



Hellos and Goodbyes

Rebecca McCloy joined the farm team at the beginning of June. Rebecca graduated from Glasgow vet school in 2014 and has always had a great enthusiasm for farm animal work. She initially worked in mixed practice in West Dunbartonshire, before moving to Yorkshire in 2015 for more cows and sheep. Her hobbies include reading, baking, jogging and visiting live music venues (when they eventually open!).

Welcome to the team!



Unfortunately, Jock will not be returning to MBM. It was a difficult decision for Jock but circumstances beyond all of our control has meant it is the right decision for him and his family stay in Australia. We thank him for all his hard work over the last 2 years and wish him well for the future!

Medicines Availability

We continue to have supply problems with medicines. Several manufacturers are unable to supply certain medicines and the medicines affected seem to change. On occasion we have had to import medicines from other countries to maintain our supply. This problem often results in a change of brand name at short notice for medicines that we supply to you.

If you have any doubts about medicine use when this happens please do not hesitate to contact one of the farm vets.



We have been informed by Zoetis, who manufacture Tetra Delta and Synulox lactating cow tubes, that Tetra Delta will not return until 2021 and Synulox LC will not be back before winter 2020. Synulox injection remains unaffected.



Covid-19

The farm side of the practice continues to work as close to normal as possible whilst maintaining social distancing etc. We are grateful for your continued co-operation during these difficult times.

Please remember to order medicines with 24 hours' notice wherever possible as we are still operating at reduced efficiency due to the pandemic.

The vets continue to work from home to reduce the risk of some or all of us having to self-isolate should any of us contract a Covid19 positive case. Fortunately this hasn't happened yet. We do try and meet up every couple of weeks as a group to maintain communications and remind ourselves what we all look like, socially distanced outside in Mark's garden. We cannot currently hold meetings or training events. The opening hours of the practices are:

Kilmarnock 01563 522701 (8.30am – 6pm) (Small animal reception open until 7pm)

Beith 01505 502126 9am-4.30pm Tues-Fri during Covid 19 restrictions).

Mauchline 01290 550452 (8.30am – 7pm)



We saw several flock outbreaks of sheep scab last autumn. The most likely source, in the majority of cases, was a new tup. **Sheep scab can be carried silently by new animals**, as well as other diseases such as resistant fluke and worms and CODD (contagious ovine digital dermatitis).

It is important that all newly purchased sheep (even shiny tups) are **isolated from other stock for 4 weeks and treated** for scab, worms and fluke promptly after arrival. Speak to a vet for advice on the best combination of products to use.



Teaser/Vasectomised Tups

Using teaser tups is a cost-effective way to advance the breeding period by up to 2 weeks and tighten the lambing period, reducing labour and sleepless nights!

The ideal teaser:

- Should be fit and healthy (no lameness or known fertility issues).
- Young, mature tups are best, but ram lambs work well too.
- The procedure takes half an hour, with vasectomies performed at the practice or on farm.
- Surgery should be carried out at least 6 weeks prior to planned use, to ensure the tup is infertile

How to use teasers:

- Ewes need to be completely out of sight and smell of all males for least 6 weeks prior to breeding.
- Introduce teaser tups for no more than 2 weeks, at a ewe:teaser ratio of 1:50.
- Replace teasers with fertile tups at an increased ewe:tup ratio of 1:20-30 due to the oestrus synchronisation of many sheep (seen around 18 and 26 days after teaser introduction).



Embryo Transfer for Repeat Breeders

A reminder that healthy reproductively normal repeat breeder dairy cows have a 50% conception rate to embryo implantation. The procedure is to AI the cow when seen bulling as normal (day 0) and precisely 7-days later (day 7) implant a frozen embryo. We do this in a similar way to AI but under epidural anaesthesia. The embryos we have are cheap dairy cross beef embryos as the objective is to get the cow pregnant rather than produce a genetically superior calf. The total cost is £153.55 (ex VAT) per cow, so you would reserve this procedure for good cows that fit your system and that you are reluctant to cull.

National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP)

Just a reminder that the NJMP is still ongoing and will need completed by the end of the year. This requires a review of your current written plan and risk assessment to see if anything has changed on farm. It is also important to go through the action points to ensure any agreed management changes are being carried out.

Finally it is important that testing is still being carried out for Johnes disease. For more information please speak to one of the vets or look at <http://www.actionjohnesuk.org/the-njmp/>



MBM Veterinary Group

MAUCLINE
(01290) 550452

KILMARNOCK
(01563) 522701

BEITH
(01505) 502126



WWW.MBMVETGROUP.CO.UK