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## Practice News

Cows and sheep are out at grass and generally very healthy this time of year - thankfully we've not been too busy as we've had several members of staff off with covid over the past few weeks, hopefully it's not impaired our service too much. We've been busy fertility testing the last few bulls prior to turnout with spring calving cows - results are generally good, but as ever we find the odd one not pulling his weight, that could have led to a problem were he to be relied upon.

Worm egg counts in lambs are creeping up as a general trend, but obviously very farm specific. If you'd like to make better use of worm egg counts for more sustainable worm control this year then please have a chat with one of us. Thrums Flock Health club meets this month on the 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss preventing buying in problems this sale season (and a buffet tea of course!). If interested in joining the club please give Ed a shout.

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## Medicine Availability Update

We continue to encounter supply chain issues with the supply of **Alamycin LA** and **Heptavac P+** proving problematic. We have a couple of alternative products to Alamycin and a limited supply of Heptavac P+ which is likely to continue to be in short supply for some time. Some **mastitis tubes** are also currently unavailable but to date we have been able to source comparable alternatives.

We have a limited but finite amount of **PMSG** for synchronising ewes (and late calving cows). We are not aware of any issues at this time with Toxovax and Cevac Chlamydia, but these often can become issues as demand peaks. The best way to avoid issues is to order and inject replacements sooner rather than later.

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## Summer Mastitis

Although it is early in the season we have seen a number of clinical cases. Classically it is autumn calving cows that are affected post weaning but at this stage in the year most cases are spring calving cows that are for whatever reason without a calf. The use of dry cow tubes is highly recommended in this category of cow along with a fly repellent such as Spotinor.

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## Bull issues

As is normal at this time of year we are seeing a high caseload of bull issues, ranging from injury, lameness, poor libido and fertility. Early intervention is essential to prevent a disastrous scanning! In some cases however, early scanning can put minds at ease, confirming that the bull only works at night...

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## Neospora Abortion

Classically associated with abortion storms in dairy herds (Up to 60% of cows!) we have seen a number of confirmed or suspected cases in suckler herds this spring. Confirmation of a diagnosis is reliant on foetal testing but blood sampling of affected dams can be useful. Unlike many other types of infectious abortion cows can abort repeatedly and female offspring of affected cows can go on to abort themselves in future.

The disease is spread vertically (mother to daughter) and also from the ingestion of the infective stage found in dog and fox faeces. Dogs and foxes are in turn infected by the ingestion of infected material, usually thought to be the afterbirth of infected cows. Careful disposal of cleansings and good fox control is therefore helpful in the reduction of transmission of this emerging problem.

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## Flystrike in sheep

Flystrike season is getting well underway and will probably peak in the coming weeks. We have a variety of products available, the choice of which will depend on a few things such as duration of action, meat withhold, price and usefulness against ticks also. All of these things need to be considered before choosing a product, so please let us know if you need some advice, or refer to your health plans!

A reminder that every year we get involved in apparent treatment failures, and most of the time the reason is the product has not been applied according to the instructions or there has been a heavy shower of rain shortly after treatment was applied. Bear both of these things in mind when using your product.

Flystrikes in lambs can often be due to dirty back ends, which is commonly caused by a worm burden, so monitor worm egg counts through the grazing season to help avoid issues with both worms and flies.