



## In This Issue

- Practice News
- Fly troubles
- Health Plan Update
- Teaser Tups
- Cobalt Deficiency in Lambs

## Practice News

We are pleased to announce we have taken on two new graduate vets this month. Both Glasgow graduates, Liesl and Erin will be following in the footsteps of Bex who joined us last year. To begin with you'll probably see them out on farm alongside one of our established vets as they build confidence and experience and become fully fledged Thrum's Vets!

Over the next few months we will also be joined by two experienced mixed vets, Jennifer Jones who has been working in mixed practice in the Borders and Robbie Henderson who has spent a few years down in the Mull of Kintyre. Both have a real interest in farm work, so it will be great to have them as part of the team.

Many thanks to those of you who managed to drop by for a blether and/or a beer at the Kirrie Show. It was good to see so many folk out and about again after a few years Covid induced cancellations and the weather was very kind on the day.

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## Fly troubles

Flies have had a bumper summer it would appear, in what is now becoming the "norm". Fly worry on its own is sufficient to unsettle cattle at grass and restrict growth rates at best. Last month we also saw a number of cases of blowfly strike in cattle and a large number of summer mastitis cases, including several bulls and a few calves.

Pour-on pyrethroids such as Spotinor, Dysect and Swish all help to prevent fly worry and mastitis but in years such as this the best way to prevent summer mastitis is by the use of intra-mammary dry cow tubes in anything that has had a calf but is not currently sucking a calf. This includes all late summer/autumn calving cows and particularly spring calving cows that for whatever reason are running without a calf. Where there is likely to be an extended dry period the use of teat sealants, either with or without dry cow tubes can be useful. Please contact the surgery to discuss in the first instance.

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## Health Plan Update

After a further update from QMS we have been told that Health Plans this year DO require an antibiotic review. This has been a previous requirement but has generally been ignored by inspectors to date. Please contact the surgery or QMS if you would like any further information.

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## Teaser Tups

A vasectomized “teaser” tup can be an excellent and cost-effective way of having a fast, compact lambing season next year. A compact lambing has all the beneficial knock-on effects including reduced disease, better planning for things like vaccinations and worm control and reduction in labour requirements.

A tup or tup lamb should be “snipped” at least 2-3 weeks prior to use and only needs to be in with the ewes for 7-14 days prior to the proper tups going in.

Please give us a call to discuss teasers or book in the snip!

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## Cobalt Deficiency in Lambs

Weaning will often be the time when a cobalt deficiency becomes apparent in lambs. As an area, and a broad generalisation our part of the world is often found to be cobalt deficient.

Affected lambs typically are not growing as well as they could be. They may or may not have dirty bums. Often these cases are multifactorial and may be down to a combination of factors such as poor grass quality, poor ewe condition, worms or cocci. However, cobalt deficiency is a cause of ill-thrift that we are seeing more of.

Lambs deficient in cobalt typically have poor weight gain (or even weight loss) and a poor-quality coat, they may have tear stained or runny eyes and a slightly dirty back end.

Blood sampling a batch of lambs for cobalt is quick, cost effective and usually diagnostic. Other samples can be taken at the same time, such as for selenium, copper, worms and cocci.

There are a number of options for treating or preventing a cobalt deficiency including drenching, bolusing and short and long acting injections. Every farm’s unique circumstances will mean the “best” option may vary from system to system, so please do contact us to discuss the best plan of action to keep your lambs growing.