

--- THE UPDATE ---

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE would like to welcome and introduce our new vets Hannah and Alex to you all.

Alex started with us just before Christmas so some of you may have already met him on farm, initially he will be taking on the TB testing caseload.

Hannah has just qualified from University in New Zealand and is moving back to the UK to start practice here, she will be based at Thame.

The office in Thame is now also open **Saturday mornings** from 9-1 with our new receptionist Catherine managing the phones during this time.

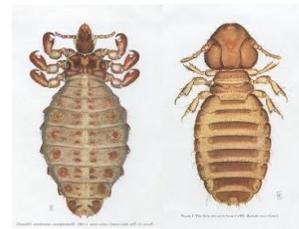
We are very excited to announce that **NorCal Wantage** is now up and running, and will be manned by Jono. The office is located at Elms Farm, on Grove Road, and is open from **9am-1pm daily**.

Tel: 01235 429 767



DIEASE UPDATE: LICE

Lice- We have seen several cases of lice this season and like a lot of parasites, we have noticed that lice infestations are becoming more common and more severe than in the past.



Cattle with heavy lice infestations experience up to 10% production losses due to reduced feeding time and damaged hides. Louse populations are highest in cattle kept indoors during the winter months and generally will affect those which are already in **poor body condition**, as opposed to causing the poor condition, which is often assumed.



Life Cycle- Eggs are laid by the female and glued to hair shafts, they take 8–19 days to hatch as nymphs. The nymphs undergo three moults on the beast, and develop into adults. The entire life cycle takes 3–6 weeks. Lice are spread entirely by direct contact between cattle.

There are several ways we can help manage this parasite and choosing the right product would be a start. Please contact us for free advice.

INCREASED DISEASE RISK: CATTLE PNEUMONIA

In the run up to Christmas we've been relatively lucky with some dry, cold weather. Unfortunately, over the Christmas period and into the new year we're experiencing some very **mild and wet weather**.

Ask yourself: On a **still** day how much fresh air will travel through your sheds? Fresh air movement is vital to remove:

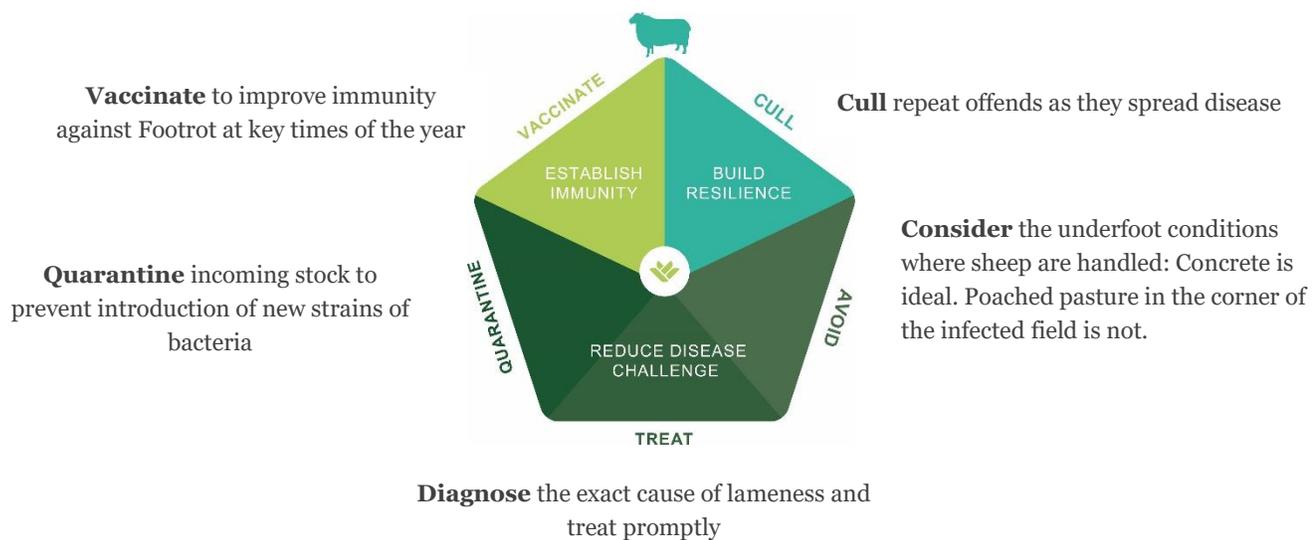
---- **DAMP**----**PATHOGENS (bugs)** ---- **HOT AIR** ----

Remember: Fresh air movement and a **draft** are not the same thing. A draft at animal level (especially for calves), will very quickly make an animal cold, particularly if he is damp (sweat/ wet bedding)- and result in the animal catching pneumonia.

Prompt and appropriate medical treatment is hugely important, but re-evaluating shed layout and management must be considered. Please do ask us for some advice- not all changes need to be expensive.

WET WEATHER: LAMENESS CONTROL IN SHEEP

Lameness is thought to affect around 3 million sheep in the UK at any one time. It is a serious animal welfare concern and a cause of major financial loss to the industry through labour, treatment and premature culling costs. The Farm Animal Welfare Council have set a national target to reduce sheep lameness to <2% by 2021. Currently most flocks in the UK report a 5-10% prevalence of lameness. On farm research has shown the **Five Point Plan** is a **practical, farm specific strategy** to adopt in order to tackle the issue effectively. The key points are summarized below:



Many of you are likely to already be doing **some** components of the plan. By implementing **all 5 points** of this plan many farms have managed to reduce sheep lameness **significantly** over an initial **1-2 year** period and then maintain it at <1% over subsequent years – proof it is possible to achieve the national target and that higher levels of lameness within a flock should not just be accepted as normal.

Charlotte has recently completed a course run by MSD to become a lameness advisor and can help you work through the Five Point Plan and ultimately come up with some strategies to reduce lameness within your flock. The plan can be could part of a whole flock health plan, for more information please call Charlotte 07889 701 340.

PREPARING FOR SPRING: LAMBING

With lambing just around the corner- it's worth noting for those of you who use OxyCare tablets (yellow smarties) for Watery Mouth- these tablets have been discontinued by the manufacturer. Please give us a call if this is going to affect you and we can discuss your other options.

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