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JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

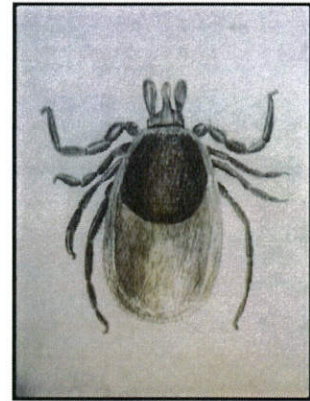
TICK CONTROL – RESEARCH PROJECT

As we have said a few times over the past couple of years, tick borne diseases are increasing throughout the practice in both cattle and sheep and are no longer restricted to the “usual” moorland areas. We are not alone, with similar increases being seen across the UK.

As a result, the Farm-Vet industry is particularly interested in the control of ticks and tickborne diseases affecting livestock through methods that will be sustainable in the long term. A dissertation project is being conducted evaluating what farmers in Great Britain encountered and how you dealt with the control of ticks and tickborne disease in 2021.

What preventive and treatment methods did you use to control ticks on your livestock?

If you farm sheep or cattle (or both), the researchers would be very grateful if you would complete a short survey on this topic. It should take 15-20 minutes, depending on the livestock species you farm and will close on 11th July. The survey can be found at:
<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/tick-control-2021>



As grazing and pasture management potentially change inline with Environmental Land Management Schemes, and ectoparasiticides begin to come under pressure to reduce their usage, ticks are likely to become even more of problem moving forward. The more knowledge we have to tackle this threat, the better for all of us.

Elske, Rya and Jonathan recently attended an excellent and highly informative evening meeting regarding **EWE mastitis** with Professor Laura Green. She has spent most of her career researching sheep lameness and mastitis and is recognised as an international authority on these subjects. A brief summary is...

- Insufficient energy & protein PRE-lambing; insufficient energy & *excessive* protein POST-lambing **DOUBLE** the risk of mastitis developing. **Nutrition is key!** Analyse forages and feed accordingly.
- **Forward pointing teats**; significant udder drop; longer and thicker teats all increase risk.
- Ewes **over 6 years of age** have a significantly greater risk.
- All **lumps** palpated within udders **are abscesses** – if present ewes are significantly more likely to develop mastitis in the following lactation. **Cull out** prior to tupping, or if not possible e.g. if there are too many ewes with lumps making it economically unviable, then split the flock into two groups to reduce spreading
- There is sheep-to-sheep spread both indoors and outdoors. **Separating the lamb from the mother** breaks the cycle, indicating that lambs spread the mastitis from sheep-to-sheep by cross-suckling and snatching milk as they are going short from their own mothers.
- Prompt treatment is key (as well as separation), together with milking out the ewe (NOT into the bedding!)



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