



ROWCLIFFE

VETERINARY PRACTICE

March 2025 Newsletter

Signs of Spring are appearing all around us and I'm sure that, like us, you are happily welcoming the warmer temperatures. Many of you are anticipating what lambing and calving may bring, so here are a few things to keep in mind as the action unfolds.

Abortion in Ewes

A barren rate of greater than 2%, so 10 ewes in every 500 scanned, is worth investigating. Similarly, abortion in 2% or more ewes, or 2 abortions in 100 ewes lambed within 2-3 days, should be investigated.

There are many factors that can contribute to a poor scanning percentage, so sometimes a very thorough investigation is needed.



However, abortions at lambing time require less analysis. The foetus and placenta can be submitted to investigate most infectious causes of abortion. We can also narrow down our options based on the condition of the ewe, e.g. is she sick?

The following factors may help identify the most likely diagnosis, but testing is needed for confirmation.

	Toxoplasmosis	EAE	Campylobacteriosis	Salmonellosis	Listeriosis
Cause	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> parasite	<i>Chlamydophila abortus</i> bacteria	<i>Campylobacter</i> bacteria	<i>Salmonellae</i> bacteria	<i>Listeria monocytogenes/ivanovii</i> bacteria
Sources of infection	Substances contaminated with cat faeces e.g. feed, bedding	Aborted materials Carrier sheep	Carrier sheep Wildlife	Infected stock Contaminated feedstuffs	Soil and contaminated feed
Appearance of abortion	Fresh lambs Mummified lambs Leathery or white spot placenta EWE OK	Fresh lambs Thickened placenta EWE OK	Nothing specific EWE OK	Nothing specific EWE MAY BE ILL	Nothing specific May see nervous form of disease in ewes

Don't forget about the ongoing presence of Bluetongue Virus in the UK. BTV is associated with abortion, still births, and foetal malformations. Given the current level of infection in the UK, please stay vigilant and call us if anything needs a second pair of eyes!

Schmallenberg is another vector-borne disease that we may see increased cases of this year. Historically associated with fused joints and twisted spines, but SBV seems to be changing, so even if malformations are not the classic type, it would be beneficial to investigate what is going on. Remember testing by the APHA (VLA at Merrythought) is free of charge.

Follow this link for more in-depth information on SBV: <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/schmallenberg-virus-sbv>

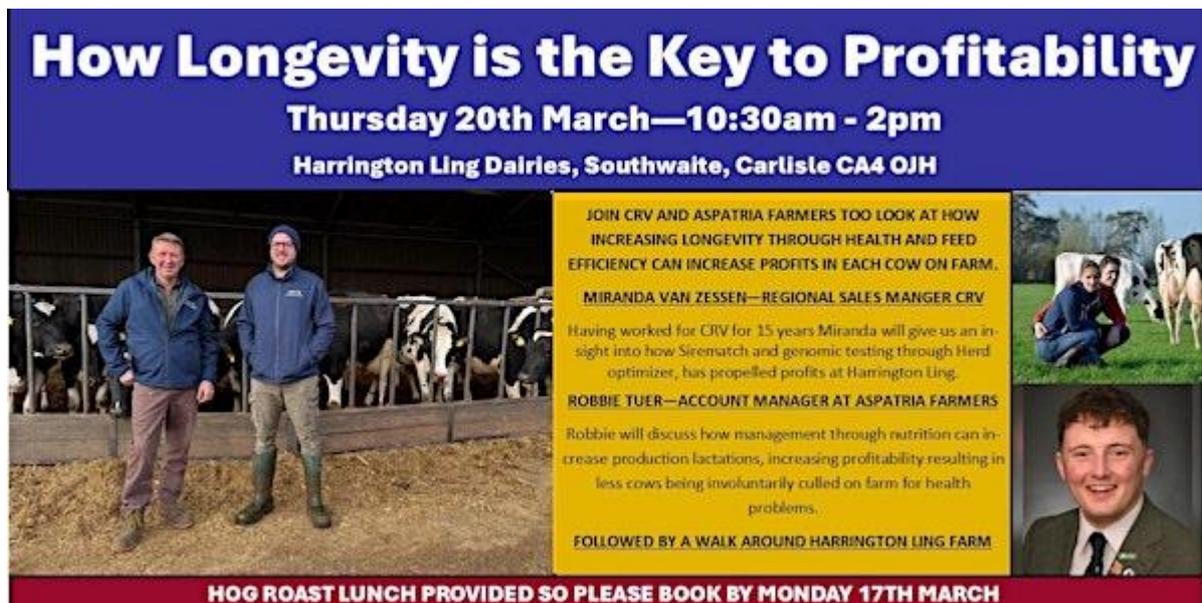
Flock Check 2025

As in previous years, several pharmaceutical companies are offering their abortive disease testing scheme for flocks suspicious of Toxoplasma and/or Enzootic Abortion of Ewes.

Toxoplasma infection can result in a higher barren rate, where as EAE is associated with late abortions. If you had a poor scanning and you do not vaccinate, testing 6-8 ewes for Toxoplasma will tell us whether vaccination will be of benefit.

Please contact us if you would like any testing for Toxoplasma, EAE, or any other abortive disease so that we can discuss which samples are required.

How Longevity is the Key to Profitability



How Longevity is the Key to Profitability
Thursday 20th March—10:30am - 2pm
Harrington Ling Dairies, Southwalte, Carlisle CA4 0JH

JOIN CRV AND ASPATRIA FARMERS TOO LOOK AT HOW INCREASING LONGEVITY THROUGH HEALTH AND FEED EFFICIENCY CAN INCREASE PROFITS IN EACH COW ON FARM.

MIRANDA VAN ZESSEN—REGIONAL SALES MANGER CRV
Having worked for CRV for 15 years Miranda will give us an insight into how Sirematch and genomic testing through Herd optimizer, has propelled profits at Harrington Ling.

ROBBIE TUER—ACCOUNT MANAGER AT ASPATRIA FARMERS
Robbie will discuss how management through nutrition can increase production lactations, increasing profitability resulting in less cows being involuntarily culled on farm for health problems.

FOLLOWED BY A WALK AROUND HARRINGTON LING FARM

HOG ROAST LUNCH PROVIDED SO PLEASE BOOK BY MONDAY 17TH MARCH

Discover how prioritising longevity can cut costs and drive production with CRV and Aspatria Farmers, followed by a farm walk. Includes a hog roast lunch!

Please follow the link below to book your place, or contact Becky or Robbie using the following contact details:

Becky – 07818812990 or email: becky.atkinson@crv4all.co.uk

Robbie – 07469895978

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-longevity-is-the-key-to-profitability-tickets-1259442108249?aff=oddtcreator>

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE BY THE 17TH OF MARCH

Cattle Liver Fluke Egg Counts

We expect most cattle will have been housed for several months now, making now a good time to submit faecal samples for fluke egg counts. If you usually treat at this time of year as a routine, consider testing before you go ahead – they might not need to be dosed!

We now have the equipment to do individual fluke egg counts in-house, offering a quicker turn-around time than posting them to an external lab. Please give us a call for more information, or simply drop in 5 poo samples, packaged individually, to be tested by one of the vets.