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Dates For Your Diary:

Stirling Bull Sales.
22-24th Oct. UA,
Stirling

Flock Health Club.
TBC Oct - Nov.
"Live to Dead"
How to achieve high lamb carcass grades and maintain growth rates in lambs. For more on joining the Flock Health Club please contact Ed at the practice.

AgriScot. 15th Nov.
Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh

Practice News

Autumn is now upon us and the poor weather in September has encouraged some farmers to house early, although straw stocks may be a concern for many. The autumn calving continues to bring more caesars than normal as cows everywhere appear to be in good order. Staggers cases are appearing even where the normal preventative measures have been in place. The biggest talking point amongst farmers however seems to be the latest series of 'This Farming Life' on BBC2. If you have any inclination to be in the next series please contact Chris who has been liaising with the production company. They are particularly interested in picturesque hill farms with succession issues.....but remember it is on before the 9pm watershed!

We would like to welcome a number of new clients on the western side of the practice as there is now no longer a farm vet based in Perth. To ensure adequate service provision we have increased the number of vets working out of the Blairgowrie surgery from one to three with further back up available from Kirriemuir if required.

We are also delighted to welcome a new vet, Roddy Binnie to the practice. Roddy spent the first 9 years of his career working principally as a farm vet in Perth and will be well known to many of you. Roddy will initially be working part time and will be based in the Blairgowrie surgery.

Pneumonia Vaccination

There are a couple of new vaccines available this year, Bovalto 3 and Bovalto 4, both of which require a two injection primary course. Although they offer little new in the way of protection they may be a more economic option for those of you using Bovipast vaccine. We do carry a limited stock of pneumonia vaccines at this time of year but please phone ahead to order if possible.

Case of the Month

Last month a tup was tested in quarantine for OPA(Jaagsiekte), CLA, Border Disease and Maedi Visna. He was positive for CLA and as such was not allowed to enter the flock. CLA can cause long term damaging effects on flock health and productivity.

The case highlights how a relatively simple quarantine procedure and inexpensive testing prevented long lasting and serious economic consequences for the farm. As such this is something we would strongly advise all farms to consider when purchasing any animals.

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Cattle Parasite Prevention

With housing round the corner, now is the time to plan to prevent the health and productivity problems associated with parasites. The climatic conditions this year have been conducive to parasite problems with both worm and fluke issues being regularly seen. We can now do rapid in house testing for these parasites although at this time of year we do not recommend faecal egg counts as a reliable method for the detection of liver fluke. As always we have a selection of competitively priced products and are happy to advise on what is best for individual farms.

The emergence of ivermectin and triclabendazole resistance locally should be factored into any programme and if you would like to test for resistance please contact the surgery.

Getting Your Ewes Fit For The Tup

As we come into Autumn, minds start turning towards the tups going out in a month or so. Managing ewes correctly at this time is key to maximizing scanning % and ultimately profits derived from the sheep next year. So, here's a few things you may want to consider:

- **Body condition.** Hill and upland ewes should be in score 2.5/3 at tugging. Nutritional flushing to increase scanning % will have maximal effect if ewes are in score 2-2.5 now and increase a half score over the 3-4 weeks in the lead up to tugging.
- **Trace elements.** Copper, cobalt, selenium and iodine all have key roles in fertility. Where deficiencies exist, bolusing ewes will give the best results. Take care with copper in copper sensitive breeds.
- **Fluke.** For farms where fluke has been diagnosed (most!) treatment with a product containing triclabendazole is ideal at this time of year. Resistance to triclabendazole is on the increase, so be aware of this and speak to us if you have concerns.
- **Worms.** Adult sheep DO NOT need routine treatment at this time of year. Consider individually treating ewes with dirty back ends or in poor body condition. If mating ewe lambs they should be dosed at this time.
- **Other diseases.** Other diseases, especially lameness, but also Maedi Visna, OPA, Johne's disease etc can be a drag on fertility so speak to us where concerns exist about these diseases.
- **Abortion vaccinations.** Ensure vaccination for enzootic and toxoplasma abortion are on board at least 3 weeks pre-tugging.

Hopefully the boys are looking in top form and have had a check over. Don't forget them in your treatment protocol also. They should be semen sampled where concerns exist, if they are expected to work in single sire groups or mate >60 ewes each. It is estimated that as many as 1 in 6 tups may be subfertile!