



## In This Issue

- Practice News
- Pneumonia Prevention
- Tup Clinics

## Practice News

In recent years the Blairgowrie side of the practice has seen an increase in the amount of farm work, which, up till now, has always been serviced from Kirriemuir. From the start of September however we will have farm vets working out of Blairgowrie with three vets now covering both small and large animals. We think this will improve the level of service and for some farms will see a slight drop in the daytime visit charges. Medicines can as before be ordered from either Blairgowrie or Kirriemuir and calls can similarly be phoned into either surgery. The telephone numbers remain as before so for Kirriemuir please call 01575 572643 and for Blairgowrie please call 01250 871010.

Summer, such as we have had, is slipping by with an unseasonal number of calvings and caesarians. The warm wet weather has also seen significant parasite challenges on many units and we anticipate a bad year for liver fluke where dosing is inadequate.

Summer mastitis remains a threat but as yet we have seen fewer cases than normal.

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## Pneumonia Prevention

Housing may still seem a while away but good forward planning will help to reduce the chances of pneumonia in youngstock.

Any vaccination programme should take account of the individual herd circumstances, previous pneumonia and disease status. Similarly vaccination should only form part of an overall control strategy. Remember that vaccination has to be complete in advance of the anticipated disease challenge so now is the time to instigate a programme.

Those of you planning to sell cattle may wish to know that both UA at Stirling and Forfar market are participating in the 'SureCalf' scheme this year which aims to achieve a premium for calves vaccinated prior to sale. The rules of the scheme have changed to allow the use of single dose intranasal vaccines. This may be of particular interest to those of you selling calves directly off their dams.

## Contact Us

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We have seen increased uptake of these vaccines in recent years compared to multivalent injectable vaccines as they appear to work better, are cheaper and do not interfere with BVD screening.

Last year saw some uptake of the new pneumonia vaccine, Hiprabovis. This is aimed at controlling some strains of bacterial pneumonia, notably *Histophilus* and *Pasturella*. The former, which used to be called *Haemophilus*, has caused problems on a number of local units.

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## Tup Clinics

In the run up to tugging this year we will be running a series of Tup Clinics. The benefits of fertility testing tups in advance of the breeding season are well documented. It is also important to test and treat new tups coming into the flock for a number of key diseases.

As such we are offering discounted rates on the following, if booked in one of the clinics:

- Tup semen sampling
- Examine feet and inject Hymatil (micotil) if required
- Blood sampling
- Drench Zolvix + Inject Dectomax
- Lung scanning for OPA
- Anything else tup related - just ask!

The clinics will run from 2pm-5pm on the following days:

Mon 11th Sept  
Mon 18th Sept  
Mon 2nd Oct  
Mon 9th Oct  
Mon 16th Oct

For specifics on pricing or to book in please contact us at the surgery.

NB - for flocks wanting to fertility test entire tup studs (20 tups or more), it will still work out more economical to do these on farm, rather than in a clinic.

If you have any questions on anything related to tups in the run up to the breeding season please do not hesitate to ask us!

