



## Farm Newsletter November 2023

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the team at Ardene House Vets

As the nights draw in a wee reminder of our Christmas and New Year opening hours.

We have a vet on call 24 hours, 7 days a week. Just phone us on [01224 740700](tel:01224740700) and you will be transferred to the answering service who will pass your request on to the vet on call.

Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	open 9am-1pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	emergencies
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	emergencies
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	emergencies
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	open 8am-6.30pm
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	open 8am-6.30pm
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	open 8am-6pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	open 9am-1pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	emergencies
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	emergencies
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	emergencies
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	open 8am-6.30pm

## Preparing for Sustainable Farming – Scottish Government Rural Payments Scheme

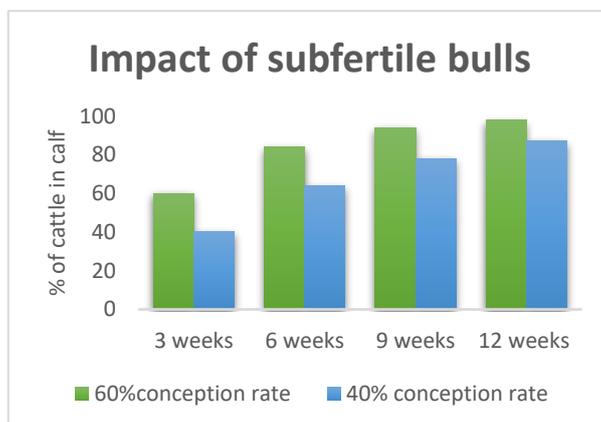
<https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/preparing-for-sustainable-farming--psf-/>

Funds are still available from the Scottish Government for this year with regards to investigations and actions carried out before the end of December. The aim is to target ways to improve welfare and efficiency of keeping livestock. This scheme runs again next year.

The following topics of the policy are relevant for this time of year:

### **Bull fertility.**

- Around 20% of breeding bulls are sub-fertile.
  - o An on-farm bull physical and semen evaluation to assess bulls pre-breeding or after a poor pregnancy diagnosis result is recommended.
  - o If doing as a pre-breeding check then ideally do about 6-8 weeks before you plan to use the bulls.
  - o Fertile bulls are an essential part of maintaining compact calving periods and reducing the number of barren cows.



## Calf pneumonia

- Even mild disease will impact growth rates and feed conversion rates long-term.
- The true cost of calf pneumonia is hidden in reduced growth rates, even in animals that don't require antibiotic treatment.
- Prevention strategies are the most effective way to manage pneumonia.
  - o Blood sampling from unvaccinated animals towards the end of the housing period can identify what diseases they faced during housing to better guide vaccination protocols.
  - o Discussing disease pinch points, shed design, young calf management, and weaning practices can provide areas to adjust to better protect calves against pneumonia. Reducing pneumonia helps to improve liveweight gain.
  - o For finishing units, management at time of purchase and housing is crucial.
  - o Actions to reduce risk may include adapting sheds for better ventilation, testing colostrum, blood sampling young calves to monitor colostrum absorption, and implementing vaccination programmes.

- Up to 70% of cattle at slaughter have lung damage, compared to 35% treated for pneumonia.
- Pneumonia as a young calf increases risk of death at 12 to 18 months of age.
- 200g/day growth rate impact over 6-month period is 36 kg reduction at finishing. Current market value of 307p/kg liveweight is a £110/head reduction in finished value if we consider the impact only within the final 6-months.

***Pneumonia management starts from the pre-calving and calving period.***



## Liver Fluke

- Weather patterns change regularly, and this affects parasite life cycles. The risk periods vary from year to year and the NADIS forecasts can help to predict when to use flukicides.
  - o Testing for liver fluke is aimed at identifying:
    - Timing of treatment
      - Has fluke infection occurred yet this autumn?
    - Efficacy of treatment
      - Did my treatment kill all adult fluke and do I need to re-treat?
    - Requirement for retreatment
      - Do I need to treat for adult fluke before turn-out in spring?
  - o Timings are best advised on a farm-by-farm basis depending on paddock type and management, so get in touch to discuss a Fluke Control Plan.
  - o Fluke is often treated for when it isn't necessary and getting the timing right can save money as well as preserve the efficacy of drugs against liver fluke.

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