

## Some new faces!

Recently we have had to say goodbye to some familiar faces, however we now have a couple of new faces joining the farm team here at Ark.

Chloe Dunlop has joined us from down in North-umberland, where she worked as a mixed vet before moving a little closer to home. Chloe is a Glasgow graduate and is from Lanarkshire originally. Growing up on a beef and sheep farm she enjoys all aspects of veterinary medicine.



Tommy Henson studied at Glasgow university before coming straight to Ark. He is an avid runner, cyclist and bagpiper and is enjoying honing his skills as a mixed vet. Tommy is from Perth originally and is finding the weather to be a little more wet than at home!

**Arks all new Facebook Page !!**

Please feel free to head over and check out our new Facebook page where we will endeavour to keep you updated in all areas of farm medicine as well as to let you know about events, talks and maybe even some case studies! Feel free to leave us a like too!

Check us out at - <https://www.facebook.com/Ark-Vet-Centre-Farm-242491127666542>



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# Ark Vet Centre

Your farm's health is in our hands.

Newsletter January 2022

Happy New Year!

We want to wish you all a very happy new year and we hope you managed to spend some quality time with family and friends over the festive period. The uncertainty that comes hand in hand with the continuing pandemic hasn't made this festive period all that straight forward but as we turn a new leaf in 2022 we hope that things begin to normalise and we can go back to just complaining about the weather!

### Trodax is Gone! – what should I use for fluke treatment now?

It has now been formally announced that the manufacturers of Trodax are unable to continue the production of the product. As a previous mainstay of liver fluke treatment in cattle this leaves many of us wondering what alternative product we should be using. To help solve this question, below we have devised a table that highlights alternative products for fluke treatment, the stage of fluke they treat as well as the class of product.

#### When should I be dosing?

Very few of the fluke products available on the market target the early immature stages of Fasciola Hepatica (Liver Fluke). What this means is that if you were to dose the day of housing then only the fluke picked up 6-7 weeks before housing would be treated. The fluke

Product Name	Chemical Name	Administration Route	Stage of liver fluke Killed	Withdrawal period for meat
Endofluke	Triclabendazole	Oral Drench	Early Immature Fluke ( $\geq 2$ weeks)	56 days
<u>Fasinex 240</u>	Triclabendazole	Oral Drench	Early Immature Fluke ( $\geq 2$ weeks)	52 days
<u>Solantel</u>	<u>Closantel</u>	Pour On	Late Immature ( $\geq 7$ weeks)	63 days
<u>Zanil</u>	Oxyclozanide	Oral Drench	Adult Only ( $\geq 12$ weeks)	13 days
<u>Bimectin plus</u>	<u>Clorsulon</u> and <u>Ivermectin</u>	Subcutaneous Injection	Adult Only ( $\geq 12$ weeks)	66 days
<u>Levafas diamond</u>	Levamisole and Oxyclozanide	Oral Drench	Adult Only ( $\geq 12$ weeks)	5 days

picked up by the cattle in this interim 6-7 weeks period would then develop to mature fluke and cause disease. In order to counteract this problem it is suggested that as a gold standard practice cattle should be dosed at housing and then 7 weeks later. However one alternative would be to wait till the 7-8th week after housing and then treat all cattle. There are some products that allow you to treat sooner but it has been found that there is resistance to these products and is best to use these products at other times of the year.



## Rumen Fluke – what are they?

Rumen fluke (*Calicophoron daubneyi*) is a type of fluke that lives in the rumen of cattle and sheep. It is generally deemed to be of incidental finding, meaning it doesn't affect the animal clinically.

However they are still a parasite and we have seen some cases of clinical significance. If you are worried about loss of condition or unexplained scour then please contact us and we can further discuss testing. However there is only one treatment choice for rumen fluke: Oxytoclozanide will kill adult and immature rumen fluke. Both Zanil and Levafas Diamond will work. Treatment in late January- February would be recommended.

## Body Condition Scoring in sheep: What do I look for and why?

Identifying individual sheep that are in poor condition is a useful tool for picking out isolated cases of ill thrift and disease. However flock changes are often far more subtle and less easily noticed. By understanding the average body condition of your flock it is possible to save both time and money. To do this, regular hands on body condition scoring will give you an insight into the health and welfare of your flock.

Body condition scoring (BCS) is a cheap and effective way of understanding the body reserves of an animal. It gives you a snapshot of how that ewe or tup has been doing over the past eight or so weeks. It can be used to gauge if the flock are getting enough or too much feed but can also help highlight if there is a systemic health problem in the flock i.e. intestinal parasites.

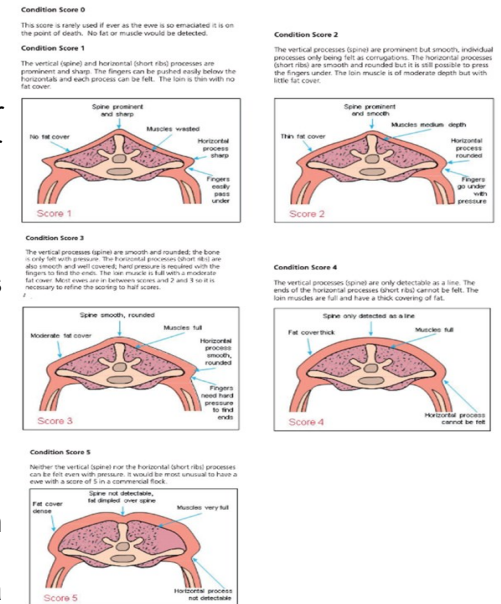
It must be noted that different breeds throughout the flock will have different frame sizes, genetics and fleece thickness; therefore it is hard to assess the BCS of mature sheep visually. Therefore body condition scoring is a hands on technique rather than visual and **can't** be done from across the field! However it can be done when sheep are already gathered for other reasons.

By ensuring your animals are in target condition at key times throughout the year you can expect to have:

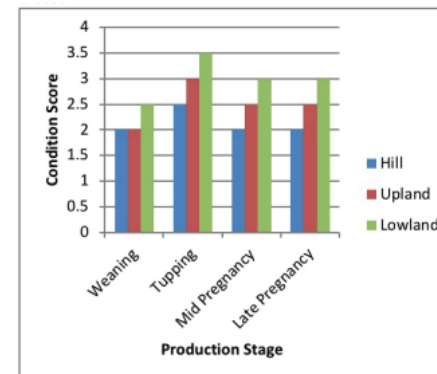
- Higher scanning, lambing and weaning %
- Reduced ewe mortality
- Production of viable and heavier lambs with a good immunity
- Higher weaning weights
- Production of more colostrum and milk

This guide has been adapted from the Farm advisory service guide to body condition scoring sheep for the full guide please go to <https://www.fas.scot/downloads/tn702-body-condition-scoring-mature-sheep/>

Condition score is assessed by handling the sheep over and around the back bone. Make sure the sheep is relaxed and not pressing against other sheep. You should use the tissue over the short ribs to assess condition; these sit just behind the last (13th) long rib and project perpendicular to the direction of the spine. With the tips of your fingers make sure you feel the fat cover over the vertical processes of the spine and then the fat and muscle that covers the horizontal processes (short ribs). Using the above method the sheep can be graded from 1-5 using 0.5 intervals if needed. Although recommended it is not a necessity to handle every ewe in the flock, in fact a random sample of about 20% will be sufficient.



## Target Condition Scores



It is generally accepted that there are four keytimes to assess flock condition. These are weaning, tupping, mid pregnancy and late pregnancy. If you can meet each of these targets then you should expect to see improvements throughout the flock. Attached here is a graph highlighting the targets for different management systems.