

The showing season is upon us and although many of you do not take animals to the shows any longer, they still make for a great day out show casing all that is great about rural life. Some of our clients are exhibiting at this season's shows— a lot of effort goes into making the animals shine (see image!) and we wish you luck. Bring back some prizes! Felcourt Farm near East Grinstead are hosting Open Farm Sunday on 10th June— we hope you have a good day— Ben is to join you. As for recent CPD, Sarah has been to the Sheep Veterinary Society annual conference and Ben and Claire have both attended lameness courses. We shall impart the recently acquired knowledge to you on farm but feel free to quiz any of us at any time. Listen out for the news about the next Beef Discussion group meeting which will focus on Mastering Medicines as required by Red Tractor. The Flock Club will be having their meeting on this

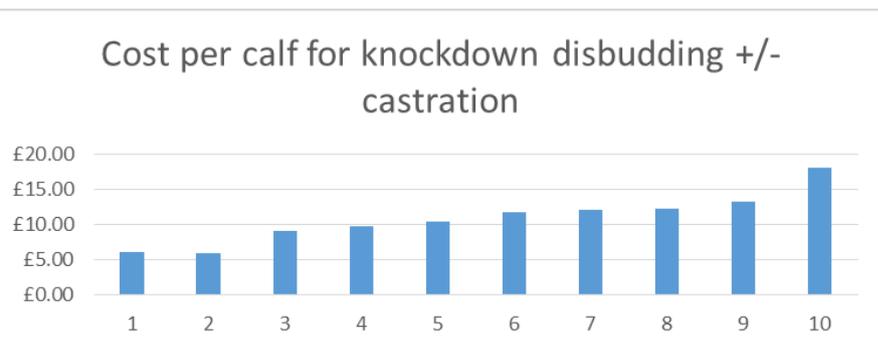
subject in the Autumn. Provisional date for the next Heifer group meeting is 19th June. This month is the Italy trip— I am very envious of anyone who is attending and look forward to hearing all about it. Bring back some wine and cheese please! Enjoy the sunshine everyone. *Megan*



**Cost of the knockdown disbud (Megan)**

We've had great uptake and feedback from clients opting for knockdown disbud technique. This is where the calves are sedated as well as given the usual pain relief. It allows for far easier handling of the animals and enables a large number of calves to be disbudded +/- castrated at the same time. Factors influencing the cost of this method are the speed with which we can complete the job which is affected by:

Age of calves ( 3 weeks old ideal), people available to help (vet plus 2 others ideal), space to move around in, pens allowing ease of access between batches of animals (enabling us to have burners close and not to be jumping hurdles). The farms with the most efficient system have managed to disbud calves for just over £7 per calf and the most inefficient jobs have costed just under £20 per calf. We are really pleased at the uptake of this method which allows increased welfare of the animals (and farmers) and efficiency of the job. Any questions please contact Megan



**Yellow eartags: Identify your animals correctly (Elena)**



Image from Google

Yesterday, I had a chat with an OV (Official Veterinarian) of the abattoir who raised quite a few concerns regarding the correct identification of the animals presented to slaughter. According to the Regulation 853/2004, the animal must have a valid passport that matches the ear tags, breed and sex and must have matching official ear tags, one in each ear!!! Recently, at the abattoir quite few animals were not presented correctly and they had to stay in the abattoir's lairage for a few days to be DNA tested (tested both the animal at the abattoir and the dam at the farm) and finally, once the results from the lab arrived, processed to slaughter. The costs involved to cover the maintenance of the animals in the lairage, the vets involved in the testing and the lab fees were expensive and all paid by the farmer... So please try to correctly ear tag your animals, the ear tags cost only few pounds! In the worst case scenario: the animals whose identity is not reasonably ascertainable, are to be killed separately and declared unfit for human consumption, in compliance with 854/2004 Annex I Section II Chapter III, ending in a waste of time, money and sadly the animal's life.

**NOTICE BOARD**

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**An ode to Elena (Claire)**

We are very very very very sad to say that it is this month we are saying goodbye to Elena. She has been a fantastic member of the Livestock team for nearly 3 years, taking a challenging job in her stride and performing it with professionalism and dedication. So many of you speak highly of her which speaks volumes. I think we all now have our Elena-isms whilst TB testing... Mine is 'Uppa your head'!

Elena's last hurrah is organising 'The Italy trip' for 26 of us! Not a minor undertaking, but again due to her diligence and fabulous nature I'm sure it is going to be amazing and I am very excited!! We wish you all the luck in your new venture Elena and we are going to miss your smiley face and varying hair colour. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Neurological Diseases of Sheep (Sarah)**

Here is my attempt to whiz through some of the important causes of neurological disease in sheep. Remember if you are seeing lots of any condition or have severe cases give us a call to discuss them further. Some of the conditions can look disastrous but if identified promptly and treated correctly a successful outcome can be achieved. (Tx = treatment, P= prevention)

**Staggers (Hypomagnesaemia)** usually in peak lactation, on lush spring grass, especially if nitrogen or potash fertilisers have been applied/improved pastures. Lactating ewes require 4-5g of magnesium per day, and it cannot be stored in the body. Ewes under most stress are most at risk. **SIGNS:** trembling/weakness/reluctance to move>recumbancy>flat out and progress to death rapidly. **TX** 50ml Magniject under skin in multiple sites ASAP. Plus 50ml calciject number 6 under skin too. In severe cases a mix of magnesium and calcium will be needed IV. Boluses can be used to provide a 3 week supply **P:** salt licks should be provided, delaying fertilising of fields, using mag flakes in all water troughs, and high mag lick buckets should all help.

**Listeria (listeriosis)** – bacterial infection, mainly associated with silage feeding but possible on some grazing land, particularly if rough ground. The bacterial infection is usually limited to one side of the brain in most animals; hence the one-sided appearance of nerve paralysis. **SIGNS:** off feed, depressed, ear droop, drooling, facial droop, circling/leaning/stuck in silly places. **TX:** if caught early high doses of penicillin, and anti-inflammatories plus nursing to help them feed/drink if severe. **P** care with silage production and feeding, beware risky pastures where it has been diagnosed before.

**CCN – Cerebrocortical necrosis (Polioencephalomalacia)** - Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) deficiency. Vitamin B1 is produced by bacteria in the sheep's rumen. Anything that upsets the balance of rumen microbes (sudden intakes of energy-rich feed/changes of diet) can cause the amount of B1 produced to drop, leading to CCN. Can occur in all ages of sheep but classically is weaned lambs aged 4-8 months. **SIGNS:** starts with separating themselves from the group> appear 'Blind', and wobbly until they go down> seen to 'stargaze' with their heads straight up and back> eventually lie on their sides, seizure and die. **TX:** if caught early IM/SC injections of Vitamin B1 are ok. (for severe cases IV and our help may be necessary). Injections may need to be repeated for several days, may be beneficial to move affected animals onto high forage diets too.

**Gid (coenurosis)** – this is caused by a tapeworm (taenia multiceps) cyst in the brain. The tapeworm comes from dogs/foxes faeces that have been able to eat infected sheep carcasses. It is not that commonly diagnosed, although this may be due to underdiagnosing. **SIGNS:** it can present as an acute disease in young lambs –temperature, listlessness, a slight head tilt >may develop encephalitis and die within 4 /5 days. Chronic disease is more commonly seen in sheep aged 6 to 18 months, with compulsive circling behaviour, depression, head-pressing behaviour. **TX** usually euthanasia due to economics as the only treatment is surgery to remove the cyst! **P** is the prompt disposal of all carcasses on farm and regular worming of all farm dogs with praziquantel (dronatal).

**Drenching your animals (Megan)**

Remember when drenching your animals with Selekt or Aggers products that concentration is key! The sachets are designed to go into 20L of warm water. If the cow is more dehydrated she may need 40L or even 60L– another sachet(s) must be used. Fresh cow and off feed must not be used together. No more than 1 fresh cow or 1 off feed can be used together. If you need to drench with more than 20L then use 1 or 2 more Restore sachets.

	SELEKT Antacid	SELEKT Charbon Fluids™ Activated Charcoal Liquid	SELEKT Fresh Cow 500	SELEKT Glycerol Plus	SELEKT Off Feed	SELEKT Restore
Acute rumen acidosis	✓					
Following Caesarean section			✓	✓		
Diarrhoea caused by mycotoxins or bacterial infection		✓				✓
Dehydration or endotoxaemic shock caused by mastitis, metritis, traumatic reticulitis, hydrops, etc.						✓
Inappetence in early lactation					✓	
Reduction in the risk of ketosis			✓			
Recovery from ketosis				✓		✓
Following correction of left and right displacement of the abomasum				✓	✓	✓
Reduction in the risk of left displacement of the abomasum			✓			
Reduction in the risk of milk fever / hypocalcaemia			✓			
Poisoning caused by mycotoxins, acorns, ragwort, water dropwort etc.		✓				

- 20L - 1 sachet (see table to help you decide what you need)
- 40L needed– 1 sachet plus Restore
- 60L - 1 sachet needed plus 2 Restore

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