



BVD ALERT! Please do not become complacent about BVD. We have had three client's herds **break down with BVD infection** in the last 4-months. Adding animals to the herd is an important way BVD can be introduced. Best practice when adding animals to the herd is to ensure they have an individual BVD virus test negative result. This applies even if the animal comes from a Scottish 'BVD Negative herd' because that herd's status may have changed between check tests. Also, be aware that a common means of BVD entering a herd is through animals purchased as 'in-calf' when the dam tests negative but the calf in the womb is positive for BVD virus and, once born, infects the herd it is moved to. We cannot test calves in the womb. Calves born in this way must now be tested under the rules of the Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme. We also advise quarantining animals for at least 4-weeks before adding them to the herd to eliminate the risk of introducing BVD (and some other infections) through 'transient infection' acquired at the herd of origin.

Additional Veterinary Technicians

We are pleased to announce that we have two new Veterinary Technicians to work with the Calf Health Club and lab. testing / phones / dispensing / administration etc.

Georgie Renfrew

Georgie lives in West Kilbride and is interested in all aspects of farming particularly showing beef cattle with her family. The Highland Show was a highlight, and she can't wait to do it again. Hobbies include walking, running and Beith Young Farmers where she did a year as secretary. Young Farmers has given her many great memories and friends for life. Georgie is excited about getting started and meeting all our clients.



Niamh Young



Niamh is from a family farm in Ayrshire, where she has always enjoyed helping out, particularly in Spring as it is busiest with both lambing and calving. Niamh is in the fourth and final year of study for a Veterinary Nursing degree at SRUC Barony College. This has allowed her to develop practical skills and deepen her understanding of animal health and welfare. Hobbies include spending time with her dogs and friends. She also takes part in a wide range of activities with the Young Farmers. A favourite is the netball team, which allows her to stay active and meet new people. Niamh is excited about getting started and meeting all of the lovely clients!

Flukicide resistant fluke diagnosed at MBM

When is the best time to give a fluke dose? This is a question we get asked a lot - and the answer is that old vet classic: 'It depends'.

There are a very small number of cattle and sheep fluke drugs available to us (in spite of the seemingly large array of brand names!). The drugs work on different stages of the fluke life cycle, and have no lasting effect beyond the day they are administered, so we really need to know what age of fluke we are dealing with, and more importantly - are there even any fluke there to kill yet? Remember there is a lag period of weeks to months between warm wet 'snail weather' and the livestock becoming infected.

Using triclabendazole, which is meant to kill the youngest fluke infections, seems tempting - but overuse of this drug through the years means that many fluke are no longer affected by it. Last winter, we saw several cases in the practice of sheep dying of liver fluke after triclabendazole treatment, with huge losses for the farms involved.

If we treat too early, we have just wasted time and money - and potentially given ourselves a false sense of security. If we treat too late, fluke has the time to cause serious liver damage - which can be production-limiting in cattle and fatal in sheep.

The best way to maximise treatment success for liver fluke is:

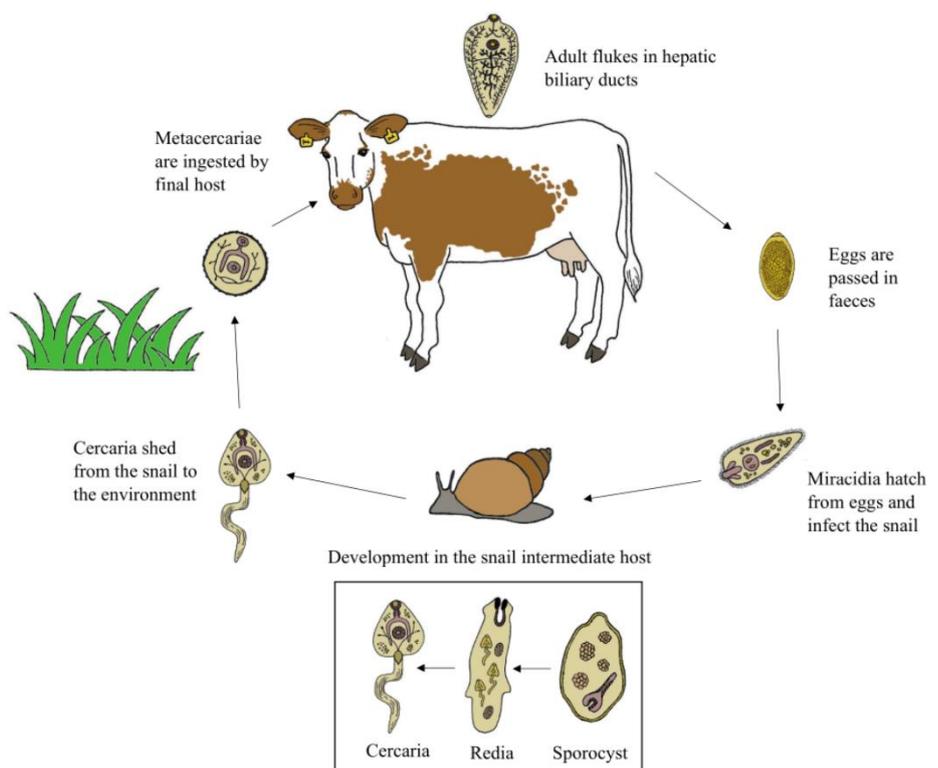
1. Check fluke forecast (via NADIS, SCOPS, COWS, vets) - this will guide you when to start testing for fluke*
2. Speak to vets to decide which stock to test and which test to use - there are several options with different strengths and weaknesses because of fluke's complex life cycle
3. Decide on a treatment plan or fluke avoidance plan - pasture selection or housing is another strategy to limit fluke exposure
4. If treating, get accurate weights and doses and follow up with a post-treatment effectiveness check by testing faeces for the presence of liver fluke.

We are just now starting to get the first positive fluke tests on some local farms for October 2025, so now is the time to start thinking about a test for your own farm - infection varies hugely between farms and even between different fields on the same farm, so unfortunately we cannot just tell all MBM clients to fluke with the same drug at the same time (if only life were that simple).

Over the past couple of years, doing more testing within the practice, we have even found many cattle are housed before they get infected, meaning a winter fluke treatment may be unnecessary.

On all farms, time and money are limited, so why waste them giving a dose which is not going to work to its full potential?

Funding is available for fluke testing through Preparing for Sustainable Farming. You have until December 2025 to run a test and until February 2026 to submit your claim for the current year.



Sheep scab

With Autumn being one of the busiest times of year for sheep movements, this increases the risk for sheep scab. Scab is a notifiable disease with significant welfare and cost implications. Affected sheep are typically restless, itchy, with stained and lost wool. Spread is primarily through sheep-to-sheep contact, however scab mites can live in wool tags up to 17 days, thus fence posts or shared equipment can also be a means of transmission.

Treatment

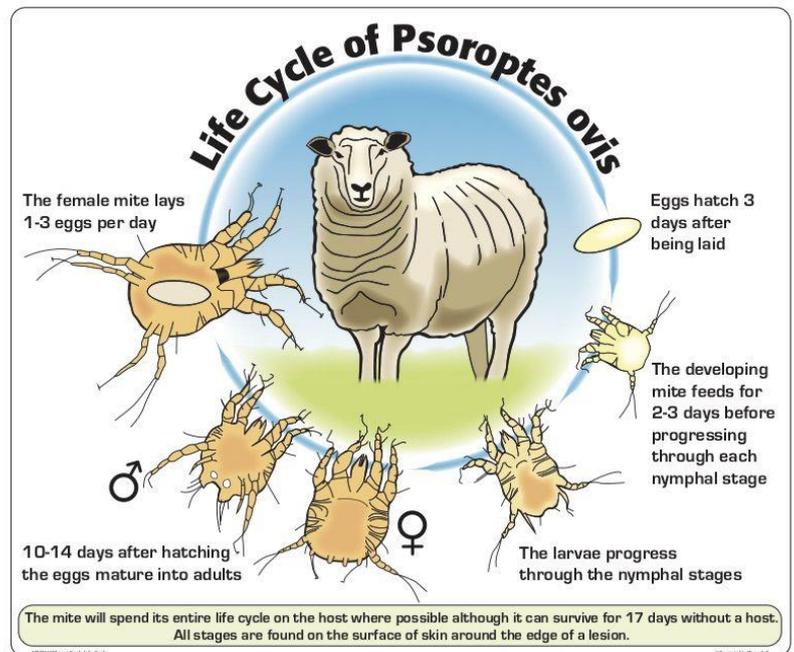
It is really important to confirm a diagnosis of scab before treating. Diagnosis can be done with a skin scrape or a blood sample. Using injectable wormers “just in case” wastes your time and money and increases the risk of worm resistance and will not treat lice. We are also seeing more cases of resistant scab, so getting the correct diagnosis to start with, helps to avoid delays in treatment and recovery.

Treatment for scab consists of an OP plunge dip or injectable clear wormers (group 3-ML). Products must be used according to their data sheet e.g. OP dips, not showers; some 3-ML injections must be repeated or require use of a clean field. Sheep can be infected with and spread scab mites for months with no clinical signs, hence ALL CONTACTS must be treated at the same time.

Prevention

Keep scab out by isolating incoming stock for 4 weeks and using appropriate quarantine treatments:

- Sheep low risk for scab - blood sample 2 weeks after purchase to confirm negative for scab, thereby avoiding unnecessary treatments.
 - Sheep high risk for scab - treat in quarantine, as soon as possible after arrival.
- Don't forget about treatments for gut worms and fluke during quarantine!



Reminder about some changes on working practices at MBM Farm

From the 1st of October MBM Syke will no longer be open on a Saturday morning with phone calls going through to our Out of Hours service. *This is to comply with lone working regulations.* **To allow drug collections there is a lock box outside where we place non fridge items for collection 24 hours a day, seven days a week (with prior notice!).** The lock box is inside the wooden gate to the left. We will do our best to be accommodating as we do not want you to experience any reduction in service. Mauchline and Kilmarnock surgeries are open on Saturday mornings and Beith are open two Saturdays a month for orders with prior notice.

We are also **centralising our farm call answering on 1st November for Beith.** This will mean all calls will come to Syke. We have employed extra staff to facilitate this. *This means only dedicated members of the farm team will deal with phone calls, which will improve our service to you.*