



THRUMS VETERINARY GROUP

Thrums News

August 2018

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Practice News

Firstly, thanks to those of you who joined us at Kirrie show last month. For once the show was blessed with good weather and appears to have been a success all round.

July has been a change from recent years, in terms of weather at least. The hot dry spell in June and July has brought forward the summer mastitis season with a number of cases seen over the last few weeks. Early detection and treatment may save the pregnancy but rarely the quarter. Any cows running dry should ideally receive intramammary tubes ASAP if they have not already done so.

The upside of the dry weather however, is that we expect a far lower fluke challenge this autumn. The habitat of the intermediate host mud snail being somewhat absent this summer. Gut worm larvae and eggs will struggle to survive in prolonged dry conditions, so there may be less requirement for wormers this year also.

Bull issues have been to the fore recently with a variety of problems affecting bulls with cows. Lameness, injured backs, penile deviations, penile hair rings (yes, they are real conditions!), libido issues and testicular problems are just a shortlist of the problems seen over the last couple of months. Many of these problems have arisen since the bulls were turned out but a few could have been foreseen and avoided.

New Bolus Range

The bolus market is somewhat of a minefield with a large range of products available. Into this market a French company, Vetalis has launched yet another range of boluses. They are somewhat different from many of the boluses currently on the market in that they have distinct formulations and often last longer than existing boluses or have specific applications. For example, the prevention of milk fever in dairy cattle or the improvement of conceptions rates in A.I or E.T programmes. For further information please contact the surgery.

New Vaccine Range

This autumn will see the launch of another new pneumonia vaccine range, including an alternative intra-nasal vaccine. More details to follow but now is the time to start planning forward for weaning and housing.

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Abortion Vaccination

Now is the time to start planning abortion vaccination for replacement ewes. Over the last few years we have diagnosed toxoplasma and enzootic abortion as the cause of losses, all of which have been damaging but some have been truly devastating. The usual story behind these outbreaks is complacency and a lapsed vaccination protocol.

Replacement ewes need to be vaccinated at least 3 weeks prior to breeding, but can be vaccinated much sooner than that if you have selected your replacements well in advance.

Toxovax is essentially made to order, with a short shelf life, so requires a little forward planning. Cevac Chlamydia for enzootic abortion is more “conventional”. Currently there are no supply issues with the vaccines, however, there has been in the recent past, so we advise being organized and not leaving it to the last minute before vaccinating.

Please give us a call to discuss vaccination in your flock.



Teasers for a lambing success

Using a vasectomised “teaser” tup can be a very effective and cheap way of getting ewes properly cycling in advance of the real boys going in, and ultimately a compact lambing period and increased scanning %. In advance of breeding, make sure all ewes are away from sight, sound and smell all tups. The teaser should then go in with ewes for between 4 and 14 days in advance of the proper tups. One fit teaser per 100 ewes will work well.

Performing a vasectomy on a tup is quick and cost effective. Ideally tup lambs should be used (but shearlings and older can be done) as the operation requires less drugs and in theory you should get an extra years work out of them! Choose a tup who is lively and able on his feet. Crossbreeds work well.

A period of 8 weeks should be allowed between performing the operation and being turned out with ewes to ensure the pipes have been cleared out and we can semen sample them FOC at the practice afterwards to ensure the operation has been a success. Teasers can market for in the region of £250, so there is profit to be made by creating and selling teasers, if you have available tups.

Please give us a phone to discuss teasers or to arrange the snip!