



Lambing Course

February saw us hold a new lambing course at the Kilmarnock practice. Designed for a range of abilities, we use a lambing simulator to improve lambing technique, practise stomach tubing and injections, and discuss common ewe and lamb diseases. The morning finishes with teas, coffees and home baked cakes!

Thank you to everyone who has taken part so enthusiastically and the feedback from participants has been fantastic. Two courses have been run so far, with a third and final course for this year to be held on

Saturday 9th March.

If you are interested, please contact the practice ASAP to reserve your place. £36 per person (incl VAT) for the 3 hour course.



Bull Fertility Soundness Examination; Is Your Bull Earning His Keep?

A breeding soundness exam involves both physical and microscopic semen examination of a bull to determine the fertility status on the day of the exam. The physical exam includes locomotion, general condition, heart and lungs. It also checks the bull's penis, testicles and internal genitalia to ensure there are no abnormalities. A fresh semen sample is then collected by electroejaculation and examined to ensure sperm is active, healthy and free from signs of infection.

Why Get a Bull Breeding Soundness Exam?

Bull fertility is vital for all beef herds to achieve a tight 9-12 week calving period with a target of 60-65% of calves born in the first 3 weeks. This is important to give even batches of calves for market and based on a 1kg/day Daily Liveweight Gain (DLWG), a calf at the start of the 9 weeks compared to one born at the end will have over 60Kg bodyweight difference. Sub-fertile bulls create prolonged calving periods, more uneven batches of calves, and it is well known that calves born at the end of the calving period are more likely to die than those born at the start.



If you are not achieving over 60-65% of calves being born within the first 3 weeks of the calving period the bull you are using could be sub-fertile. With multiple bulls in a big group of cows' sub-fertility may not be noticed due to compensation but if you still have less than 65% more than 1 bull is likely to be sub-fertile. **SAC have estimated that a bull cost £1000/year to keep and 20%-30% of bulls tested turn out to be sub-fertile!**

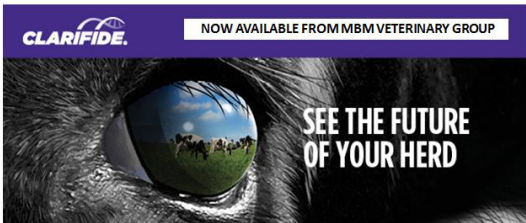
Best Practice - Bulls should ideally be tested 6-8 weeks prior to the breeding season with consideration to being able to source a replacement if required. Full examinations are available from MBM Veterinary Group for £104+ VAT for the first bull then £66+ VAT for each additional bull on the same day. A good crush is required for restraint and the bull should be rested from service for 24-48 hours prior to exam.



- HOUSING & DISEASE ASSESSMENT
 - NUTRITIONAL EVALUATION
 - HEALTH & GROWTH MONITORING
- AIM TO PREVENT DISEASE & MAXIMISE HEIFER REARING POTENTIAL

HEIFER HEALTH MONITORING SCHEME

- REVIEW CURRENT PRACTICES – WHOLE PUZZLE APPROACH 
- IDENTIFY ISSUES AND CREATE A PLAN
- RECORD GROWTH & DISEASE 
- REGULAR REVIEWS AND VETERINARY INPUT



- GENOMIC TESTING FOR PUREBRED HEIFERS WITHIN PEDIGREE HERDS
- HIGH PREDICTABILITY
- PREDICT HEALTH, PRODUCTION, CONFORMATION AND DISEASE TRAITS
- BASED ON THE INDIVIDUALS GENOME NOT THE PEDIGREE
- AVAILABLE FOR HF, BF, F, AYR, J & GU

February's Dairy Meeting

We would like to thank all those that joined us in the Fenwick recently for our Dairy Fertility & Heifer Monitoring evening. There was a great turn out of around 40 clients and some interesting discussions generated, as a follow up to the night we are keen to continue holding similar anonymous benchmarking nights in the future.

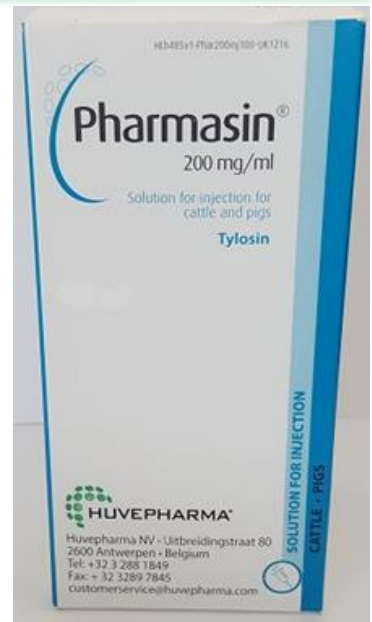
If you record your fertility data in full (i.e. all inseminations, pd dates and calving dates) within a computer database such as **CIS, NMR, Dairymate, Westfalia Parlour or Uniform Agri** we can use this to generate fertility performance reports and benchmarking data which can then guide us on bespoke farm fertility advice.

We also introduced our new HEIFER HEALTH MONITORING service which has been designed to monitor and maximise heifer performance, alongside 'CLARIFIDE' an exciting new heifer genomic breeding tool. The aim of Clarifide is to guide breeding decisions in heifers for increased farm profits and reduced farm costs, whilst greatly accelerating positive genetic growth and driving health and performance. Please contact the Farm Vet Team to chat about what is entailed and how this could benefit your herd.

Medicine Update

Local anaesthetic is currently unavailable in the UK. We are looking into importing from Holland. We have a stock on the shelf but we are restricting use by limiting supply to one bottle per farmer order. If we run out of local anaesthetic we will not be able to perform surgical procedures such as caesareans and LDA (twisted stomach) ops. We hope you will understand our situation.

Tylan is currently not available due to a manufacturing problem and is expected back in April/May. We are using Pharmasin as a replacement currently it contains the same drug and can be used to treat the same conditions as Tylan.



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