

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2008 No 20.



### *Sheep Disease Focus*

Most flocks have the occasional abortion, but if more than 2% of the flock abort it is usually due to an infectious agent. A common infectious cause of abortion is EAE.

#### **Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE)**

##### **Cause**

The bacteria *Chlamydia*

##### **Clinical findings**

Ewes abort in the last 2-3 weeks of pregnancy. The lambs are usually dead, the placenta appears thicker and darker than normal. The ewes themselves are not normally ill. It is a zoonosis (a disease that people can catch) and pregnant women are particularly at risk

##### **Transmission**

EAE gets into a flock by introducing carrier animals. These cannot be detected by blood testing. The major source of infection is the placenta and uterine discharge of aborting ewes. Others become infected by eating food or bedding contaminated by aborting ewes. These ewes may show no signs until they abort in their next pregnancy

##### **Diagnosis**

A sample of placenta can be sent to the lab where they can test for the bacteria

##### **Treatment**

If EAE is suspected, to prevent others aborting a long-acting oxytetracycline can be used. Isolate affected ewes away from others (2-3 wks). These animals will become immune. You can foster on lambs to these ewes, but it is best to use males or females not intended to be kept for breeding. Next season vaccinate before tupping to avoid large losses.

##### **Prevention**

To prevent disease happening in the first place keep the flock closed or buy sheep from known EAE free sources.

To assess your disease status Intervet run a free abortion blood testing service (starting April 08) for flocks over 100 breeding ewes. They test for *C.abortus* and *Toxoplasma*. Currently Intervet is also running a Barren EweChec where they test for *Toxoplasma*.

### **Runners Corner—Yes, it's back!!**

Believe it or not, the 2007 Round Norfolk Relay was not a one off. The event was such a success for the **Norfolk Farm Vet Knackers** team that we have entered the 2008 race.



Places on the team will be reserved for those who ran last year, but there may well be some people who do not wish to run again. These places will then be filled by new blood. Therefore, if you ran last year please let us know if you are planning to run again, and if you would like to keep the same leg or change for a longer one!! Also, if you did not run but would like to take part this year please get in touch. We have already paid the £204 entry fee, but would be grateful if those of you who are running could let us have your £12. Shirts remain unchanged, but we may need to order a few extras.

**The support team** last year did a fantastic job at keeping us all going, so we will be looking for cyclists and vehicle attendants/drivers. If you're interested please get in touch.

The first team appointment is the new **Team Manager** : **Mr. John Bray** (our book keeper). John, who many of you will already know, has very kindly offered to take on this roll for 2008. He can be contacted at the office on some Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or you can leave a message for him.

Training has already started/never ended for a lot of the team. The Houghton Estate Cross Country has just been and gone and was a great success. **Ross and James Haddow and Gary Zoller** completed the Dublin Marathon, and are planning the London. **Andy Marsh** has a place for the Edinburgh marathon, and will be ably supported by the 'Hairy Haggis' relay team of **Gavin Lane, Julian Howard, David Coleman and Carwyn James** who split the marathon in quarters.

The other main team member is '**The Moss**'. Jim will be official team coach again this year. He did a fantastic job last year and we are extremely grateful that he has agreed to take on this roll again this year.

We were very grateful to **Jayne Parsey and Gary Zoller** for providing the 'Passion Wagon' last year, but we are looking for official sponsorship for team vehicles this year, so anyone with any links who may be of assistance we would love to hear from you.

## FOR SALE:

### Aberdeen Angus Bull -

call Trevor Stebbings 01553 630603

**3 Cockerels**—Sussex Bred, possibly with mixed colours (Buff/Light). 12-13 weeks old. For sale for breeding, not eating. Contact Tamara Koryniaka on: 01553 773454.

**23 continental cross cows** in calf to Bazadais bull due to calve in April. **Cows and bull for sale.**

**Range Rover Classic Vogue**, K Reg (200Tdi), Manual, 166K, New transfer box and alternator. £2500 +VAT.

Contact James Murrell on: 07770692891 (for cattle and Rangie).

## WANTED:

**20 Heifers**—Contact Gavin Lane: 07809 525634.

**Hoggets**—who need a place to graze FOC in return for use by the Sheep Show Shearing Team.

## Bluetongue Restrictions

Due to the weather becoming cooler, the Bluetongue restrictions on movements of live animals are being lifted under certain conditions;

The major restriction is that animals must be bled to show they are not carrying Bluetongue virus and negative results received prior to transport.

2 tests are available; PCR from 4th January & ELISA from the 18th January. The PCR costs £15 + handling and the ELISA £2.95 + handling.

Both tests are blood tests and have at least a 4 day turnaround at the Government designated laboratory.

Animals testing negative will be eligible for movement/export; animals testing positive will not be eligible and those testing inconclusive will be required to be retested 10-14 days after the first test.

For further information please see the Defra website on [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) or ring the practice.

## Price Changes and prescriptions...

As a result of the amalgamation of Schering-Plough and Intervet, we have managed to secure a significantly higher discount on some of the products we purchase, especially vaccines and anti-biotics. As you know, we pass on all our discounts to our clients, whatever the size of the farm. Therefore, we are pleased to enclose an up to date price list showing some huge price reductions. Please take a look and let us know if you would like to place an order. Obviously, we are happy to continue signing scripts for you if that suits you better.

## Goat and Sheep Health Talk.

Will is giving a talk about general goat and sheep health aimed at smallholders. The talk is at 2:30pm on 24th February at the village hall in West Walton. Phone the Halls for more details on: 01945 588451.

## New Rules for Sheep & Goat Tagging

All sheep and goats born after the **11th January 2008** that are not destined for slaughter within the first 12 months of age must be **double tagged** (or single tagged and tattooed). All other animals may still be single tagged (i.e. animals going to slaughter before 12 months of age). This change in identification has come about because the European Council requires all its member states to double tag sheep and goats for traceability. The UK was allowed to carry on single tagging but the traceability of single tagged animals is not as reliable as double tagged animals therefore the above change has taken place.

For more information refer to [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

As most of you are aware we are strongly behind the campaign to encourage people to buy locally and reduce food miles, hence we recommend that everyone buy locally either via the Fakenham Farmers Market on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month or directly from the producers listed below:

|                           |                                   |  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Duncan Jeary              | Beef                              | 07880 508104   |
| Mrs Temple                | Cheese                            | 01328 820224   |
| Pointen Bros.             | Dairy Produce                     | 01263 860338   |
| John Garner               | Game, lamb, turkeys               | 01328 700277   |
| Houghton Hall             | Lamb, Mutton, Beef, Pork and Eggs | 07793 208655   |
| Sandringham Beef and Lamb | West Newton Shop                  | 01485 542219   |
| Courtyard Farms Ltd.      | Beef, Lamb and Pork               | 07789 366080   |
| Perfick Pork              | Pork & Lamb                       | 01328 829317   |
| Mr Day, Hindolveston      | Beef, Lamb and Vegetables         | Farmers Market.  |
| Simon Dann                | Norfolk Farmhouse Ice-cream       | On Farm/Local Shops.   |
| Gavin Lane                | Salt Marsh Beef                   | <a href="mailto:sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk">sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk</a> |
| Van Beuningen             | Ash Farm Organics                 | 01362 683228   |
|                           |                                   | <a href="http://www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk">www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk</a> |
| Mrs. Willcox              | Mohair Socks, Preserves, Eggs     | Erpingham House Farm   |

If your name is missing just call the office and we will add your details.

Local Produce

Contact details: Telephone 01485 609031 Fax: 01485 609029. Emergency: 07920104174

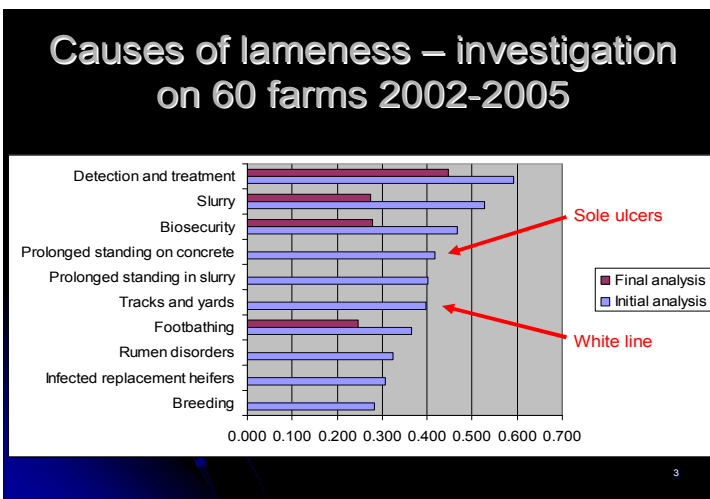
e-mail: [norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com](mailto:norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com) Website: [www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk)

Address: 30 Gayton Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1BG.

# No Foot No Cow—Dairy Meeting Jan 2008



The Farm Health Planning Dairy Meeting was a great success despite the howling gales. **Dr. Nick Bell** from the University of Bristol spoke on the causes of lameness and highlighted the importance of what cows stand and walk on as a cause of lameness. What was particularly interesting was the relevant importance of prompt treatment and slurry removal which were far more important than feeding as a source of lameness.



The most important factor in the incidence of solar ulcers was standing on concrete and Nick talked extensively about the benefits of rubber matting in standing areas. The major causal factor of white line disease was poor footing and tracks. Nick was a particular fan of chalk and sand for cow tracks but talked about a wide range of surfaces and their advantages and disadvantages. **Dr. Mike Overend** from Forum Products gave an overview of all causes of lameness and discussed the importance of correct footbathing techniques in the efficacy of treatments and the range of ingredients for footbaths available.

Forum products make Kling-on Blue which is one of the new range of footbathing products which forms a second skin on the foot up to the coronary band to allow longer contact time of active ingredients. **Ian Poole** gave a foot trimming demonstration in the cubicle house showing the correct approach to foot trimming and the areas in which lesions are likely to be found. He stressed the importance of the heel region where under-run tissue from long contact time with slurry can lead to significant problems with under-run horn. **Russell Vanhanisberg**, a student with us at the practice, presented his findings from a dairy placement in the West country where the introduction of waterbeds in the cubicles in place of mattresses has led to a 75% reduction in the incidence of lameness in the heifers. The waterbeds come in at a cost of £90 each but the farm involved felt that the reduction in solar ulcers and hock lesions more than compensated for the cost of installation. The waterbeds are guaranteed for 10 years.

During the meeting, we presented a cheque for £1700 to **Bob Archibald**, from RABI, for the money raised from last year's Round Norfolk Relay. Several of the participants from last year's race were there and he thanked them for their fundraising.

**Stephen and Catherine Temple** were gracious hosts and we all dined on homemade soup, made by Will's mother and Mrs Temple's cheese, followed by coffee and brownies. It was a good chance for far flung dairy farmers, both from within the practice and further a field, to catch up and discuss what is new in dairy circles.