



In This Issue

- Practice News
- Novel Disease
- Spectam Reduction Challenge
- Never Waste A Dead Sheep!

Practice News

November has seen the usual rush of blood sampling and scanning/preg testing with reasonably consistent results except where there has been a bull issue.

The other seasonal favourite, respiratory disease, has also been doing the rounds with a number of large outbreaks evident in the second half of November. The usual suspects of IBR, RSV and Pi3 have all been identified with evidence of Mycoplasma infections as well on at least a couple of farms. This is the most pneumonia we have seen in November for some years.

Novel Disease

In the last few months we have seen a number of calves with twisted jaws. Affected calves can be of any breed and often present as reluctant to suckle, usually with their tongue hanging out a few centimetres on one side of the mouth. Closer inspection reveals that the jaw is twisted such that the teeth are at an angle to the dental pad as in the picture. Some calves are able to suckle and appear otherwise normal but some do not appear to be able to control their tongue and need to be fed, sometimes for several weeks.

We have seen cases on a number of farms now, sometimes just a one off but in others affecting over 30% of calves with significant implications for calf health and farmer sanity. Laboratory tests have so far not provided a diagnosis but we are still awaiting final reports.



At this stage we are keen to hear from farms that have, or think they may have, similarly affected calves. If we get a better idea of the extent of the problem it will help us work out the cause and a strategy for control. Any information will obviously be treated in confidence.

Contact Us

Kirriemuir

20 Forfar Road
Kirriemuir
DD8 5BY
01575 572643

Blairgowrie

Back Brae
Blairgowrie
PH10 6NW
01250 871010

vets@thrumsvet.co.uk

www.thrumsvet.co.uk

Or find us on
Facebook!



Emailing list: if you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send an email FAO Ed to vets@thrumsvet.co.uk



Spectam Reduction Challenge!

You will all be aware of the increasing scrutiny of antibiotic usage in the farming sectors. The use of antibiotics, such as Spectam or Orojet, given routinely to lambs at birth will become increasingly examined and restricted. With this in mind we encourage sheep farmers to reduce their usage where possible, but to incentivize this we would like to invite all sheep farmers to sign up to our Spectam Reduction Challenge.

Doses of Spectam sold per lamb scanned will be benchmarked for the 2018 and 2019 lambing periods and the biggest % reducer will win a £50 Amazon voucher, the runner up will win a £25 Amazon voucher!

To be able to safely reduce the amount of Spectam used, colostrum management and hygiene needs to be optimized, so if you would like individual advice with these topics this lambing time, and advice on where best to reduce your antibiotic usage - please let us know.



To sign up, please let Ed at the practice know.

Never Waste A Dead Sheep!

We often see an increase in unexplained deaths in ewes at this time of year. The additional stresses of inclement weather, decreasing nutrition and increasing lamb burden all lead to the course of any underlying disease rapidly accelerating, often presenting as a "sudden death".

These sudden deaths may just be the tip of an iceberg; with many unseen production losses due to reduced body condition, fertility, lamb survival and growth rates occurring unchecked.

As such it makes sense to monitor sudden deaths with a quick and cheap post mortem examination. PM exams can be done at SAC Perth or by one of us on farm or in the practice and are cheap. Often a quick and definitive answer can be given.

Recently we have diagnosed triclabendazole resistant fluke and OPA (Jaagsiekte) on post mortem and have been able to put in place measures to reduce the impact of these diseases.

