

# Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues

## Alan Walker

Armour Vets  
Ayrshire



\* It's been a late turnout in the west of Scotland. April consisted of cold mornings and a strong easterly wind, which slowed grass growth.

The late turnout has seen a shortage of forage with some clients having to purchase poorer quality feeds. The result has been a surge of left displaced abomasum cases.

Our practice has been involved in a large amount of BVD blood sampling through the Scottish government's eradication scheme. Each farm will be screened and then given a status according to the results. By next year, animals being sold will either have to be from a BVD-free holding or have an individual test to confirm they are not a persistently infected animal. There will be long-term benefits to the overall health of their herd.

## Bridget Taylor

Wright and Morten  
Cheshire



\* After a dry but cold May Bank Holiday weekend, thoughts turn to what may happen when the weather gets warmer and wetter. We are hosting a meeting for farmers on worm control, where we will emphasise the need to plan a worm-control programme, using egg counts to decide if treatment is needed. Many farmers have found that better targeting of wormers has saved them money – both on drugs and labour – and helped to slow down the development of resistance to these drugs.

There are currently two new worm drenches, both of which have no recorded resistance. We want to ensure these drugs stay effective by using them correctly.

## Graeme McPherson

Larkmead Veterinary Group  
Oxfordshire



\* We are getting towards the end of spring calving and most people have had a good year. One client in particular has been thrilled with the way his cows have calved. Last year, many

## xLvets

Excellence in Practice

\* XLVets is a group of farm animal-committed vet practices that work together, alongside commercial research and manufacturing companies. They aim to share best practice on advice and disease-prevention initiatives.

of his cows would start calving, but would end up needing assistance. We discovered that his cows and his sheep were low in iodine, so this year, all the cows had a slow release bolus containing iodine. Now cows are calving fine and, an hour later, the calf is up and suckling.

With a low iodine level, cows and ewes lack energy when trying to give birth. Importantly, lambs and calves may fail to stand and suckle, may be susceptible to hypothermia or may be stillborn. If this sounds familiar, get your iodine levels checked.

## Judith McElwee

Penbode Veterinary Group  
Devon



\* The grass has finally started to grow, which is great news for our sheep farmers. Unfortunately, as lambs eat more forage, the likelihood is they will be ingesting parasite eggs along with it. It is important to remember that worms are not the only cause of scour at this time of year – coccidiosis can have a major impact on live weight gains and will not respond to treatment with wormers. Regular faecal worm egg counts are a fantastic tool, as you can use wormer only when needed, saving labour and money. Worryingly, we are seeing more and more cases of anthelmintic resistance. It is simple to test for resistance and will help you select the best wormer for your lambs.

