



THRUMS VETERINARY GROUP

# Thrum's News

January 2019

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## Practice News

The recent open weather has been very welcome, helping to keep new pneumonia outbreaks in check and allowing a number of units to keep cows outside and conserve precious straw stocks.

We continue to blood and preg test a few herds with a few disappointing results on the Johne's testing this year, although better results with the preg testing. There have been no alterations to the lab testing and we suspect this is down to increased levels of infection in calving during wet summers four or five years ago.

On the sheep front, lambing has started for some of our pedigree flocks and we have already had our first few sheep Caesars of the year. Sheep generally seem to be in good fettle, so managing their condition from now into lambing will be key to success. As previously reported, there was a scab outbreak in the north-west area of the practice. If you are in any doubt as to whether your flock has been exposed please speak to us about the best way forward.

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## Brexit and medicine supplies

Hitherto we have been relatively unaffected by Brexit but this may change. We have spoken to a number of suppliers of medicines and vaccines and many appear to have plans in place to avoid potential disruption to supply chains, although no one will guarantee this.

If there are any products that you feel you simply cannot manage without over the next 6-9 months then please contact us and we will happily buy forward for you and store until required, billing you at this point. Most products should have a suitably long shelf life to allow this.

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## TB Testing

It appears that we have a double rollover this year with TB testing and several thousand animals are due to have testing completed over the next couple of months. If you are due a test then please allow plenty of time to have it completed. If everyone leaves it for a few more weeks we will struggle to cope with the volume in February/March alongside the normal clinical work. There is now zero tolerance for overrunning test dates and most herds now have to test replacement/young-stock as well as the breeding animals unfortunately.

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## New flukicide product

Last year we took stock of a relatively new product available for the treatment of fluke in sheep and cattle.

Ranide has a similar spectrum activity as products such as Flukiver or Solantel and as such is the right type of flukicide to be using in your sheep during the winter if such a dose is needed, as it is increasingly on many units.

We are able to offer a very competitive price on Ranide, so if you are looking to fluke dose your sheep in the next few months, please bear this in mind.

If you are unsure if a winter fluke dose is required in your flock, a cheap and simple dung test will help you make better decisions. Please give us a shout to discuss this.



## Planning ahead for feeding sheep

With most spring lambing flocks pregnancy scanning ewes in the coming weeks, now is the time to turn your attention to planning how to feed the ewes. Correct feeding of lambing ewes is essential to avoid problems such as twin lamb, prolapse, mastitis and lamb mortality.

In a year where forage quality is good but quantity is down and the price of concentrates continues to increase exponentially, and regardless of farming system, it is prudent to do some simple planning calculations to make best use of the resources you have in your business and to maximize lambing success.

Ed would be delighted to assist in putting together a feed plan for you (at no cost) with a few bits of information you should have readily at hand. If this of interest to you please let him know!

