

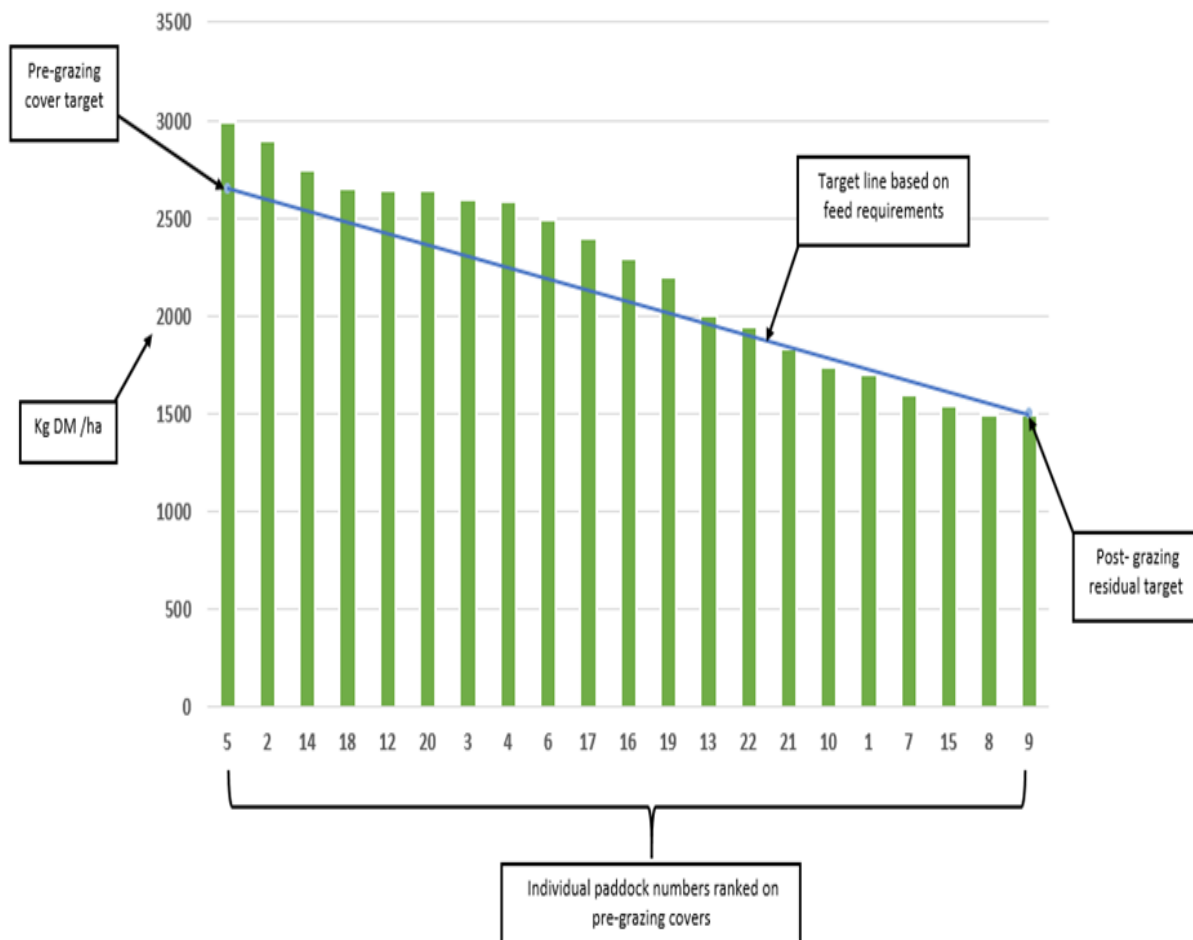
**Newsletter March 2019**

**PLANNING FOR SPRING**

The lovely weather we have had recently hopefully means that Spring is nearly upon us, and thus planning your grazing through feed budgeting now is crucial in maximising your milk/meat from forage, with grazed grass being the cheapest feed option available.

Measuring pasture covers will allow you to plan a sound rotation to optimise grass use. This will help in ensuring beef cattle are in good condition for breeding, ewes milk well and lambs grow. Sampling grass will also give a good idea as to the nutritive content of the grass in terms of energy, protein and trace elements.

Below is an example of a simple feed budget wedge. Spring grass also brings animal health challenges such as grass staggers, vitamin B12 deficiencies and managing worms, so good nutrition planning can help mitigate these issues. Animals that are well fed have better immunity and correct vitamin/mineral balances.



## Improve Your Profitability

Over the last year we've run a pilot Flock Health Club in the practice with a focus on improving sheep health and productivity on farm. Following great reception from the farmers involved, we have decided to continue the club.

We hold quarterly meetings on farm throughout the year covering topical, seasonal issues on sheep farms (with a focus on practical skills). Members of the Flock Health Club receive discounts and benefits including a **FREE** annual visit to review and formulate a flock health plan for the coming year

(required as part of Red Tractor Scheme), 40% discount on faecal worm egg counts and 20% discount on pre-breeding ram testing. Membership costs £20 + VAT a month.



## Leptavoid H

There is limited availability of Leptavoid H - if you want to secure your order please contact us **ASAP** as we may not be able to complete orders in the near future.

Remember cows/heifers in their first year need two injections one month apart to complete their primary course - after that it is yearly boosters.



## Sheep Scab Blood Testing Vouchers

We have received a number of '**£20 off vouchers**' from BioBest Laboratories to aid in the cost of screening flocks for Sheep Scab bringing the cost of a 12 ewe screen down to £52 + VAT for the Lab testing. ***Time to take bloods and visit cost are not included in the price above.***

A 12 sheep screen can detect 20% prevalence in a single flock of up to 2,000 sheep. Incidence of sheep scab has increased in recent months across the country and ensuring your flock are free of this disease is prudent. Furthermore, minimising the use of products such as Dectomax will help limit the build-up of resistance on your farm, and a blood test will help identify whether costly injectable drugs are really required.



## Your local farm veterinary service

### North Petherton

Unit 8 Sedgemoor Auction Centre  
Market Way North Petherton  
Somerset, TA6 6DF  
t: 01278 663399

### Yarcombe

Stopgate Cross  
Yarcombe, Honiton  
Devon, EX14 9NB  
t: 01404 861214

### Ilminster

5 Larchfield Industrial Estate  
Dowlsh Ford, Ilminster  
Somerset, TA19 0PF  
t:01460 55004