

Disease Alert February 2018

- Johne's Disease in cattle
- Vaginal prolapse in ewes



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Working to shape a sustainable and prospering Scottish Red Meat industry

Johne's Disease

- Chronic wasting (and diarrhoea in cattle)
- *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP)
- Long incubation
- Faecal oral transmission in early life
- Costs associated with culling and impaired performance
- Possible link with human disease



Johne's Disease



An environment ripe for spread of Johne's Disease

- No treatment
- Presence of bacteria in faecal samples from animals with clinical signs
- Antibody testing has low sensitivity (but good specificity) therefore many false negatives
- Sensitivity can be increased by repeat sampling

Johne's Disease

Involve your vet in a Johne's plan

1. Protect and monitor
2. Improved farm management
3. Improved management and selective testing
4. Test and cull
5. Breed to terminal sire
6. Firebreak vaccination (animals will always test positive to antibody tests)



Vaginal Prolapse - Signs



- May include uterus/bladder
- Signs include
 - Isolation
 - Inappetance
 - Recumbency
 - Straining
- Last month of pregnancy
- Up to 15% affected on some farms

Vaginal Prolapse - Treatment



- Keep moist and clean
- GENTLE reduction with flats of hands/fist
- Harness
- Plastic retention 'spoon'
- Veterinary intervention
 - Epidural
 - Buhner suture
- Monitor closely for lambing

Vaginal Prolapse – Prevention



- Abortions/Death not uncommon
- Prevention based on nutrition:
 - prevent obesity
 - avoid high fibre/root crop diets
- Prolapse more common in:
 - housed ewes
 - prolonged recumbency (lameness)
- There may be an association with:
 - hypocalcaemia
 - short dock tails
 - steep grazing
- Cull affected individuals

Also keep an eye out for..



- Calf scours
- Ewe abortions

Jobs for February

- Record lamb birth weights
- Check levels of digital dermatitis



Thank you for watching

Please have a go at the clinical
quiz!