

Lungworm — Do you have a problem?

Most lungworm cases are reported at the back end of the grazing season but it is important to think about prevention strategies before turnout as lungworm larvae can overwinter on pasture and in carrier cattle, to pass infection year to year. This means cattle can pick up infection as soon as they are turned out in the spring. For beef suckler herds, calves are generally exposed to a continuous low-level challenge from adult cattle. However, if the herd immunity declines then there is an increased risk of disease. Effective lungworm control relies upon strategic grazing patterns, the responsible and appropriate use of wormers, and vaccination. If you are continuously worming for gut worms this will also remove lungworm and not allow for natural immunity to build up, therefore cattle are at risk of lungworm infection when the activity of the wormer ends. Outbreaks of lungworm can be unpredictable and so vaccination before turnout protects a herd from walking into a potential minefield.

At a meeting we had in November last year, Colin Mason, vet from the SRUC said that the lab had seen a steep rise in the amount of cases of lungworm this year and for everyone to be aware and to think about vaccination.

If you have any questions on lungworm please speak to us



enquiries@arkvetcentre.co.uk



Ark Vet Centre

Your farm's health is in our hands.



New Year 23 Newsletter

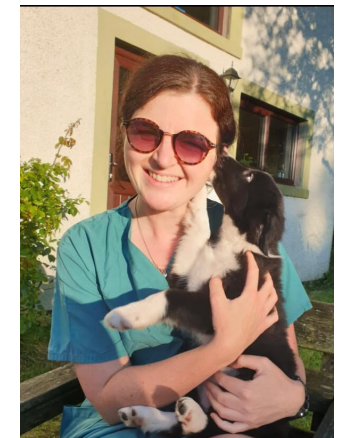
Happy New Year!

We hope you have had a fun, festive season. In this issue we have a feature on healthy rumens and a rumen sampling technique, a focus on lungworm, reminder for clostridial/pasteurella ewe vaccination and some dates for your diary!

What Has Been Happening?

Over the past few months we have seen lots of pneumonia issues with the swings in temperature and weather extremes! We are looking forward to the coming year and springtime when it comes.

We welcomed Eugenie, a new vet to the team, in November. Eugenie is originally from Uist and came to us from a practice in West Cumbria after studying at Budapest Vet School. She really enjoys farm work and is looking forward to being here at Ark.

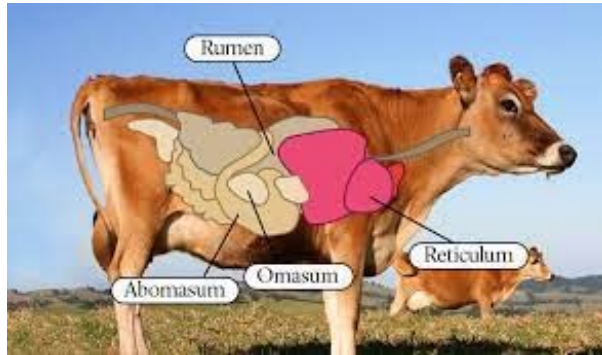


Outside of work you will find her hiking, cycling and playing the fiddle.

We also said a cheerio for now to Tommy who is off to New Zealand for a while to vet there.

Healthy Rumens, Happy Cows

The rumen is full of bacteria, protozoa, yeasts and other organisms that help digest the food ruminants eat and breakdown foodstuffs that other species can't eat. This produces energy and protein for absorption by the animal.



Our vet John has collected a sample from the rumen and performed rumen sampling as part of an investigation into acidosis. He looked at the sample under the microscope and measured the activity of the rumen bugs to assess the health of the rumen environment.

Animals on a high concentrate diet such as high yielding dairy cows, bull beef systems or even animals grazing particularly lush spring pastures are at risk of developing acidosis due to the nature of their diet containing large amounts of fast fermenting carbohydrates producing lactic acid.

If you are seeing cows with overly loose dung or lots of cud balls at the feed face-then please get in touch with us for a chat about further investigation

Remember to like our Ark Vet Centre – Farm Facebook page to keep updated on meetings,



Pre-Lambing Clostridial Boosters

- ◆ Ewes in a clostridial (Covexin/ Bravoxin) or combined clostridial/pasteurella (Heptavac P) vaccination system should receive their booster vaccination 4-6 weeks before lambing to allow the ewes to respond fully to the vaccine and maximise the amount of antibodies in their colostrum to provide protection to their lambs against diseases such as lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney and tetanus.
- ◆ The ewes must be dry when they are vaccinated and care must be taken to ensure correct subcutaneous (under the skin) injection of every ewe. Injecting sheep when they are wet may result in contamination of the needle and abscess formation.

Upcoming Meetings

- ◆ Pre-lambing meeting on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at the practice in Lockerbie covering key topics associated with the time before lambing. More details to follow
- ◆ Medicines Matters course-coming soon. Date to be advised

Please let us know if you would like a meeting on a specific topic and we will see what we can do

