FriarsMoor
Livestock Health

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

WED 25 FEB & WED 2 SEPT / £120 EX VAT + DRUGS

RAM VASECTOMY DAYS

Take advantage of our new facilities and book in your rams for vasectomising at discounted prices!

WED 23 SEPT / £66.25 EX VAT

RAM FERTILITY TESTING DAY

Book in your ram for a fertility test and MOT at our new West Stour facilities.

WHAT IS LUNG WORM?

Article written by Molly Morrison MRCVS

Lung worm is caused by the parasitic nematode Dictyocaulus viviparus in cattle. Clinical disease is most commonly in late summer to autumn, when larval burdens on the pasture are highest. In 2025, we saw an explosion of lungworm cases after the late august rain.

It has a direct life cycle, with infective third-stage larvae being ingested from pasture. Each larvae is programmed to migrate from the gut to the lungs, where they mature into adults. It is an amazing lifecycle!

WHO IS AT RISK?

Cattle of any age or breed who have not built-up immunity through natural exposure or vaccination are at risk, including:

- First season grazing calves.
- Previously exposed adult cattle that lack subsequent re-exposure, known as reinfection syndrome.
- Naïve bought-in stock lacking prior immunity.

SUSPECT A CASE OF LUNG WORM?

Once you have had a case of lungworm, the clinical signs are very easy to spot. Clinical signs are caused by irritation and airway obstruction of the bronchi by adult lungworm and the migration of lungworm larvae through the lung tissues. If you suspect you have cases of lungworm on farm call your vet who can help confirm diagnosis and treat clinical signs!

COST ON FARM

Infections result in reduced growth rates and future productivity due to permanent lung damage. Studies estimate economic cost **per adult diary cow to be £140 and £50-100 per beef cow.** These figures relate to the cost of treatment and veterinary care, loss of body condition, decreased fertility and loss of milk production which is estimated to be 4kg/cow/day in dairy cattle.

Read more overleaf...

UPCOMING COURSES

- **PROGRESSIVE CALF REARING COURSE**
  13/02/26
- **KIDS LAMBING & CALVING COURSE**
  19/02/26
- **MILKSURE**
  20/02/26
- **FIRST AID AT WORK**
  04/03/26

Find out more www.fmlh.co.uk/events

LAST FEW TICKETS!

JOIN OUR PANEL EVENT

Which of our farms will exist in 20 years time?

12 FEB 6:30PM / MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

FREE TICKET | SUPPER INCLUDED

BOOK ONLINE FMLH.CO.UK/EVENTS

Panel led by ffinlo Costain, Editor-in-Chief of 8point9.com & Farm Gate podcast.
Hear updates on grants & regional funding options from Symonds & Sampson.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

FARM GATE

Symonds &Sampson

Continued from front page

HOW TO CREATE IMMUNITY

Cattle can develop natural immunity to lungworm, it will start to develop within 10 days post infection. However, having developed this immunity, cattle need to continually 'top-up' their immunity. If they fail to do this, lungworm larvae immunity can be lost in as little as six months and clinical signs seen again.

In times of drought, this lack of top-up exposure is particularly common as the larvae burrow below ground or dessicate. In 2025 we saw freshly calved autumn calvers develop lungworm, having been turned out onto clean grazing during drought conditions. Continuous but controlled exposure is therefore necessary for immunity to be sustained.

VACCINATION A SUITABLE SOLUTION?

Vaccination before turnout is an effective and reliable method of protecting a herd against lungworm. Continual exposure once vaccinated is essential to maximise the immunity generated from Huskvac and develop immunity to the adult stages. Careful grazing management is required when you invest in Huskvac.

The vaccine, Bovilis® Huskvac (MSD Animal Health) contains live irradiated lungworm larvae that stimulates type 1 immunity. To ensure longer term protection, cattle need to be turned out onto low level infective pasture which allows a natural boost to their immunity. If you are a new or current user of Huskvac, please do contact your vet to discuss your grazing management and ensure that we maximise immune development post-vaccination. The vaccine is now available and will remain so until August.

SPRING CALVING SUCKLER COW TO-DO LIST

SURVIVE CALVING!

- **Weigh maiden heifers:** use this as a starting point to choose your breeding replacements. Maiden heifers should be 65% of adult bodyweight at service.
- **Pelvic score maiden heifers:** this helps us identify heifers who have poor ovaries or abnormal repro tracts, as well as those with poor weights and a narrow pelvis.
- **Bull semen fertility test:** 28% of the bulls we tested in 2025 failed their fertility test, so book these in early in case you need to go shopping.
- **Vaccinate bulls:** make sure the primary course is completed at least 2 months prior to being turned out.
- **Vaccinate maiden heifers:** make sure the primary course is completed at least 3 weeks prior to the service period.
- **Mineral bolus cows, heifers and bulls:** boluses need to be in for six weeks prior to service.

REVOLUTIONISE YOUR LAMBINGS AND CALVINGS

A new, sustainable solution to an old problem

Once inserted into the birth canal, the sachet dissolves within 2-3 minutes releasing the powder to create a potent lubricant. A single Lube-eaze sachet could also be dissolved in 1-2 litres of warm water to create a large volume of lubricant.

Outer biodegradable packaging, inner dissolvable sachet.

Easy to insert and place, exactly where needed.

Speak to team for more details.

FM Vet Solutions Ltd.

LUBE-eaze™
Obstetric lubricant for farm animals
a **new solution** to an old problem

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friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk

Your Local Independent Livestock Vets

Outstanding farm animal veterinary services for livestock farmers in Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire and Wiltshire.