

Dear All

Welcome to our spring newsletter, huge thanks to Emma for the two articles about lambing and Clostridial diseases – currently we do seem to be able to get Heptavac-P, as well as the other clostridial vaccines, so let us know what you need if your ewes are due a booster pre-lambing, and then for lamb or calf vaccinations.

As I write this it feels like it may have stopped raining for a bit, and the grass down here has definitely started to grow; the signs of spring are very welcome and hopefully this will continue while people start to turn out lambs.

I'm sure everyone is aware that we have had to move our Moretonhampstead surgery - only over the road to Gales Sawmills, where the garden machinery shop used to be. I had hoped that it would be a seamless move over the new year, but unfortunately, we seem stuck in our own "Grand Designs" style saga! We are working as hard as we can to get the surgery open and back to normal; for now, everyone is working out of our Bovey Tracey branch where we are still able to see lambings etc. Once the new surgery is open, I hope you will agree that it's an upgrade, and we should be able to improve our service and offer calf hospitalisation for those collapsed hypothermic cases where a bit of magic can be worked with intravenous fluids and a heat lamp!



To the right, is a "before picture", after to follow...

As always if there's anything you'd like to see in these newsletters, or anything you want to raise please get in touch!

Ashley

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Managing the Final Stretch into Lambing & Calving

It has been an exceptionally wet start to the year. While grass is growing rapidly, "bogged down" pastures and flooding present serious challenges for upcoming lambing and calving periods. This moisture is a primary driver for metabolic issues, lameness and parasitic threats.

Pregnancy Toxaemia (Twin Lamb Disease)

A serious metabolic disorder caused by a **negative energy balance**, when the mother cannot eat enough to meet the demands of growing foetuses, she begins to break down body fat, overwhelming the liver.

Key Risk Factors

- **Multiple Foetuses** – large uteri physically compress the rumen, reducing feed capacity
- **Body Condition (BCS)** – both over-fat and thin animals are at risk
- **Stress** – sudden weather changes, transport or shearing can trigger a drop in feed intake

Spotting the Signs

- **Early** – isolation from the flock, sluggishness or refusing grain
- **Mid-Stage** – staggering, muscle tremors and sweet/fruity breath (acetone)
- **Late-Stage** – "stargazing" (blindness), teeth grinding and inability to stand

Prevention & Action

Note – Mortality in advanced cases reaches 80%. Prevention is your best tool.



- **Scanning** – separate ewes carrying multiples to provide a higher plane of nutrition
- **Nutrition** – increase high-quality, energy-dense concentrates during the **final 6 weeks**.
- **Early Treatment** – use oral energy boosters like propylene glycol for animals still walking. Call immediately for intravenous glucose if they are recumbent

The Silent Threat: Clostridial Diseases



Clostridial bacteria (like Blackleg, Pulpy Kidney, and Tetanus) live in the soil and enter the blood via wounds or grazing. Because these diseases progress rapidly, **sudden death is often the first symptom.**

The Vaccination Shield

Vaccination is the **only** reliable control.

- **Unvaccinated Stock:** Require a primary course of two doses, 4–6 weeks apart.
- **Ewes:** Vaccinate with *Heptavac* or *Lambivac* **4–6 weeks pre-lambing.**
- **Cattle:** Vaccinate with *Covexi* or *Bravoxin* **8-2 weeks pre-calving.**

Why it matters: This timing ensures peak antibody levels in the **colostrum**, giving newborns a "safety net" for their first 12 weeks of life.

If you want to discuss either of these articles you can reach Emma by email, emma.stevenson@moorgatevets.co.uk or via the surgery.

Goodbyes



We are saying a fond goodbye to Jordan (on the left), who is moving into a small animal role and to Stijn (on the right), who is heading off to travel in Australia. We wish them both the very best in their new adventures, and I'd like to thank them for all their hard work over the last few years.

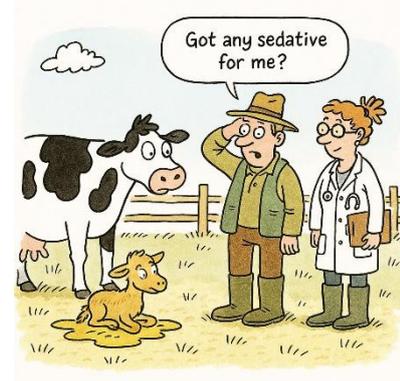


We have started to interview for a new colleague but in the meantime Trevor Dickson, who many of you may remember of old, has agreed to cover for us. He will mainly be based out of Bovey Tracey but you may come across him on the odd farm visit.

Word Search

G U Y P W C P R O D U C E J
R F T O W A T E R M B R L A
E U R S C L D E A S O O D L
E G S R U N S R O T C Y I E
N C E I A O K D A A T O T P
H S I T G E I T L L S S F L
O M S N T N I C A E E P F A
U R P D A O S I I V I A L N
S A I N N G C M R L R F L T
E F C A F E R A H S E R F S
U B K L P S H O H I G D E D
C Y G S W B A S K E T S C J

We do still have some branded buckets left over from Chagford show, so if you would like to be in with the chance of securing one just give the Moreton number a ring and let them know how many words you (or the nearest farm kid!) can find.



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