



## WEST of SCOTLAND DAIRY SHOW

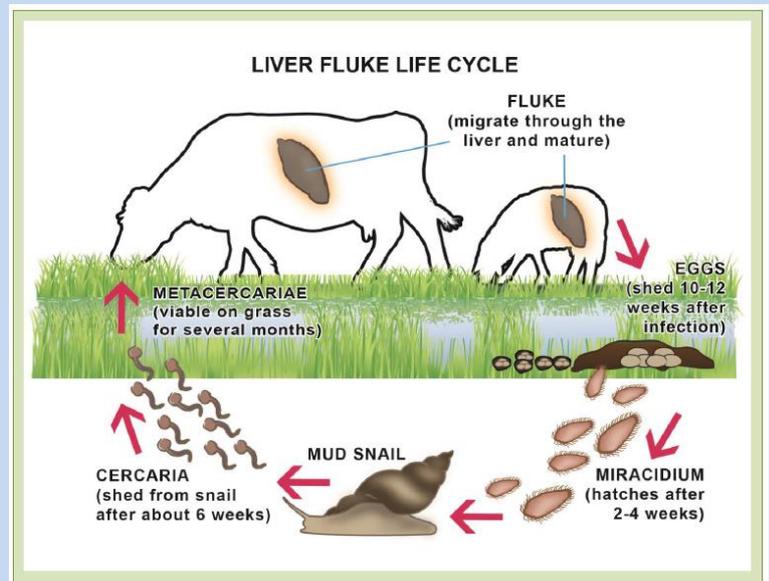
WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

COME SEE US AT OUR  
STAND FOR WHATS  
NEW, REFRESHMENTS  
AND BANTER ☺



CRAIG WILSON LTD. AYR MARKET

### \*LIVER FLUKE HIGH RISK\*



The infective stage of liver fluke is dependent on the presence of mud snails, mud snails breed and survive best in wet mild weather therefore the West of Scotland is typically always a risk area, and in particularly wet years such as this one, VERY HIGH RISK.

Once infected it takes 12-13 weeks inside a cow/sheep before a fluke is adult and is producing eggs, prevention of disease is by a combination of reducing pasture contamination, reducing exposure to boggy snail filled areas, and treating fluke within the animals whilst trying not to overuse products for resistance and economic reasons. The same liver fluke infect cattle and sheep, but as sheep have so much smaller livers the result of a fluke burden is much greater, which is why commonly the first sign of fluke noticed in sheep may be **sudden death/anaemia** (acute fluke), compared to cattle which generally show **weight loss, ill thrift, poor production and scour** (chronic fluke), for this reason fluke in cattle is often alerted by the abattoir before signs noticed.

#### What can we do?

**Housed animals:** Cattle are housed shortly after fluke exposure (Sept/Oct), each flukicide has a wait period post housing to ensure that all the fluke inside the animal are now of an age where the product will remove them. This means cattle are fluke free for the rest of the housing period, reducing loss of condition through housing and preventing cattle adding to the spring pasture burden of fluke at turn out. (See guide for treatment timings)

**Overwintered outside:** Sheep/cattle kept outdoors will be continually picking up fluke from Sept until return of dry weather. In high risk years such as this, sheep should be treated every 7 weeks for fluke with a flukicide that kills both adult and immature fluke. This not only keeps the sheep healthier through winter to reduce losses, it also ensures that overwintered sheep are not ramping up the fluke burden on pastures and helps reduce incidence of twin lamb disease. Sheep shed much higher numbers of fluke eggs than cattle.

There are many available products and so please discuss your management plan with us; \*Triclabendazole products are popular in sheep as they kill right down to 2 day old fluke, but some farms may have resistance to them so it is important to check for this when first using it on your farm or if you have suffered losses despite use.

\*Triclabendazole products should not be used where fluke deaths/disease is already present; for the product to become active and kill the fluke it must first be altered by the liver which in these cases is already compromised.

**FREE FLUKE PRODUCT GUIDE SUPPLEMENT – PLEASE SPEAK TO THE VETS FOR FURTHER ADVICE**

## MBM Completes The Coniston Challenge 2016

### for The Guide Dogs: £4163 and still counting..!

With many blind or partially-sighted clients we see first-hand the difference a guide dog can make to a life. The effort and cost of training and maintaining these fantastic dogs is substantial and they rely entirely on charitable donations.

In light of this, twelve members of staff including farm vets Mark, Michael and Natasha, completed a gruelling three-part challenge in the Lakes: a 10km hike up Old Man Coniston, a 12km forest mountain bike course and a one-mile kayak finish on Coniston.

Whilst rattling the cans at friends and family, we also held a fun charity race night which had a great turn out, raising over £1400! This race night was only possible by the generosity of all our race sponsors, all the folk that bought tickets to come along, and all those that donated raffle prizes, thank you so much, we are delighted to have raised so much! ☺



### Thank you to our sponsors:

Allan Blair, Fencing and Spraying

John Curry, South Hook

Knockshiffnock, Farm Fresh Turkeys

Mactier Bros. @ Cairndoon

Murray, Highlangmuir

Smith & Sons, Kilmaurs Mains

## Synchronising Heifers

**Relevant to beef/dairy, synchronising beef heifers has a number of advantages;**

- Join heifers at the start of the calving period so that heifers have longer to recover before the bull goes back in.
- Can use semen from quality sires with desired Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) that would not otherwise be affordable, and improve the genetics of the herd.
- EBVs also allow the selection of easy calving sires to prevent/reduce difficult calvings in heifers
- Option to select for male or female animals using sexed semen depending on the needs of your herd
- No cost of keeping a bull or need to keep fewer bulls (approx. £1000/bull/year) and the average bull produces 35 calves per year therefore costing £28.50 per calf. Beef semen can be bought for as little as £5-10 per straw.
- No risk of infectious venereal disease(s) such as campylobacter from bulls.

**An example of a synchronisation protocol:**

- Day 0: Inject 2.5 ml Receptal and insert PRID
- Day 6: Inject 2ml Estrumate
- Day 7 : Remove PRID
- Observe oestrus or AI at 56 and 72 hours.

A good race/crush is important. We would expect 60-70% of heifers in calf to the first synchronisation.

## BULL FERTILITY: POOR SCAN RESULTS?

If you are only using one bull and not achieving over **60-65% of calves in the first 3 weeks** of the calving period the bull you are using may be sub-fertile. If you have multiple bulls in a big group of cows' sub-fertility can be masked with one bull compensating for the other. **However if all of them are in peak condition 60-65% of calves should still be born in the first 3 weeks.** If this is not happening one or more of the bulls is likely to be sub-fertile.

### **Why Get a Bull Breeding Soundness Exam?**

SAC have estimated that a bull cost £1000/year to keep and with 20%-30% of bulls tested turn out to be sub-fertile, it is important to ensure all bulls on farm are earning their keep. Bull fertility is vital for all beef suckler operations to achieve a tight 9-12 week calving period resulting in an even batch of calves to sell at market. For example based on a 1kg/day Daily Liveweight Gain (DLWG) a calf born at the start of a 9 week calving period and one born at the end will have over 60Kg bodyweight difference. Also calves born at the end of the calving period are more likely to die than those born at the start. This is because pathogens build up in the early calving period and are present in much higher numbers towards the end of the season.

### **When should I do it?**

If scanning results alert a possible problem it is best checked now so you have time to either correct or source a replacement for next year and are not feeding an infertile bull through the winter. Bull breeding soundness exams should be carried out annually on all bulls 6-8 weeks prior to the breeding season. A good crush is required for restraint of the bull in order to carry out the exam. The bull should be rested from service for 24-48 hours prior to exam. Cost: £95 +VAT for the first bull, £60 +VAT for any subsequent bulls.

## **MBM Veterinary Group**

**MAUCLINE**  
**(01290) 550452**

**KILMARNOCK**  
**(01563) 522701**

**BEITH**  
**(01505) 502126**



[WWW.MBMVETGROUP.CO.UK](http://WWW.MBMVETGROUP.CO.UK)