



## In This Issue

- Practice News
- Enzootic Abortion Vaccination
- Summer Mastitis
- Keeping lambs growing

## Practice News

We are pleased to welcome Hannah Knudson to the practice. Hannah, who hails from Aberdeenshire and spent four years in mixed practice will be joining the Blairgowrie end of the practice where she will be engaged in small animal duties.

June has been quieter than some previous years with cattle apparently faring well at grass, there have been less than the usual outbreaks of coccidiosis and respiratory disease. In part this will be due to better preventative measures on some units, particularly with regards to coccidiosis. A few sudden deaths in thriving spring born calves have been investigated with a variety of one off causes to blame including Clostridial Disease, trauma, meningitis, stomach ulcers and ruptured navel abscessation.

Bull issues also come to the fore in June with the usual array of problems that arise when the bull is expected to work for his living. Small problems now become much bigger issues come scanning time at which point it is too late to do anything constructive.

With the 2019 lamb crop faring well, some sheep units have already turned attentions to the next breeding season, with the first vasectomies of the season getting done this month. Teaser rams are a cheap and effective way of getting a tighter and more efficient lambing period, but planning for that needs to start sooner rather than later.

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## Enzootic Abortion Vaccination Availability

We have been informed that one of the brands of enzootic abortion vaccination will have very limited availability this year, thus putting pressure on the availability of our chosen vaccination - Cevac Chlamydia.

We have successfully ring-fenced what should be enough vaccination for all our users, however, ultimately, we are advising the safest way to ensure you have the vaccine you need to prevent problems is to plan ahead and order early.

Replacement females can be vaccinated at any point, as long as it is at least 4 weeks pre-mating.

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## Summer Mastitis

We do not normally see this until August at the earliest but if you have either spring calving cows that are running dry, eg the cow that lost her calf at a couple of weeks old but was too good to let go, or later summer/autumn calvers that are weaned, then now is the time to take measures to prevent summer mastitis.

The use of fly repellents and intra-mammary tubes has massively reduced the incidence for many herds but where there is a long dry period we still see problems from time to time. In recent years, we have been using teat sealants as either an addition to traditional DC tubes or on their own. As well as reducing antibiotic use the teat sealants also have a longer duration of activity and so may be useful if there is a potentially long dry period. Please give us a call if you wish to discuss summer mastitis prevention.

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## Keeping Lambs Growing - Worms, Minerals & Weaning

This is the time of year where lamb growth rates have the potential to drop significantly, resulting in more days on farm to slaughter and lower value of the carcass. There are a few things to consider to keep lambs growing.

### Worms:

- Lambs don't need to look "wormy" for worms to be affecting growth rates, in fact the biggest impact on growth rates comes from depression of appetite, not diarrhoea.
- Use worm egg counts to monitor burdens, and treat as required. Make sure the product you use has worked - do a follow up WEC post treatment.
- Make use of safe grazing for lambs, whenever possible.

### Minerals:

- We diagnose cobalt and selenium deficiencies in lambs every year.
- If in doubt, it is cheap to blood sample a small batch of lambs to check their status.
- There are a number of different, effective methods of supplementation for lambs of all sizes.

### Weaning:

- If grass is in short supply and lambs and ewes are competing for the best grass, wean early.
- This will give the lambs access to the best grass and allow ewes sufficient time to recover body condition in time for next breeding season.

