



# FarmGate Vets February 2020 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2020

## Special points of interest:

- New name for the practice
- Website launch in February
- Online shop in 2020
- Survey results

## Inside this issue:

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## FarmGate Veterinary Group

Our veterinary practice has been in existence in its separate parts since the 1950's. Amalgamated in 2012 Gerry Neary and I named the practice "Geraghty & Neary Veterinary". As you are aware Gerry is enjoying retirement from clinical practice. We have decided it is now time to change the name of the practice to reflect this. After quite a bit of thought and research we came up with a name that best reflects what services we offer our clients and who our clients are.

The practice will now trade as FarmGate Veterinary Group or FarmGate Vets for short.

We look forward to services all your veterinary and animal health needs in 2020 and beyond.

We have some exciting new plans for new and extended services in 2020. We will of course inform you as these come online.

During 2020 we will launch an online veterinary shop for animal health products. This will allow clients purchase animal health products from us online and have them delivered to your door. Your records etc will still be recorded and stored in the normal way. The shop will be accessible through our new website [www.farmgatevets.ie](http://www.farmgatevets.ie)



## Website Launch

In February 2020 we will be launching our new website. The website address is [www.farmgatevets.ie](http://www.farmgatevets.ie). The website contains lots of information about the practice, the team working there, what services we offer and an online

shop. There are links to useful information leaflets and articles on disease control written by our vets with you the local farmer in mind. There is also an event calendar on the site which outlines all the upcoming events and important dates. We hope

that you will all visit the website and use it, find the information and services on it helpful in your farming enterprise and that clients find the online shop convenient to use. We welcome your feedback.



## Preparing for lambing

Mid season lambing flocks are in the last 4-6 weeks before lambing starts. This is a critical period. Preparing for lambing comes under the following headings

- Nutrition
- Parasite control
- Preparing facilities
- Vaccines
- Planning

Ewes should be gradually increased from 300g/hd/day to 800-1000g/hd/day at lambing of a 19-20% ration where soya bean meal is the majority protein component of the ration. This is vitally important to prevent nutritional diseases such as twin lamb disease, milk fever and also vital for milk and colostrum production. Parasite control and vaccination boosters

must be carried out a month in advance of lambing to ensure ewes are in top condition at lambing. Contact us for advice.

Preparing facilities, single pens and planning for the activity around lambing is also essential for successful outcomes.

Contact us for advice and all your lambing essentials

“Ewes need to be dosed for fluke. Dosing for worms may not be necessary. Ask for help”

## What should I dose my ewes with?

Outwintered sheep should be dosed for fluke with a suitable product every 6-8 weeks between Nov-April depending on the risk factors.

A suitable product is one effective against immature fluke. These products include endofluke, triclamox, flukiver, solantel, trodax and ridafluke.

Products entirely **unsuitable** for fluke control in sheep this winter include levafas diamond, zani, albex and most fluke and worm drench combinations.

Ewes found dead should be opened by one of the vets to assess fluke damage to livers or submitted to the RVL for PM.

Most ewes do not require a worm dose. It may be advantageous to dose ewes with a long acting product around lambing to reduce pasture contamination for lambs. This policy is best discussed with one of the vets to ensure resistance build up does not result.



## An extra weanling per load

In our last newsletter we mentioned the concept of an extra weanling per load. The tasks to think about now to achieve this aim include

- Calving area—is it clean, disinfected and ready for action?
- How will you monitor calving? Is the

camera working? Do you need a MooCall?

- Are cows getting their dry cow minerals and are they fit not fat?
- Are cows clean, dosed properly and lice free?
- Review last year—

what problems did you encounter? Do you need help or advise before this years calving season?

- Will cows need meal feeding pre turnout? Have you had the silage tested?

## Lice in Cattle

Lice in cattle is a perineal problem. Lice reduce weight gain, lower appetite, cause discomfort to cattle, reduce fertility and lead to increased soiling of water troughs.

There are two broad types of lice biting lice and sucking lice. Cattle also suffer from mange. Treatment for one type of lice or mange may not kill another type, and the

eggs on the animals and/or in the shed may not be killed which results in apparent treatment failure.

The key to treatment is to treat all the animals at the same time and repeat the treatment ten days later to get the lice/mange that have hatched in the meantime.

Clipping helps. The use

of spot on's and pour on's are licensed and have withdrawal periods. This is an important requirement for Bord Bia/Department compliance.

The use of hydrated lime can cause chemical burns to the animals skin and can also be a source of infection/contamination in cows that require a caesarian section at calving.



## Calving cows— when to intervene

Calving can be divided into 3 stages. Stage 1 is from when the cows gets sick to calve up to the point she puts out the waterbag. Stage 2 is from the waterbag until the calf is born. Stage 3 is the expulsion of the placenta.

Some key points/tips !

Cows should not be

moved during stage 1. This upsets them, delays calving and makes them more likely to require assistance to calf. If you notice a cow sick on the slats, wait for the waterbag then move her.

If you observed a cow on a calving camera most take up to an hour to calf naturally. Sometimes

there is too much panic around calving. As long as the cow is making progress leave her alone.

Clean the cows perineum and insert a clean gloved hand when examining cows. Do not introduce infection.

If you are unsure you can bring the calf call us!

“If you notice a cow sick for calving on the slats don't move her until the waterbag appears”

## Equine Fertility & AI

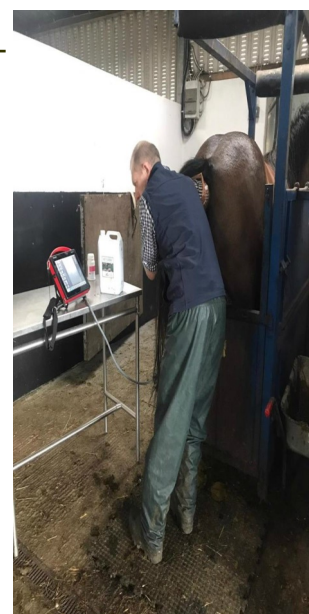
Mares are in foal for 11 months and therefore there is a short window to get the mare back in foal. Some mares have excellent fertility and go in foal on the foal heat every year. These are the exception.

Mares that are less fertile should have a pre breeding examination in ad-

vance of the breeding season to determine what interventions/treatments are necessary. Mares that didn't go in foal last year should be scanned and swabbed at the first heat, their perineal conformation assessed as well as their general health and fertility.

This allows time to plan what will be needed for a successful breeding season.

A reminder also that we offer equine frozen AI services to clients— arrange this with us in advance.



## FarmGate Veterinary Group

College Road  
Mountbellew,  
Ballinasloe,  
Co. Galway  
H53 DD42

Phone: 090 96 79277/88608

Email: [info@farmgatevets.ie](mailto:info@farmgatevets.ie)

[www.farmgatevets.ie](http://www.farmgatevets.ie)

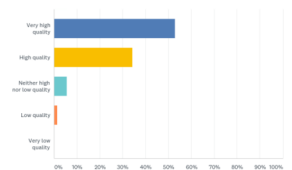
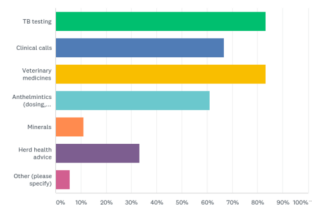


Conor Geraghty MVB Cert DHH  
Conor Beirne MVB Cert DHH  
Killian Farrell MVB  
Seamus Finnegan DVSM MRCVS  
Enda Connole BVSC  
Eoin Daly MVB

## Results from our Survey

In January 2020 we carried out our first Client Survey. The response rate exceeded expectations and we would like to thank you for taking the time to complete it. The results were compiled by Geoff Dooley of XLVets. There were very interesting findings. A summary of them include

- The practice is growing with clients in every bracket from one year to clients being the second generation with the practice.
- Our client base is broad—from dairy, beef, suckler, sheep, equine, calf rearers and pig clients.
- Clients value convenience, level of service and technical excellence.
- The average rating from 1-10 on whether you would recommend us to a neighbour or friend was 9.
- 89% of clients rated the quality of clinical calls as very high quality or high quality.



## Pre Spring Event

We are holding a calf health event for suckler farmers on Friday 6th March 2020 at the clinic in Ahascragh from 5pm—7pm.

Topics covered include

- Calving cows
- Calving aids
- Calf health—what to look for
- Examining calves
- Treatment options
- Disbudding calves
- Fertility management of cows
- AI in sucklers

This promises to be an informative event, practical and useful in advance of the calving season.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however we would like you to let us know who is coming. We will have our own vets on site as well as some light refreshments.