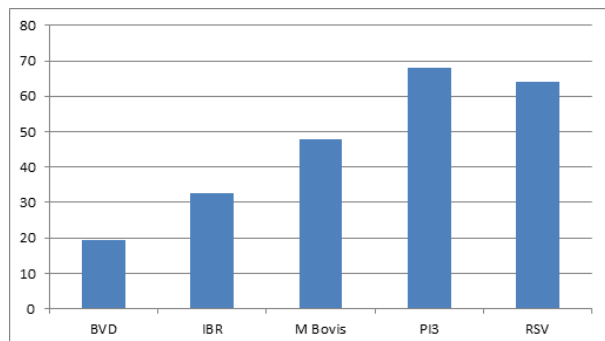




Incidence of Pneumonia in SW Scotland and MBM Veterinary Group Farms

Winter housing is upon us once again and with it the increased risk of Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) in youngstock. BRD is a major welfare and economic injury as in addition to being a painful condition, it results in reduced liveweight gain, food conversion efficiency, increased time to finishing and can result in mortality.

Over the last few years MBM Veterinary group have been offering subsidised testing of calves to establish what pathogens are present on individual farms. This allows farm specific vaccination programs to be implemented, dependant on what pathogens are present on your farm. The program has been running for a number of years now and the results across the SW of Scotland and the practice are quite interesting.



Graph 1: % Positive out of 530 calves tested in SW Scotland Oct 2013 – Sep 2015

As can be seen from Graph 1 BRD is very common in the South West of Scotland, with the two most common pathogens found being Parainfluenza Virus-3 (PI3) and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

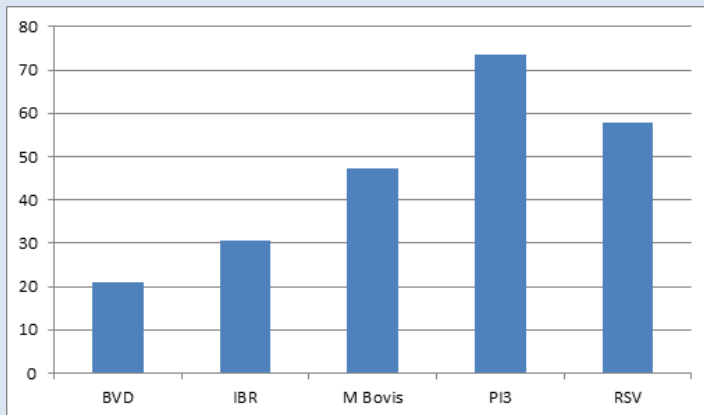
RAMS – HAVE YOU CHECKED YOURS?

A simple insult such as a single day of fever or period of lameness can wipe out the entire seminal store **and it takes a minimum of 2 months to return to fertility**; so check ram fertility well in advance of the breeding season to allow the ram to be treated or a replacement sourced. The practice offer competitively priced ram semen evaluation and breeding soundness examinations, considering the loss that could be incurred by an infertile ram it is well worth checking! **Discounts for 2+ rams.**



Tupp full physical & semen exam

Graph 2: % Positive out of 95 calves tested by MBM Vet Group Oct 2013 – Sep 2015



The pattern with MBM Veterinary clients, as shown by graph 2, is very similar to the rest of Scotland with over 70% of farms test positive for PI3.



Graph 3: % Farms with at least one positive calf (19 farms in total) MBM Vet Group Oct 2013 – Sep 2014

If you are interested in blood sampling to find out what pathogens are on your farm please contact MBM Veterinary Group. Five animals should be blood sampled at over 6 months of age and testing for BVD, IBR, M. Bovis, PI3 and RSV costs £15/calf.

NADIS PARASITE FORECAST **HIGH FLUKE ALERT**

After a long wet mild summer South West Scotland has once again returned to [a high-very high liver fluke risk](#).

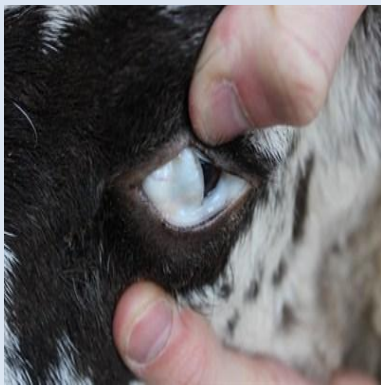
It is almost certain **that prophylactic treatment with Triclabendazole of any sheep that were not treated in October will be necessary now** on Scottish farms to prevent acute and subacute liver fluke.

- Sheep with acute fluke infestation may simply be found dead without prior signs of illness therefore it is important to have all sudden deaths investigated to allow immediate preventive measures to be implemented. Post-mortem examination is essential to establish a diagnosis of acute fluke.
- Less severe clinical signs include reduced grazing, rapid weight loss, abdominal pain, anaemia, and being slow to gather.

Triclabendazole is the only flukicide effective against very young immature flukes. Repeat treatment will likely be necessary 4-6 weeks later.

- Evasion strategies should be adopted wherever possible by not grazing potentially contaminated, boggy areas.
- Where flukicide treatment is necessary, sheep should be moved from these infested pastures.
- A faecal test can be taken to detect triclabendazole resistance two to three weeks after dosing where drug resistance is suspected. If concerned your fluke treatment has not worked or need advice please contact us.
- Later fluke treatments (November/December onwards) could include either closantel or nitroxylnil especially when triclabendazole resistance is suspected/proven on the farm.
- Albendazole and oxcyclozanide can be used for the treatment of adult flukes during late winter/spring.
- Flocks with no previous evidence of fluke disease must maintain their farm's biosecurity especially with respect to purchased sheep but also cattle
- **IMPORTANT – TRICLABENDAZOLE MUST BE PROCESSED BY THE LIVER BEFORE IT WILL KILL FLUKE SO IN SOME CASES IF SEVERE LIVER DAMAGE HAS ALREADY OCCURED IT MAY NOT BE EFFECTIVE. IF YOU HAVE SEVERE FLUKE ISSUES CONTACT THE PRACTICE FOR ADVICE**

POST HOUSING FLUKE TREATMENT TIMINGS - CATTLE



Active Ingredient In Fluke Product	Weeks post housing until treatment
Triclabendazole	2 - 3 weeks
Closantel & Nitroxylnil	7 - 10 weeks
Albendazole & Oxcyclozanide	10 - 12 weeks

White anaemic membranes, normal is salmon pink

Where cattle are 'flukie' they may benefit from Triclabendazole at housing then a further fluke treatment using the timing shown above.

To ensure cattle don't suffer poor weight gain or ill thrift during housing from overwintering with a fluke burden please use the timings in the table above to choose when and what to use.

MBM Veterinary Group

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