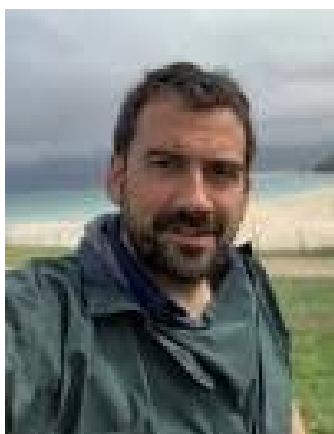


Newsletter

August 2026

This month we give you an update on some staffing changes in the practice. Tony gives us an update on some parasite challenges that may be coming up in the next few months, particularly after the relatively dry summer. Lastly we include a flyer for a survey being carried out by a PhD student at Moredun.

Staffing Updates



We bid a fond farewell to Fraser

This summer, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Fraser, who has been an integral part of the Farm Animal Practice team for over ten years.

Throughout his time with the practice, Fraser has been dedicated to providing exceptional service to our clients,

becoming a familiar and trusted face to many. In addition to his work with clients, he has provided invaluable leadership and support to colleagues through his role as Head of the Farm Practice.

While we are sad to see him go, we are incredibly grateful for everything he has contributed during his many years of service with the practice.

Fraser will be greatly missed by all of us, but we wish him every success and happiness and are excited to see where his next adventure takes him.

We are pleased to announce that Jane Sullivan will be taking on the role of the Head of the RDSVS Farm Animal Practice, a role she is very well suited to and will continue to offer the same level of service and support that you are used to.

Hollie Roper



Hollie will be joining us from September as our new Sheep resident following Alberto finishing up last year.

I am from Donegal, Ireland, and went to

university in Dublin. I graduated from UCD in 2022, and have spent the last 4 years in mixed animal practice. My main focus is on small ruminants and improving flock health. Outside of work, I enjoy surfing and going to concerts.

Autumn Nematodirus Risk

Last autumn we had a few outbreaks of Nematodirus in weaned lambs. One case was in a bunch of bought lambs. This isn't unusual anymore – as with any outbreak it requires a combination of naïve lambs and a hatch of infective Nematodirus eggs.

Nematodirus is a classic Spring/early summer infection. It requires lambs having grazed and contaminated the pasture the previous Spring. The eggs then overwinter and the larvae develop to the infective L3 stage, eggs then hatch and the larvae get released onto pasture and ingested by the lambs. The temp required for the hatch is 10°C – hence the risk of a mass hatch and acute disease if the lambs ingest a lot of larvae. And you will know that the SCOPS Nematodirus Forecast allows a prediction of when the hatch is likely to occur in your area.

With the autumn disease we obviously have a mass hatch of eggs releasing the L3 larvae. These eggs will have been deposited the previous calendar year – either Autumn or Spring. There is low risk from any eggs deposited the same year as they won't have had time to develop.

There is also discussion whether all eggs require this 10°C chill to initiate hatching. Work at Moredun has shown that this may not apply to all populations – hence we are seeing more autumn hatches. Once you have had an autumn outbreak as described – that pasture is then infective to lambs the following autumn.

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There are some reports of *Nematodirus* resistance to the white drenches – benzimidazoles. This should be a good reminder to look at other control strategies...

- Pasture rotation so that lambs don't graze the same pasture in successive seasons
- Quarantine sheep coming onto farm for 48 hours and treat with group 4 or 5 wormer
- Time any treatments based on the SCOPS *Nematodirus* Forecast

There is still much unknown about why we are seeing more autumn outbreaks. The main message is to be alert in the autumn months and monitor your weaned/bought in store lambs carefully. As we know – with *Nematodirus* we see clinical disease before any eggs are produced. So WECs are not useful – but they are useful as we may well be seeing a mixed infection.

Humbie Hub Medicine Collection Point

The Humbie Hub has kindly agreed to let us place a medicine collection box on site. This will allow us to continue delivering a medicine delivery service for those in East Lothian when vets are in the area. The Hub support of the local farming community is much appreciated and their delicious cakes are an added bonus! The box will be accessible out with the Hub opening times, please contact Ali at the practice and she will be able to give you details.



August 2026

Pasture management and grazing strategies on UK farms

Farmers we need you!

We would like to invite you to be part of a PhD research study.

This study aims to understand farmers opinions on the recent diversification of grazing practices which has occurred on UK farms.

A farmer trial will be used to understand the real-world impact that grazing strategies and pasture management have on worm infections.

This questionnaire aims to gather information on the opinions of farmers on what they consider sustainable farming and what they have found works best for their land. From this survey you can sign up to our farmer study, the process is illustrated below.



The farmer study will have particular interest in parasitic worm control and livestock productivity. **We will do free faecal egg counts and egg speciation with the results given back to yourselves!**

If you have questions, please contact Kayleigh Devine k.devine.1@research.gla.ac.uk

QR code link to questionnaire!

Your opinions matters Share your experience to improve practices	Confidential Your information will be kept secure	Working Together Get useful faecal egg count results for your farm
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