

# Disease Alert December 2017

- Sole ulcers
- Twin lamb disease

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Working to shape a sustainable and prospering Scottish Red Meat industry

# Sole Ulcers

- Common cause of lameness
- Often higher yielders
- Cost associated with:
  - Milk loss (570Kg)
  - Culling (x2.7 increase risk)
  - Extended calving (40 days)
- Cost per case variable but likely several hundred pounds



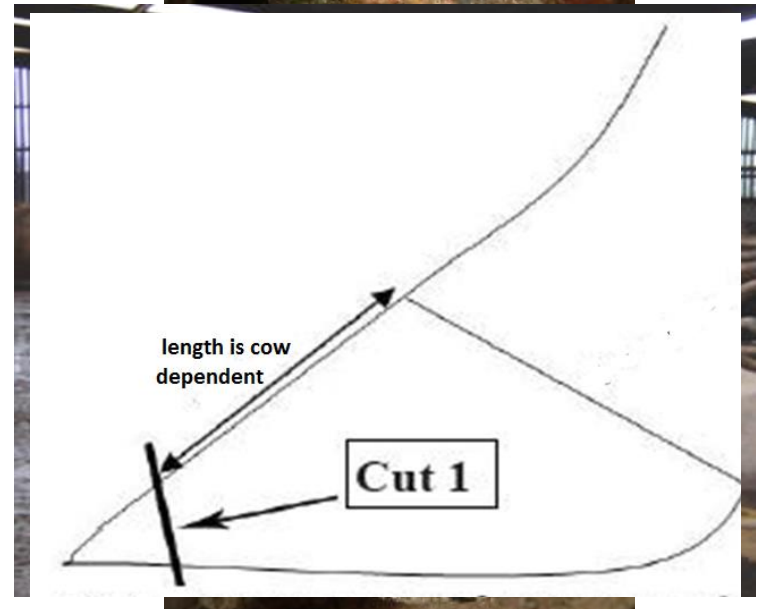
# Sole Ulcers



- Exact pathogenesis poorly understood
- Likely concussive force of pedal bone against corium
- Risk associated with poor condition, weight loss, cubicle comfort and standing times
- Fat pad cushion likely to be significant

# Sole Ulcers

- Treatment traditionally by trimming and blocks (and pain relief)
- Trimming claw length to 75mm outdated and likely to lead to over-trimming
- Rapid identification and treatment essential
- Preventive trimming likely to be beneficial
- Pre-calving trim in heifers controversial



# Twin Lamb Disease



- AKA Pregnancy toxaemia
- Most common in ewes carrying 2 or more lambs
- Occurs after a period of energy mismatch
- Precipitated by adverse weather conditions, disease or stress



# Twin Lamb Disease

## Signs

- Disorientation
- Isolation
- Depression
- Blindness
- Tremors
- Recumbency and death



# Twin Lamb Disease



## Treatment

- Often unrewarding
- House affected animals
- Offer high quality palatable feed
- Propylene glycol
- Intravenous glucose
- Steroids (abortion risk)
- Abortion often secondary
- Rarely able to rear lambs

## Prevention

- Scan for lamb numbers
- Appropriate nutrition
- Adapt according to condition and weather



# Also keep an eye out for..



- Pneumonia
- Sheep pulmonary adenomatosis

# Jobs for December



- Scan ewes and separate into management groups
- Discuss need for vaccinating cows for viral scours

# Thank you for watching

Please have a go at the clinical  
quiz!