres and the challenge of moving and placing tyres onto silage pits (this is before you consider the risk from tyre wires entering silage).



### How do Secure Covers achieve this?

Key to the performance of the Secure Cover is the unique knitted weave, which unlike other netting creates a rough surface dispersing the winds energy and reducing the vacuum effect against your silage sheets. The unique design also means that Secure Covers don't fray when damaged and can be easily repaired.

Call Tarff on 01557 820247 to find out more about the complete range and sizes of Secure Covers available. If you would like more technical information, visit [www.securecovers.co.uk](http://www.securecovers.co.uk).



## Tarff 'Services'

Tarff 'Services' has now gone live on Facebook! Follow the link below to keep up to date on the latest news and find out more about the short courses which are available!

<https://www.facebook.com/TarffServices/>

Tracey McEwan will be at the NFU Scotland - Ayrshire Region farm training information event on Monday 9th March discussing the various short courses which you can do on farm and how you can access these courses. The meeting is taking place at The Coo Shed, 7pm start.

RSVP to Christine Cuthbertson on 01314724000, Text 07775838926, christine.cuthbertson@nfus.org.uk by Friday 6th March.

Excellent write up in the Farmers Guardian 'Young Farmer Focus' from Sarah Ferguson, Whauphill Store Manager, who has shared her experience of her pathway to working in the Agricultural industry.

Well done, Sarah!

[https://www.fginsight.com/blog/young-farmer-focus-sarah-ferguson--the-industry-has-provided-me-with-a-great-support-network-and-employment-opportunities-?fbclid=IwAR3hKoefSUMTAyB4ClcNg471Ni1041QmBd8ttHxxx00L\\_M708ckxnAey9lw](https://www.fginsight.com/blog/young-farmer-focus-sarah-ferguson--the-industry-has-provided-me-with-a-great-support-network-and-employment-opportunities-?fbclid=IwAR3hKoefSUMTAyB4ClcNg471Ni1041QmBd8ttHxxx00L_M708ckxnAey9lw)

## Vecoxan Offer – get £40 cashback!

Coccidiosis is a common disease affecting young stock which causes production losses, disease and in extreme cases, death. Lambs and calves are particularly susceptible to disease as maternal immunity wanes before they develop their own immunity. As the vast majority of cattle and sheep have coccidial oocysts in their faeces and these oocysts survive well in the environment, it is impossible to eradicate coccidiosis at a farm level.

### Vecoxan™ oral suspension

- Licensed for lambs and beef or dairy calves of any age or weight, indoors or out
- Vecoxan allows the animals to develop natural immunity, providing long term protection
- ZERO meat withdrawal
- No environmental restrictions

Suitable for:



### Get up to £40\* cash back

To celebrate over two decades of keeping your young stock in safe hands, Elanco is offering farmers cash back on purchases of Vecoxan from 1st February to 31st March 2020 inclusive. Speak to your SQP in your local Tarff branch who will give you a voucher to reclaim your cash back offer.

The value of the cash back depends on the amount of litres purchased. Simply complete all the details including proof of purchase and post back using the freepost address. The voucher also has details on further information on coccidiosis.

Ask your SQP for more information on coccidiosis today.

**\*While stocks last**



## Spring into Calving

### Why is the dry period so important?

The dry period, normally lasting around 60 days pre-calving, is the most important phase of a cow's production cycle. During this phase, the cow and her udder are prepared for the next lactation along with colostrum production. In addition, good management during this period is critical to help prevent key metabolic diseases such as ketosis and milk fever, and support the calving process. Pre-calving nutrition should focus on ensuring dry cows be at the correct Body Condition Score (BCS) at calving.

### Why is the correct BCS so important?

Body Condition Score is a technique used for assessing the energy reserves of livestock throughout the production cycle. It provides a guide to the nutritional status of the animal and can therefore be used to help ration cows to ensure the correct condition for each stage of their production cycle. Body Condition Score at calving is closely related to how quickly cows start cycling after calving. Furthermore, it also has a significant impact on the calving process, cow health and performance post-calving, including colostrum and milk quality and quantity, as well as calf health following birth. The ideal BCS at calving for Spring calving cows is 2.5.

In general, the energy and protein requirements of a dry suckler cow can be met by forage alone. However, feeding dry cows only good quality ad-lib silage can result in them becoming over-fat during the dry period, the addition of poorer quality forages or straw into the diet can therefore help fill the rumen without gaining condition. It's important to not forget vital mineral, vitamin and trace element supplementation during this key period. In particular magnesium, selenium, vitamin E and iodine are required to promote cow and calf health and vigour.

### Which minerals should I supplement pre-calving?

There are 15 minerals essential for life, but only a handful are required to be supplemented in the run up to calving. The most important of these is probably magnesium, as it plays a key role

in uterine tone and muscle contractions therefore influencing the ease and speed of the calving process. Adequate copper reserves in the liver are also key for future cow performance due to the link with fertility and oestrus activity. A sufficient supply of minerals is also needed for the developing calf with most growth occurring in the final 6 weeks of pregnancy. The unborn foetus relies entirely on the cow for mineral supply, so if reserves are poor then calf growth and immunity will be compromised. In particular selenium, iodine and vitamin E are all important for calf health and vigour.

### What is LIFELINE Pre-Calver and how can it benefit my herd?

Rumenco's LIFELINE Pre-Calver range is specifically formulated for in-calf cows and heifers to help support a successful calving process. Available as a bucket, mineral crumb or high specification dairy mineral, the supplements provide an optimal supply of key minerals, trace elements and vitamins, including magnesium, selenium, copper and vitamin E, plus other nutritional additives, such as MOS (Mannan oligosaccharides) to help support calving ease, cow and calf immunity, calf vigour and colostrum quality, with trial work showing a proven 9.5% increase in IgG (Immunoglobulin) levels. A number of factors will influence this year's spring calving success, with nutrition playing a key role in benefitting not just the cow, but the calf too. Given the importance of improving calf output, particularly from a financial perspective, ensuring cows and heifers receive a balanced diet in the run up to calving will not only influence the herd's success this year, but also in the many years that lie ahead. Nutritional management, however, should not stop at calving.

For more information or advice, please speak to your local Sales Representative or call Ringford on 01557 820247.

