Summer Newsletter 2025

Dear All,

Welcome to our new look summer newsletter, I say new look but the truth is I've battled long enough with Microsoft word and have decided to give up and use a template. If only there was a similar easy way around the various government computer systems we have to use to record TB tests etc!

There are a few changes at Moorgate, some of you may be aware that Cam has left us to move nearer to family and try life as a veterinary locum, hopefully we may see him in the future but for now we wish him the best of luck and I'd like to thank him for the three and half years he spent with us, it was pleasure watching him develop.

You'll meet a couple of new faces, Emma Stevenson has started with us already, initially she is working 3 days a week but that will no doubt increase soon, and in September we will be joined by Olivia Parker who you may have met when she was a vet student on placement with us. There's a bit more about Emma later in the letter but she comes with a great farm vet pedigree.

Bluetongue continues to be the main question on farm, and I'd estimate about half of farmers have vaccinated their sheep or beef herds, or plan to once calves or lambs are old enough. I suppose a vet is never wrong telling people to vaccinate as you don't know if that flock or herd will be exposed to the disease, but in the case of bluetongue its such and unknown risk, with such high jeopardy, that I think they have made the right decision!

Calving and lambing was a little late this year, I think the high feed and other prices meant the economic decision was to go a little later this year, but we have been busy now, perhaps a slight silver lining of less interventions though as later lambers and calvers are easier to feed to condition.

We've also started to complete the second round of pathway funded work, including BVD monitoring for beef herds, and wormer resistance testing for sheep, so if you've either not yet got round to applying, or used the fund last year, now is the time to make the use of this funding.

Hopefully this newsletter will arrive with a little more spring rain to get the grass growing again,

Ashley

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CHAGFORD SHOW

We hope to be at the show again this year, and will be sponsoring the dog show

Please come and say hello, we are usually given a space by the bridge to the livestock area and will have refreshments for farmers, and you can use this ticket to collect a gift! Just add your name (while stocks last).

_____ *would like a gift from Moorgate*

Moorgate Veterinary Group

Moretonhampstead

01647 440441

Bovey Tracey

01626 833023

Summer Vet Jobs

Cattle

Scanning autumn calvers to check for empties
Post calving checks on spring calvers
Blackleg / clostridial vaccines for calves
BVD boosters for spring calvers
Scour vaccines for dry cows & Bluetongue vaccines
Monitor for husk and early fluke signs
Treat for flies and check eyes & udders

Sheep

Fly control & Shearing
Lamb clostridial & pasteurella vaccines
Worm egg counts from grazing lambs
Bluetongue vaccines
Making up the flock including testing cull ewes for endemic disease
Vaccinating hoggets against common abortion causes

Meet Our New Vet – Emma

We're thrilled to welcome Emma to the team! Graduating from the University of Glasgow in 2013, Emma brings a wealth of experience and a real passion for mixed practice. With a special interest in large animal surgery and production animal management, she has recently started working toward an Advanced Practitioner Certificate in Cattle.

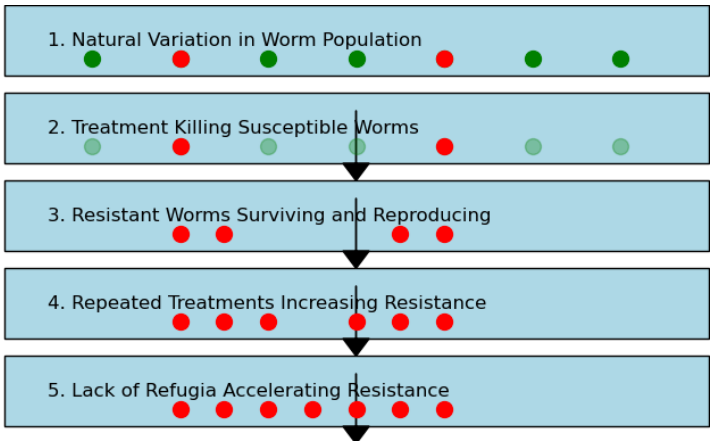
Outside of work, Emma is an adventure enthusiast who enjoys kitesurfing, climbing, and just about anything involving water or heights! Be sure to say hello next time you're in – she is excited to get to know you and your animals.

Understanding Anthelmintic Resistance: What Farmers Need to Know

Wormer (anthelmintic) resistance is an increasing problem in our area, with some flocks having worms resistant to multiple classes of drench, in flocks where worms cannot be controlled production can be unviable

Anthelmintic resistance is when worms in livestock become less responsive or completely immune to the drugs used to kill them. This means that even after treatment, some worms survive and continue to infect animals, leading to poor health, reduced productivity, and increased costs.

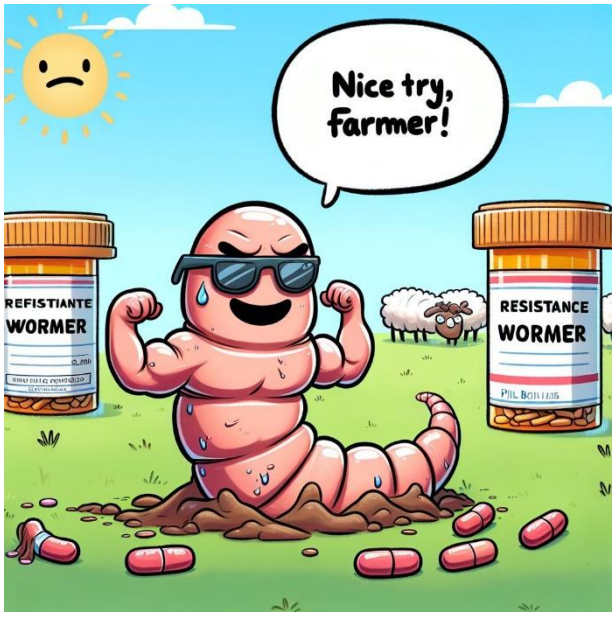
Anthelmintic resistance is a genetic change in worm populations that allows them to survive treatments that once killed them. This doesn't happen overnight but builds up gradually through repeated exposure to wormers.



Natural Variation in Worm Populations: In any population of worms, there are always a few individuals with natural genetic mutations that make them less sensitive to a particular anthelmintic. These resistant worms are rare at first.

Treatment Kills Susceptible Worms: When you treat animals with an anthelmintic, the susceptible worms die, but the resistant ones survive. If the treatment is not done properly, such as underdosing or using the wrong product, more resistant worms may survive.

Resistant Worms Reproduce: The surviving resistant worms lay eggs, which hatch into larvae that carry the same resistance genes. These larvae contaminate the pasture and are eaten by grazing animals, continuing the cycle.



Repeated Use of the Same Drug: If the same class of anthelmintic is used repeatedly, it selects for resistance. Each treatment kills more of the susceptible worms and leaves behind a higher proportion of resistant ones. Over time, the population shifts to being mostly resistant.

Lack of Refugia: This refers to the portion of the worm population that is not exposed to the drug—such as worms in untreated animals or on pasture. These worms help dilute the resistant genes. If all animals are treated at once, or if there's little refugia, resistance builds up faster because there's no "dilution" of the resistant worms.

In the next newsletter we will look at strategies you can adopt to slow down the development of anthelmintic resistance in your stock. Jordan.rolfe@moorgatevets.co.uk