Parasite forecasts continue to show high risk levels for blow fly strike, parasitic gastro-enteritis (gutworm) and lung worm. All of these conditions pose both health and welfare problems and robust control plans should be in place to reduce the risk to livestock. Regular faecal egg counts are an effective way of monitoring the worm burden in stock to establish if treatment is required. Faecal egg counts after treatment also help identify resistance issues.

Gutworm treatment at calving can help to overcome the ‘energy gap’ experienced by newly calved cows and ensure that they make the best of grass. The energy gap is the difference between the energy required for milk production and that produced from feed intake; it occurs during the first 6-10 weeks after calving.

If appetite is reduced at this critical time and food intake is compromised, the energy gap will increase, causing the cow to milk off her back and lose significant body condition. If this continues for a prolonged period, both the cow’s milk production and her fertility can be significantly affected.

Adult cows treated with Eprinex® have been shown to graze for almost an hour more than untreated cows. Worming cows can therefore directly improve appetite and help to reduce the energy gap.

Over the last decade, numerous studies involving over 8,000 cows and heifers have clearly demonstrated that removing gutworms in the milking cow through worming with Eprinex® can improve milk yield. Indeed the response to treatment in terms of increased milk yield can be as much as 2.2 litres per cow per day. A smaller number of studies have shown that fertility can also be improved by worming, with treated animals demonstrating a 13 day shorter calving to conception interval and a 20% higher conception rate at first service.

If a cow gives an extra 2.2 litres for every day of lactation, then assuming a 305 day lactation period, that’s an extra 671 litres per year. This equates to around £195 per cow per year at £0.29 per litre and that’s not accounting for any fertility benefits.

On the basis of these additional returns farmers not currently worming their cows are advised to do so, to remove damaging gutworms, improve performance and help herds deliver more. Eprinex® is an ideal treatment at this time as it has a zero milk withhold, providing the ability to treat cows at any stage of lactation without the worry of lost milk sales. It also treats lungworm and is a proven product with more than a decade of successful use by dairy farmers.
**Vet team news**

**JONNY DUNCAN** is off to New Zealand later this month for 5 months. He has lined up some vet jobs out there and is hoping to gain further insight into the Kiwi dairy industry. We wish him well as he sets off on his travels, see you at Christmas Jonny!

**LAURA ALEXII** has joined the team as a TB tester. Laura graduated from as a vet from the University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine in Isia, Romania in 2012. Before joining the Willows Laura worked in West Sussex doing mastitis screening, daily cow health observations, fresh cow health checks and sample collection. We are very pleased to welcome Laura to the team and wish her every success.

Congratulations to **LAURENCE**! On 31st May Laurence and Helen got married and have since enjoyed a couple of weeks honeymoon. Congratulations and best wishes for the future.

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**FOOT TRIMMING**

Contact Steve Austin
01565 723036

Visit per cow
- £12 – 4 feet
- £10 – 2 feet

Block – £9.50

Bandage – £2.50

No Call out fee for 12 or more cows

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**FREEZE BRANDING**

Contact Malcolm Pheasant
01565 723036

Prices for 3 digits
- Up to 15 Cows – £80
- 15 – 50 Cows – £4.50 per cow
- 50+ cows £4 per cow

Every extra digit £1 per cow. Both sides +75%