



Ark Vet Centre

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

Vet Team Update

Rhiannon Clokey



Rhiannon, originally from Eaglesham, joined our team after graduating from the Dick Vet in Edinburgh in July 2025. Away from work, you'll often find her on the netball court, in the milking parlour or walking with her little dog Milo.

Cheerio to Iain

After an incredible 20 years with us, our much-loved vet Iain is hanging up his stethoscope and heading off to pursue a new adventure in dairy farming.



We wish him all the best and he will be missed!

In this issue we will cover updates to our vet team, acorns, a mycotoxin project for dairy farmers, an update on fluke and a look back at our recent housing meeting. Please let us know any future topics that you would like us to cover.

Acorns!!!



It's a bumper year for acorns and the recent stormy weather has caused them to fall earlier and in large quantities

What to watch for in sheep and cattle:

- Dullness and lethargy
- Off feed
- Constipation followed by diarrhoea
- Dark, tarry faeces
- Reduced urination

⚠ Clinical signs usually appear 2–5 days after ingestion, and sadly there's no specific treatment or cure — severe kidney damage can be fatal.

Prevention is key:

- Move stock away from high-risk pasture
- Ensure adequate grass coverage or provide extra forage



TB Testing Please Book In Early

Please give us at least 7 days notice when you require a TB test so we can plan accordingly.

Dairy Farmer Mycotoxin Project



The practice in conjunction with SRUC is excited to be involved in a project studying the affects of Mycotoxins in dairy cows.

We are looking for any dairy client that sees any signs in their cows of milk drop with associated diarrhoea and have any evidence of moulds on the silage clamps to get in touch as soon as possible.

Sampling of affected cows will be carried out and at this stage farms that are currently using toxin binders will still be applicable.

Farmer Meeting Update



We had a great turnout for our 'Are You Ready For Housing' meeting in September.

If you have any questions on ventilation or housing please ask one of our vets or if you have any ideas for future meeting ideas then please let us know.



Fluke Update and Testing

Recently we have seen cases of acute liver fluke at the practice and we have found evidence of acute fluke damage on sheep post mortem.



Our main key elements to controlling fluke are:

- 1) Pasture protection - to prevent liver fluke eggs reaching the pasture when snails are active
- 2) Pasture management - to reduce snail habitats and therefore reduce snail numbers
- 3) Grazing management to avoid grazing high risk pastures with susceptible animals at high risk times of year
- 4) Strategic treatments for at risk animals - controlling the right stage of liver fluke at the right time, using the right product



We now have a new tool in our armoury to help us get the timing of treatment right, minimising

both disease and unnecessary use of drugs. A new pen-side lateral flow test (just like a Covid test) allows us to identify whether animals have been exposed to fluke or not. The test can be used in cattle or sheep and is best used on first season grazers. The beauty of this test is that it can be carried out by you directly and doesn't need a vet on farm. However, it is always best to discuss your results with us to make a plan going forward so please speak to the vet team about this test if you are interested.