

May Bank Holiday
Monday 4th May 2026

TARFF *newsletter*

AGRICULTURAL MERCHANTS

April 2026, Issue 112

Planning for the Spring Turn-Out of Cattle

Open	Closed
Castle Kennedy	Whauphill
Dumfries	Ringford
Newtown St Boswells	Longtown
Castle Douglas	Dundonald
Islay	

Stores re-open as normal on
Tuesday 5th May

Delivery Charges

Like many businesses, we have experienced a significant increase in the cost of fuel, vehicle maintenance and transport in recent years. At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was taken to remove all delivery charges and we have been proud to maintain this without passing rising costs on to our customers.

However, in order to continue providing a reliable and sustainable delivery service, we now need to make some adjustments.

Since 1st April 2026, a new tiered delivery cost structure has been in place.

Order Value	Delivery Charge
Orders up to £74.99 (inc VAT)	No Tarff Valley deliveries below this threshold*. *Goods <u>25kg and under</u> can be sent via an external courier (provided item(s) is in stock) from our Ringford or Dumfries branches for £10.
Orders between £75 - £499.99 (inc VAT)	£10 Delivery Charge (Tarff Valley delivery)
Orders over £500 (inc VAT)	Free Delivery

Please note: Fertiliser, bulk feed, fuel and coal orders will continue to qualify for free delivery (subject to operational review).

Our Sales Representatives and in-store staff will be pleased to assist you in navigating these changes and help you plan a cost-effective approach to delivery.

Spring turn-out is a key stage in the cattle farming calendar, marking the move from winter housing back to grass. Good preparation can make a major difference to herd health, performance and productivity throughout the grazing season.

Before cattle are turned out, it is important to assess pasture conditions, check fencing, ensure a reliable water supply, and consider pasture growth, mineral deficiencies and whether supplementary feeding is needed.

Animal health planning should also form part of preparations. Youngstock need to build immunity to worms during their first and second grazing seasons, so reviewing parasite control strategies in advance can help reduce disease risk and support performance.

Once cattle are at grass, regular monitoring is essential. Daily weight gain is influenced by feed availability and health challenges, so planned handling and weighing can help identify setbacks early. Summer health checks should include growth and condition, lameness, injury, summer mastitis, lungworm, and farm-specific risks such as pink eye, leptospirosis, clostridial disease and redwater.

Gut worms and lungworm can seriously affect cattle health and growth. Targeted treatment involves monitoring the group and treating when performance drops or risk is high, while strategic worming aims to reduce pasture contamination and support immunity. This can involve repeated doses of a short-acting wormer or a long-acting product such as CYDECTIN 10% LA Solution for Injection for Cattle.

Long-acting wormers can also reduce handling, lower stress on stock and cut labour. Administering CYDECTIN 10% LA at turnout can help control worm populations throughout the grazing season.

Flies are another major grazing season challenge, reducing feed intake, damaging hides and affecting productivity, while also spreading diseases such as pink eye and summer mastitis. FLECTRON ear tags provide season-long control of nuisance and biting flies for up to four months, while also reducing handling, stress and labour.

A successful grazing season starts with good planning, effective monitoring and the right parasite and fly control measures in place. Speak to a Registered Animal Medicines Adviser in your local Tarff Valley branch for further details.



Get Geared Up for Showtime!

PREMIUM QUALITY BLENDED FEED

Our Rosette Range has been specially formulated using only the finest ingredients to offer livestock producers a selection of premium quality blended feeds. conditioning, muscle development and preparation for show or sale.

Designed with pedigree cattle and sheep breeders in mind, the Rosette Range has all the attributes to enhance performance through the growing and finishing stages of show and sale preparation.

The range includes specialist feed options for both cattle and sheep, with products developed to support growth, condition, bloom and overall performance at different stages.

Within the **Rosette Cattle Range**, products include **Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Calf Glint** and **Trophy Bull**. These feeds are designed to support everything from early intake and strong weight gain in calves through to

The **Rosette Sheep Range** includes **Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Trophy Tup** and **Rosette Mash**. Together, these products help support frame growth, seasonal condition, finishing and rumen health, giving breeders targeted options across different classes of stock.

Whether you are preparing youngstock, mature cattle, pedigree sheep or sale animals, the Rosette Range has been developed to deliver palatability, performance and practical feeding support.

For more information on the Rosette Range, speak to your local Tarff Valley Sales Representative.



Applications Now Open!
Pre-Apprenticeship
Programme June 2026 Intake

Start your journey in agriculture with Tarff Services Pre-Apprenticeship Programme! The programme provides paid work experience, practical training and real industry exposure.

Programme Details:

- For 16–24 year olds
- 6-month paid placement
- Build skills and confidence
- Take the first step into the agricultural sector

For 2026, Tarff Services is pleased to be offering 30 places for 2026/27 across 3 intakes in the year!

Tarff Services is also on the look out for mentors. If you would be interested in supporting a young person, please get in touch!

Tracey McEwan
M: 07785 657861
E: tracey.mcewan@tarffvalley.co.uk

It's Showtime!

You can find **Tarff Valley** at the following shows in May and June:

- Sat 9th May** – Ayr Show
- Wed 13th May** – ScotGrass
- Wed 10th June** – ScotSheep

Tarff Town and Country is also attending the following with a retail stand:

- Sat 25th April** – Dundonald Show
- Sat 9th May** – Ayr Show
- Sat 16th May** – D&G Horse Show
- Sat 6th June** – Cumberland Show
- Sun 7th June** – Muirhouse Equestrian Centre Summer Show (Dundonald Store attending)
- Sat 13th June** – Dalry Show (Ayrshire) (Dundonald Store attending)
- Sat 13th & Sun 14th June** – South of Scotland Horse Trials

Further show dates to be announced!



Buttercup Control in Grassland

Buttercups, particularly creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), are common broad-leaved weeds in UK grassland. Heavy infestations reduce pasture productivity and forage quality, and often indicate problems such as poor drainage, soil compaction or weak swards.

Creeping buttercup spreads through stolons (runners) that root at nodes, allowing it to quickly colonise open areas. It thrives in wet, poorly drained soils and is often found in older leys, overgrazed paddocks and poached ground where grass vigor has declined.

Buttercups are generally avoided by livestock because they contain protoanemonin, a toxin that irritates the mouth and digestive system when consumed fresh. This leads to selective grazing, with animals eating surrounding grasses more heavily and leaving buttercup patches untouched, allowing the weed to spread further.

Where infestations are significant, selective herbicides may be required. Applications are most effective when buttercups are actively growing, ideally before flowering, although treatments during flowering can still work. Always follow label recommendations and grazing intervals.

Envy is a reliable option for controlling buttercup species in established grassland. As a systemic herbicide it moves into the runners and roots, making it particularly effective on creeping buttercup. It is applied at 2.0 L/ha in 200 liters of water, with a 3-litre pack treating around 1.5 hectares.

Where other weeds such as thistles or dandelions are present, Thistlex® Pro can be used. Containing Arylex™ active, it controls thistles, buttercups, dandelions, hogweed and cow parsley in grassland grazed by cattle or sheep. It is applied at 1.67 L/ha, with a 5-litre pack treating around 3 hectares.

For more information, speak to Tarff Valley Agronomist, Gordon Scott on 07849 636148.



Bunker Mats

Intershape Animat Heavy Bunker Mats are an ideal solution for securing silage clamp covers. Measuring 6' x 2', these durable rubber mats weigh 22kg each, making them easy for one person to handle and position. Using tyres can pose a risk of metal contamination in feed, as well as creating handling challenges during sheeting and removal. Bunker mats offer a safer, more practical alternative while helping to maintain an airtight seal, essential for producing high-quality silage.

For more information on bunker mats, please call 01557 820247 and a member of staff will be happy to assist.



Country UF Crop Packaging

Silage Sheets

Manufactured using the finest raw materials, this durable silage sheet is robust and designed to help prevent tears and splits occurring during the clamp sheeting process.

Product Details

- A significantly stronger silage sheet
- Excellent tear resistance
- High resistance to weathering
- Easy to apply and longer lasting

Please contact your local Tarff Valley store about the various sizes available in the Country UF silage material range.



Net Wrap - 1.23m x 3600m (Light Green)

- Guaranteed minimum length
- UV stability – long lasting protection
- Perfect match for every baler in all crops and conditions
- Roll carry handles
- Roll end warning stripe - minimize stoppages
- Right/left marking to indicate running direction for loading and unrolling
- Manufactured to the highest quality standards by the world's leading Netwrap manufacturer
- A proven product used in thousands of balers in the UK and worldwide



Bale Wrap - Premium blown bale wrap. Coex up to 7 layers. Suitable for all types of ensiling in bales. Available in 750mm width black or green colour.

Key product information

- Developed for both round and square bales and all types of crops
- Suitable for all types of machines
- High quality raw material in combination with the latest production technology
- Cling level optimized for creating airtight bales with high silage quality
- High UV protection up to 12 months on bale

Country UF silage sheets, net wrap and bale wrap deliver excellent value for money, making them a trusted choice for this silage season.

Get in touch with your local Tarff Valley Sales Representative today to make sure you're fully prepared for the season ahead!

