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Practice News

November has seen a rush of preg testing/scanning, blood sampling and TB testing, often involving the same cows! Scanning results have been broadly acceptable with the odd, often bull related, upset.

The fluctuating temperatures alongside near permanent 100% humidity have conspired to create more pneumonia than we have seen for a number of years. Investigations are ongoing on a number of units but generally animals appear to be responding well to early antibiotic treatment suggesting a more bacterial based cause as opposed to viral.

We have also seen more than the usual number of cases of acidosis/barley poisoning in young bulls. In three separate locations it appears that the milling of winter barley has resulted in too fine a product, predisposing to the problem. Subclinical acidosis is also a risk factor for pneumonia.

On the sheep side, no sooner have we finished the pre-breeding work than the lambing has started again in some pedigree flocks! This year we semen tested over 300 tups with 20% failing to meet the criteria for full fertility. By filtering out these boys not pulling their weight it is hoped a good scanning result and a compact lambing will be the outcome for many next year.

As the festive season approaches the whole team at Thrum's would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2020!



Liver Fluke - High Risk!

The final liver fluke forecast for the year confirms our region is expected to be high risk. This is in agreement with what we are seeing on the ground, with several cases in the practice already.

If at-risk stock have not yet been treated then they should be sooner rather than later. Not all fluke products treat all stages and it can be a bit of a minefield at times - please feel free to contact us at any time to discuss the most appropriate treatment (or testing) for the class of stock and stage of the year.

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Tongue and Jaw Syndrome in Calves

It is exactly a year since we asked for people to come forward if they thought they had cases of this condition. Thanks to those of you who have contributed either clinical material or completed questionnaires.

We have now confirmed the condition, where calves have a twisted jaw, a poor ability to suckle and sometimes an enlarged tongue on at least 12 farms locally with a number of breeds involved. SAC have also been looking for evidence nationally with reports of the problem from many parts of the UK.

Given the apparently increasing prevalence of the condition we expect more resources to be made available for further investigations. Meantime we would be interested to see new cases and SAC would be keen to receive any suitable post-mortem material. As always please contact the surgery if you would like to chat about this condition.



Carols At The Mart

**LAWRIE & SYMINGTON
FORFAR MART**

CAROLS AT THE MART

(In The Ring)

BRINGING TOGETHER OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY FOR AN
EVENING OF CAROLS, SOCIALISING, REFRESHMENTS & FOOD

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2019 6 TO 8PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

**FREE
ADMISSION** | **IN SUPPORT OF** | **RAFFLE
& COLLECTION**

RSABI
Supporting People
in Scottish Agriculture

contact: 07557 381932

We're delighted to be able to sponsor Carols At The Mart in Forfar this year. The event looks to bring together the farming and rural community during this season of bad weather and long nights. In doing so it is hoped to raise funds for RSABI and increase awareness to support those who are struggling at this time.

There will be carols, refreshments, food and a raffle and a great chance to catch up with others from the community.

**Thursday 19th December
6 to 8pm
Forfar Mart**