



THRUMS VETERINARY GROUP

Thrums News

November 2018

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Practice News

October was a good month for cattle with many staying out longer than normal as weather conditions and straw supplies permitted. November has however seen a return of wetter weather and a large number of animals coming inside over the last 10 days or so and we have been busy both blood testing for Johnes and Preg testing/scanning.

To date, despite concerns over the lack of grass in the summer and very hot July days, fertility rates appear to be better than normal. Where results are poorer than expected the tale of woe usually involves a bull somewhere along the line.

Pneumonia Outbreaks

With housing late there have been some cases where vaccination protocols have not had time to take effect and we have seen more pneumonia than normal for this time of year. As always early intervention is paramount in reducing mortality and maintaining calf growth rates over the winter.

With most respiratory disease not usually seen till December there will still be a significant benefit to most herds in using the faster acting live intra-nasal IBR and RSV vaccines available. Where possible we would advise against using Rispoval 4 vaccine at this stage due to the time taken for it to work and the potential interference with BVD check testing.

BVD Update

Talking of which we continue to make progress locally. There are however a lot of herds that are still at risk. On one Scottish farm, under the care of a neighbouring practice, there have been 27 P.I. animals born in the last 3 months! This is understandably devastating for the farmer concerned and is a reminder that we should not drop our guard in terms of biosecurity and vaccination.

Separately the recently introduced rules that stipulated that any animals purchased out-with Scotland had to be blood sampled have been relaxed where the animals originate from a farm which has been accredited free of BVD for the lifetime of that animal. The main difference here is that most bulls purchased from Society bull sales will not need testing for BVD post purchase. This does not however mean they will not need tested for other diseases such as TB which continues to plague cattle farmers south of the border.

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Sheep Scab Warning

We have been made aware of and been involved in a number of cases of sheep scab within the practice area over the last month.

Sheep scab remains notifiable in Scotland which means you are duty bound to report suspicion of the disease to either us or the local Animal Health office.

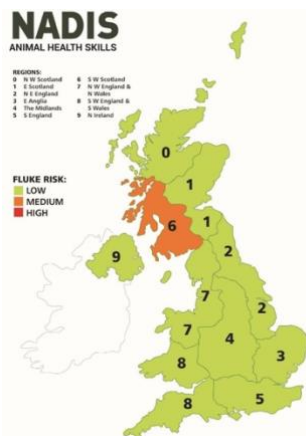
Worryingly, this year saw the first confirmed reports of scab mites that are resistant to the “clear” injections, reminding us all that whilst “routine” treatment may be necessary for some, we should all be cautious about over-use of such drugs.

An excellent blood test now exists for scab, which allows us to screen flocks to identify if treatment is required. Please give us a shout to discuss this further in depth, as no doubt it will become a useful tool for many flocks.

As ever, please contact us in confidence of you have concerns over sheep scab in your flock or elsewhere in the area.



NADIS Parasite Forecasting



We have signed up to a trial of the new NADIS parasite forecasting system, that allows us to deliver monthly targeted cattle and sheep parasite forecasts direct to your email address.

The system should allow for highly accurate prediction of fluke, worms, blowfly and nematodirus risk as well as giving the most up to date advice on dealing with these problems.

Please email ed.j.hill@hotmail.com to request to be added to the mailing list.

AgriScot 2018

Our partners at XLVets are taking a stand at AgriScot in Edinburgh on Wednesday the 21st of November. Ed will be helping out on the stand, so please pop by and say hello if you are going down!