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## Practice News

The emergency spring work seems very much to have settled down with just the occasional calving and Caesar happening now. We have been dealing with a number of bulls who have sat idle for 9 months and decided now, immediately pre-turnout, is the time to go lame - white line abscesses seem to be the most common cause, which thankfully have a fairly good prognosis if treated quickly. We've been busy routine fertility testing too - see below for more on this. On the sheep side of things nematodirus was an earlier problem than usual - this was accurately predicted by the SCOPS forecast and as such most cases were avoided, but a few were caught out. We enjoyed catching up with many of you at Scotsheep - it was a great event and look forward to seeing folk at Kirrie show next month also.

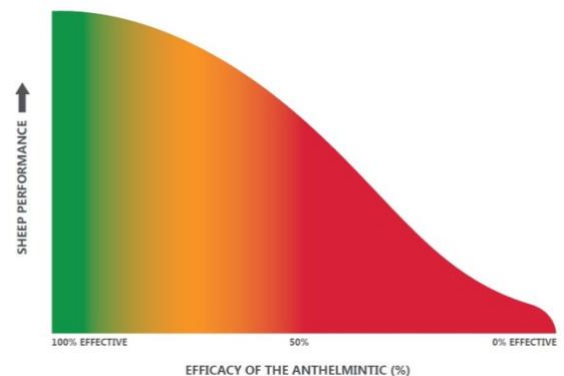
## Testing for wormer resistance

Getting an accurate figure is challenging, but its estimated that upwards of 70% of farms have white wormer resistance, 60% have yellow wormer resistance and 40% have clear wormer resistance.

Resistance is often insidious and can be affecting lamb performance long before visible signs are obvious, this is due to the fact that worms suppress lambs appetite.

Despite this all this, the majority of farms still don't know their resistance status. Taking the first steps is cheap and easy. A "drench check" worm egg count can be carried out following treatment to confirm a good clear out. For yellow wormers this should be done 7 days post treatment, for clear and white wormers this should be done 14 days post treatment. This test is not conclusive of resistance but is a very good indicator that there may be issues and would prompt further discussion into the problem.

If you'd like to discuss resistance and monitoring for it, please do give us a shout.



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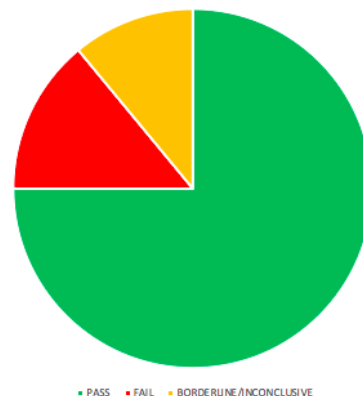
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## Bull Fertility

A wee reminder that if not already done, it is advisable that bulls receive a full MOT prior to service. This should include a physical exam, semen sample and foot trim if required. Gold standard is every bull, every year, but if targeting then virgin bulls, older (>6 years) bulls and any bull with historical issues should be selected for examination.

We crunched the numbers from last years examinations and from nearly 200 samples, 75% passed, 14% failed and 11% produced a borderline or inconclusive result, highlighting that as many as 1 in 4 bulls may have issues that might well affect herd performance and profitability.



## Flock Health Club

Thrums Flock Health Club has been running successfully for many years now and currently has over 20 member farms and we'd be delighted if there were other flocks who would like to join us.



We meet three times a year to discuss various topics, sometime with a guest speaker. We anonymously benchmark performance and medicine use. There are discounts across a range of medicines and services and the annual health plan is included too. All for £20/month! If you're interested in signing up please speak to Ed.

## "Sunburn" or photosensitization

We have seen and treated a few cases of photosensitization in cattle over the past month. These typically show the signs of red and raw skin over the eyes, nose, vulva and udder and thickening of skin in patches over the back. In sheep ears can swell and even fall off. Affected animals are dull and depressed and in one case this year showed neurological signs - collapse and blindness.

These cases typically occur when an animal eats a "photodynamic" plant - often St Johns Wort, which may grow in the margins of fields or boggy areas. They leave pigments in the skin which react with sunlight. Occasionally cases happen secondary to liver damage. Treatment is often successful with steroids, multivitamins and antibiotics if there is infection as well and shade and supportive care, but cases do run the risk of relapse.