



Tysul Vets Farm Newsletter August 2015

Photosensitisation

by Annwen Richards, MRCVS

Meaning: "sensitivity to sunlight"

Species affected: Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Horses

Appearance: Sunburn especially on non-pigmented skin (udder, muzzle) and areas covered by white hair. Areas of ulceration can become very sore and start bleeding. Large areas of affected skin may start to peel away. Animals may rub the udder and kick at their belly due to irritation and pain.

Causes: A photosensitising chemical accumulates in the skin.

Primary Genetic defect
Ingestion of plants e.g. St. John's Wort, Buckwheat



St. John's Wort

Buckwheat

Herd Health Plans:- Is your annual HHP due? Plan ahead and book an appointment with the Vet to review your plan. Here are some reminders:-

If a Vet hasn't been on farm recently, you may need a visit * Bring your part of the plan and any other documentation for your vet to look at in **advance of your meeting** * Be prepared to spend an hour or two at the surgery with your vet to complete Section C of your plan * Allow the Vet time to fully write up & sign your plan * Remember you will also need to carry out Mobility Scoring every 6 months on at least a sample of the herd. For more information, call us on the number below.

Secondary Underlying liver damage (fluke, fatty liver, abscessation, infection, ingestion of plants toxic to the liver)

Treatment/Management:

Move the affected animal(s) indoors to cool dark housing
Apply a fly repellent
Topical and systemic antibiotics
Pain relief
Support for liver if damage is present e.g. fluke treatment, multivitamins etc.

Affected animals will need to be housed until the skin has healed and for the rest of the summer. If there is no way of keeping them in all the time, they should be kept in a fully shaded small paddock or grazed only during darkness.

Did you know? UV rays can cause damage even on rainy or cloudy days

Prevention:

Don't breed from animals with known photosensitisation

Try to identify and remove any phototoxic plants from the pasture and hedgerows
Treat and prevent underlying liver problems

Another day at the beach?

Many of you will be aware of the community rescue of a heifer, now named Seren, who fell from the cliffs to the small hidden beach of 'Traeth Bach' near Llangranog. Miraculously escaping with minor injuries, the Griffiths family of Morfa Uchaf looked after the heifer on the beach until an inspired sea rescue took place aided by many local members of the community and the RNLI.



Sheep Planning

Sponges & PMSG? If you are considering this option then don't leave it too late to get your supplies in, there were PMSG stock problems last year, so order in early and remember this is a fridge item, so store correctly

Use of Teaser Rams? - if you are considering this option then remember that we can carry out ram vasectomies at the surgery

Vaccines - now is the time to think about Enzovax and Toxovax

For more information on any of the above, telephone us on 01559 363318 and ask to speak to one of our farm vets.



Ram Breeding Health Checks

In response to the interest shown at our recent 'Sheep Meeting' last month we are pleased to be now offering a comprehensive Ram health check.

This service will include a **full clinical examination** of your ram(s) followed by evaluation of a semen sample (obtained via use of an electro-ejaculator). A **full written report** detailing our findings and advice will be included in this package

The package cost is £60 (ex VAT) for the first ram*

To book an appointment or for further information please contact us on 01559 363318

**Discounts will apply for subsequent rams or rams seen at The surgery rather than on farm.*



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www.tysulvets.co

