

Farmers and crofters – can you help shape the future of farming practices in Scotland?

The James Hutton Institute in collaboration with the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC), Soil Association Scotland and Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS) are carrying out research about farming practices in Scotland and the adoption of agroecological principles. To take part in this 10- 15 minutes online survey please click on the link below:

https://hutton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5QGEwymbJJTVJ4

Your participation is very valuable. Your knowledge and experience about farming and the practices you are implementing in your land will inform and help to refine recommendations to policy in Scotland.

Tarff Grass Seed

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TARFF newsletter

July 2021, Issue 55

Top 10 tips for parasite control at pasture

The goal of parasite control in cattle at pasture is not to eliminate parasites entirely, but to use sustainable control practices to reduce the parasitic load in animals. This should minimise the impact on cattle productivity, while avoiding strategies which encourage the development of wormer resistance.

1. What parasites are present?

Find out what parasites are present on your farm, so you can understand the risk and implement the most effective parasite control strategy.

2. Rotate your cattle

Rotate cattle around your pasture, rather than continuously graze a single pasture or paddock, and move animals out of a pasture before the grass is eaten down to an extreme. About 80% of parasites are concentrated in the first 5cm of grass, so the closer to the ground cattle are eating, the more likely they are to ingest parasite larvae.

3. Reduce stocking density

Reduce stocking density on pastures. With fewer cattle per hectare, animals are less likely to graze near dungpats, where higher numbers of parasite larvae are likely to be found.

4. Rest your pasture

Rest pasture by taking a silage or hay crop. This will disrupt parasite lifecycles because larvae will die without access to a host. Clean pasture, with no parasitic load, is very useful grazing for naive youngstock, which have not yet built any immunity to gutworm or lungworm species.

5. Encourage refugia

Encourage pasture to be a source of refugia, where populations of parasites with different genes exist, including those which are resistant and susceptible to anthelmintics. This will help slow the development of any resistance to wormers and support effective parasite control. You can do this by rotating treated and non-treated groups of animals around your pastures, or by leaving a percentage of cattle in a group untreated.

6. Weigh cattle regularly

Regularly weigh growing cattle. A parasite burden has been shown to slow growth rates. On average, cattle with a parasite burden spend less time grazing and ingest less forage than treated cattle. Individuals not making their weight gain targets should be selected for treatment. This allows untreated animals to act as a source of refugia, helping to slow the development of wormer resistance.

7. Test your cattle

Test cattle before treating for parasites. If you are unsure whether your cattle have a parasite burden, ask your vet to test the herd for the presence of gutworm or fluke, and treat according to the result.

8. Treatment is crucial

Treat cattle strategically, in line with seasonal pasture use. If your cattle graze high-risk pasture you know carries a high parasite burden, you may treat cattle in line with expected infectivity periods. The mid-summer rise in gutworm larvae on pasture means youngstock are likely to become infected by late summer and, as they have little or no immunity to worms, production loss may occur, as well as clinical disease.

9. Rethink your water sources

Avoid using rivers and streams for water sources. Try to use water tanks on dry ground, where it will not get heavily poached or waterlogged. The mud snail, the intermediate host of liver fluke, is found in slow-moving water and muddy areas, so preventing animals from grazing near to high-risk water sources will reduce the potential for infection.

10. Be prepared to act fast

Lungworm infections are normally found from July onwards. At the first sign of coughing, consider testing for lungworm. It can occur in adult cows as well as youngstock. Not all individuals will show symptoms.

Speak to a RAMA in your local Tarff branch for more information on products to help prevent against parasites.



Premier Nutrition launches improved fresh cow recovery drink

Premier Nutrition has launched an improved fresh cow recovery drink, containing a complete package of critical nutrients to support the cow's needs and quickly get her drinking, eating, and milking.

Under the brand name of Restart, the newly formulated all-in-one rehydration drink tackles many aspects:

- One dose provides 21% of the cow's critical daily calcium requirement in a super-soluble, quick release form.
- It contains sugars for a rapidly available energy to boost the cow after the stresses of calving.
- The combination package of choline and B-vitamins aid liver function and ensure dietary nutrients are used efficiently.
- The high quality mineral pack quickly returns the cow's mineral status to normal in preparation for the next phase of milk production.

- Yeast components kickstart the rumen so she eats quicker to support milk production.
- The powerful blend of antioxidants support the immune system.

Restart is available in a 15kg tub. Each drink requires 1kg of powder, stirred into 5 litres of hot (65°C) water, then topped up to 15-20 litres with cool water. It should be offered within 10-20 minutes of calving for maximum benefit but can be used up to 2 hours post-calving to aid recovery.

Tarff currently has a special offer on Restart buckets. If you purchase 4 or more, discounts apply – when it's gone, it's gone! Please speak to your local Tarff Sales Representative to find out more.



Reduce the risk of fly strikes and insect bites this Summer

Whauphill Store Notice

Our Whauphill branch will now be open on Saturdays from 8am - 12 noon.

Please note it will only be the shop which is open on Saturday mornings. The bulk store remains open Monday - Friday.

Store Details:
Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm
Saturday, 8am - 12 noon (store only)
Sunday, Closed.

t: 01988 840383

Tarff's Own Brand Compound Feed logo!

In our previous newsletter it mentioned the success of our own brand compound feed range. Since this, we have created a specific brand for our compound feeds and are excited to share a sneak peak of our new compound feed logo! Branded bags are being manufactured and customers should start to see these arriving on farm in the next few months. We're excited about this new development and will share more soon!



With the warm, and often damp, summer weather come the many problems associated with flies (fly strike, summer mastitis etc). However, feeding Crystalyx Garlyx can significantly reduce the irritation from flies and other biting insects on cattle and sheep at grass.

Crystalyx Garlyx, as the name suggests, includes garlic. The peculiar penetrating odour of garlic is due to high sulphur compounds, which when expelled through the skin in natural body secretions, produces an invisible barrier, which flies and other biting insects find repellent. Although flies are still present around the livestock, they very seldom land on the animals skin.

Crystalyx Garlyx is not simply a garlic lick. The highly fermentable sugars in Garlyx stimulate the rumen bugs, which

along with a full complement of vitamins, minerals and trace elements including zinc (to maintain skin integrity), balance the recognised deficiencies in summer grass leading to increased animal performance.

For more information on Crystalyx Garlyx, please speak to your local Tarff Sales Representative.



Join The March to reduce Sheep Lameness

Sheep flocks often suffer from an increase in lameness during the summer months – hence MSD Health's adoption of July as Lameness Month to focus on measures to bring peace of mind and prevent problems developing when the flock may not be easily accessible.

The run up to weaning is an ideal time to identify and note problems before any disease becomes more established. Check sheep's feet regularly, as sheep with early stage footrot or contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD) have been known not to appear as being lame.

At weaning time, mark any persistently lame ewes for culling, and if flock replacements are home-bred, make sure breeding is only from sound ewes or ewe lambs that have not been lame.

Most sheep lameness in the UK is caused by the bacteria *Dichelobacter nodosus*, which can appear as scald or as footrot. If allowed to progress, it causes significant discomfort and welfare concerns due to the obvious pain. Becoming more widespread is CODD, caused by a treponeme bacteria, it has a progressive nature and in its later stages can cause severe lameness.

These are the two most important causes of lameness in UK sheep; they may be two different diseases yet are strongly associated in their infectivity and transmission routes. Footrot is certainly a risk factor for CODD, so by keeping this widespread disease under control will help reduce the impact of CODD in the flock.

Recent work has looked at management practices that can reduce the levels of lameness found in a sheep flock. This includes the development of an industry accepted framework, the FAI Five Point Plan (5PP), to establish best practice for managing lameness in sheep.

Across the sheep farming community there is real momentum behind the 5PP and many have confirmed that by implementing it and sustaining it helps to keep flock lameness incidence down to 2% or less.

Vaccination is an aid to treating footrot and preventing lameness by stimulating immunity. Vaccination should be on a whole flock basis and timed to be given just before increased disease risk. It has also been demonstrated, in mixed infections of footrot & CODD, that by managing footrot with vaccination first, has enabled more successful treatment and control of CODD.

Culling persistently infected sheep, especially at the start of a control programme, brings a reduction in lameness as these animals are "constantly shedding" infection.

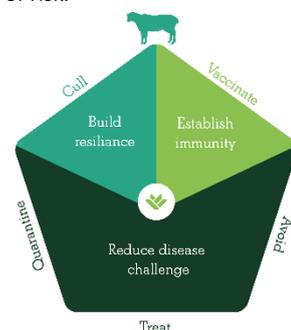
Avoid disease transmission by paying attention to good hygiene, minimising the gathering of sheep, using footbaths for disinfection and stopping trimming infected feet.

Treating within 3 days should be the foundation of any protocol to reduce infectious lameness, both for welfare and infection control. Affected animals should be isolated for monitoring and to reduce disease spread.

Quarantine, a standard biosecurity procedure, should be for a minimum 4-week period. If any sheep shows signs of lameness during quarantine, isolate them and treat appropriately before being introduced to the flock.

Lameness remains a significant welfare and economic issue for sheep flocks in the UK. Adopting the Five Point Plan in its entirety has been shown to give the greatest chance of reducing lameness by a combination of standard farm practices that decrease the level of risk.

Conversely, it has been seen that by dropping any one of the five management practices, there is often a resulting increase in the prevalence of lameness in the flock – that's why it is called the Five Point Plan.



References available on request.