

# Disease Alert March 2018

- Cow tracks
- Dystocia in ewes

James Aitken BSc BVetMed MRCVS  
Orchard Veterinary Group  
Glastonbury



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Working to shape a sustainable and prospering Scottish Red Meat industry

# Cow tracks

- Improved foot health
- Improved cow flow
- Udder hygiene
- Extended grazing
- Reduced poaching



# Cow tracks



- Cost-benefit difficult
- Top-layer needs to be
  - Smooth
  - Good grip
  - Free draining
  - Firm
  - Soft
- Significant compromise if used for machinery

# Cow tracks

- Must remember cow herding behaviour
- Allow plenty of space
  - Minimum 4M up to 200 cows
  - Extra metre for every extra 100 COWS
- Allow cows to walk at their natural speed and find their natural order
- Avoid excessive gradients



# Dystocia in ewes



- Annual ewe mortality in lowground flocks is around 5-7%
- 70% of these are associated with dystocia.
- Ewes with dystocia 10 times more likely to die than be examined by a vet
- Prompt identification of problems and veterinary intervention if required key to a successful outcome

# Dystocia – position and ringwomb

- Positioning accounts for approx. 50% of dystocias
- Be careful to identify limbs, and both limbs belong to the same lamb before traction
- Ringwomb due to failure of hormonal control or failure of the lamb to engage the pelvis



# Dystocia – oversize and uterine inertia



- Large lamb
- Narrow birth canal
  - Immaturity
  - Over-condition
- If the lamb is dead consider fetotomy
- If the lamb is alive, requires caesarian section
- Uterine inertia often secondary to metabolic disease



# Also keep an eye out for....



- Displaced abomasums
- Joint and Navel ill

# Jobs for March



- Vaccinate at-risk cattle for Leptospirosis
- Worm lambing ewes (if appropriate)

# Thank you for watching

Please have a go at the clinical  
quiz!