



# Newsletter

# November 2020

We hope that you and your families continue to stay well. Autumn is well and truly here and it's been a damp old start to the season. Hopefully housing will go smoothly with minimal disease outbreaks. This month we are introducing a new staff member, David, and giving you an update on how teaching has changed given the current challenging times.

## New staff member

David joined the Edinburgh Vet School Farm team as a cattle resident in June 2020, and is working towards a Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in Farm Animal Health and Production.

After qualifying in 2013 from Glasgow University, David worked in various practices across Northern Ireland and Cheshire gaining experience in the dairy, beef and sheep sectors.

David has a particular interest in the health and management of cattle in both dairy and beef herds and also cattle nutrition. As part of David's residency he will be undertaking a project looking at the effect of single and paired housing on dairy calf health and welfare.

In his spare time, he enjoys exploring the Scottish countryside and although has now hung up his rugby boots, still enjoys watching a game of rugby.

David and his wife Sarah, who is a small animal vet in the Scottish Borders are enjoying life in their new home in Lauder with their young family.

A special thanks to all the farmers for their warm welcome and for making the first months so enjoyable.



## Hybrid teaching

As the global pandemic continues we have had to adapt our teaching across all years of the course to ensure that guidance set out by the Scottish Government is adhered to while ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and clients.

Our degree programme is accredited by a number of organisations worldwide which enables our graduates to practice in many different countries following graduation. A key part of this accreditation is ensuring that graduates have had sufficient teaching in clinical skills throughout the course and importantly

adequate exposure to clinical cases during their final year. Trying to maintain this while maintaining social distance and minimising the risks to students, staff and clients has been a bit of a logistical nightmare. Huge efforts have been going on in the background for this to happen with Rob taking the brunt of the organisation from our side, and a fantastic job he has done. You will have noticed that we no longer take students out on our farm visits. The reasons for this are that we are unable to maintain social distancing with students in the vehicles and we don't want to put our clients under increased risk by increasing the number of visitors on farms. It is disappointing that students are losing the client interactions that are a very important part of their training but we have to compromise on some things. As a result all teaching is being carried out within the Farm Animal Hospital and the University Farms. We are very grateful for the continued support of our hospital through donation of cases and hope that this continues. With a good throughput of cases we are well placed to give a good broad clinical caseload to our students and also to ensure that the pathology department has a good stream of cases for teaching too. Without your continued support the standard of education we are able to deliver would be extremely reduced. Contrary to many of the reports in the media, our students remain very positive about being back in Edinburgh and are embracing the new style of teaching.



Demonstration on simulators prior to rectal palpation class



Rectal palpation class at Langhill



Clinical examinations in FAH  
As things change in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic we hope to be able to start student teaching on farm again in some capacity.



Foot trimming in the FAH