2023/24 CPD events

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Practical Training on Livestock Parasitological Techniques

Date: 14 June 2023  
Venue: SRUC Disease Surveillance Centre, St Mary’s Industrial Estate, Dumfries, DG1 1DX

Course Summary
SRUC Veterinary Services offer a practical training course for vets or members of the vet lead team on livestock parasitological techniques. The training will be delivered by SRUC’s Post Mortem Support Officers with experience in parasitological techniques. Sessions will cover the demonstration and performance of the McMaster technique, the microscopic observation and identification of gastrointestinal nematodes eggs and coccidian oocysts of sheep and cattle and the faecal sedimentation technique used to detect fluke eggs. The aim of the course is to train veterinary team members to deliver accurate, repeatable parasitology results that can inform sustainable control of key parasite diseases in herds and flocks.

Course Content
- The principle of the McMaster technique
- The performance of the McMaster technique (with and/or without centrifuge)
- The microscopic observation of the McMaster slide
- The identification of gastrointestinal nematodes eggs and coccidian oocysts in livestock
- An introduction to result interpretation

Tutors
(subject to availability)
- Jacquelyn Burgess, SRUC Post Mortem Support Officer
- Tina Fitzsimon, SRUC Post Mortem Support Officer
- Heather Stevenson, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer

Course Times
- 10.00am – 4.00pm

Course prices (Inc VAT)
- £270

To ensure participants obtain adequate practical experience during the course, places are limited to 6 delegates.
Examination of rams for breeding

Date: 31 August 2023
Venue: SRUC Easter Howgate, Penicuik, EH26 0PE

Course Summary
Performing a ram pre-breeding soundness examination will help farmers to maximise flock fertility efficiency as this will ensure that only the fertile rams will be used in the breeding flock. This practical course will cover the ram’s reproductive anatomy and physiology, the steps for a ram’s MOT and a detailed general clinical examination, the semen collection and its analysis (i.e. morphology, motility).

Course Content
• Parts of reproductive anatomy and physiology
• Steps of ram’s MOT
• General clinical examination
• Semen collection (via electroejaculation) and evaluation (morphology, motility)

Tutors
(subject to availability)
• Iain McCormick, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
• Andrew Robinson, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
• Robert Anderson, Merlin Vet UK

Course Times
• 10.00am – 4.00pm

Course prices (Inc VAT)
• £660

To ensure participants obtain adequate practical experience during the course, places are limited to 8 delegates.
Health Planning for the Beef Cow Herd

Date: 20 & 21 September 2023
Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA

Course Summary
The challenge for veterinary surgeons involved in herd health planning is to provide a service that improves and safeguards the productivity of their clients’ herds. To succeed, the process must be dynamic and interactive, but above all progressive to ensure that the herd health plan is a living document of continued relevance to the herd and not merely a box ticking exercise. To that end, this course will cover the production principles that govern profitability of the beef cow herd and focus on the dynamic health planning approach.

Course Content
• The factors that determine production efficiency in the beef cow herd
• Generating production targets that are relevant for the individual client
• An introduction to risk management and its application to health planning
• Preventive programmes for the infectious diseases that have greatest impact on productivity of the herd

Tutors
(subject to availability)
• Tim Geraghty, SRUC Veterinary Centre Manager
• Iain McCormick, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
• Lesley Willey, SAC Consulting Agricultural Consultant
• Karen Stewart, SAC Consulting Ruminant Nutritionist

Course Times
• The course starts at 10.00am on Day One and will finish around 4.00pm on Day Two.

Course prices (Inc VAT)
• Early bird price* £490
• Standard price £540
Practical Training on Livestock Parasitological Techniques

Date: 26 September 2023  
Venue: SRUC Disease Surveillance Centre, St Mary’s Industrial Estate, Dumfries, DG1 1DX

Course Summary  
SRUC Veterinary Services offer a practical training course for vets or members of the vet lead team on livestock parasitological techniques. The training will be delivered by SRUC’s Post Mortem Support Officers with experience in parasitological techniques. Sessions will cover the demonstration and performance of the McMaster technique, the microscopic observation and identification of gastrointestinal nematodes eggs and coccidian oocysts of sheep and cattle and the faecal sedimentation technique used to detect fluke eggs. The aim of the course is to train veterinary team members to deliver accurate, repeatable parasitology results that can inform sustainable control of key parasite diseases in herds and flocks.

Course Content  
- The principle of the McMaster technique  
- The performance of the McMaster technique (with and/or without centrifuge)  
- The microscopic observation of the McMaster slide  
- The identification of gastrointestinal nematodes eggs and coccidian oocysts in livestock  
- An introduction to result interpretation

Tutors  
(subject to availability)  
- Jacquelyn Burgess, SRUC Post Mortem Support Officer  
- Tina Fitzsimon, SRUC Post Mortem Support Officer  
- Heather Stevenson, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer

Course Times  
- 10.00am – 4.00pm

Course prices (Inc VAT)  
- £270

To ensure participants obtain adequate practical experience during the course, places are limited to 6 delegates.
Health Planning for the Sheep Flock

Date: 25 & 26 October 2023
Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA

Course Summary
The challenge for veterinary surgeons involved in flock health planning is to provide a service that improves and safeguards the productivity of their clients’ flocks. To succeed, the process must be dynamic and interactive, but above all progressive to ensure that the flock health plan is of continued relevance to the flock and not merely a box ticking exercise. To that end, this course will cover the production principles that govern the profitability of sheep flocks and focus on ewe nutrition, lamb growth rates and approaches to investigation of problems such as poor scanning percentage, abortion, ill thrift and neonatal losses.

Course Content
- The factors that determine production efficiency in the sheep flock
- Generating production targets that are relevant for the individual client
- Analysis of production data and problem solving
- Preventive programmes for the infectious diseases that have greatest impact on productivity of the flock

Tutors
(subject to availability)
- Heather Stevenson, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
- Fiona Crowden, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
- Caroline Robinson, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
- Poppy Frater, SAC Consulting Agricultural Consultant

Course Times
- The course starts at 10.00am on Day One and will finish around 4.00pm on Day Two.

Course prices (Inc VAT)
- Early bird price* £490
- Standard price £540
Practical Bovine Ultrasonography (Basic)

Date: 8 November 2023  
Venue: SRUC Barony Campus, Parkgate, Dumfries, DG1 3NE

Course Summary
This course is aimed at veterinary surgeons with an interest in routine health and fertility work. The majority of the course is practical with morning and afternoon practical scanning sessions with small group tuition. By the end of the day the participant will have the skills to carry out pregnancy diagnosis and bovine infertility examinations using ultrasound.

Course Content
• Benefits of using ultrasonography on farm and discussion on the key stages of the oestrus cycle and pregnancy
• Guidance on how to use the ultrasound equipment and find and identify structures
• Guidance on how to assess the entirety of the bovine reproductive tract
• Guidance on how to identify the various stages of pregnancy, early, mid and late pregnancies with examples of cows at all stages of pregnancy to 28 days post-insemination
• Examples of the main causes of infertility available for examination with discussion on infertility diagnoses

Tutors
(subject to availability)
• Iain McCormick, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
• Iain Dick, Ark Veterinary Practice
• Amy Haylock, IMV Imaging
• Claire-Louise Townsend, IMV Imaging

Course Times
• 10.00am – 4.30pm

Course Prices (Inc VAT)
• £550

To ensure participants obtain adequate practical experience during the course, places are limited to 8 delegates.
Infectious Diseases of Cattle

Date: 24 & 25 January 2024
Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA

Course Summary
The purpose of this course is to provide in-depth information on the major infectious diseases that impact at the herd level. We will cover the biology, diagnosis and control of BVD, IBR, Johne's disease, Leptospirosis and Neospora in relation to the UK livestock systems. In addition salmonellosis and venereal Campylobacter infection will be discussed. This course will provide the veterinary practitioner with all the information required to advise their clients on the control, accreditation and prevention of these financially important diseases. The course will satisfy CHeCS requirement for cattle practitioners to have undergone appropriate post graduate training in these diseases in order to provide veterinary support to their clients participating in CHeCS programmes. The course also covers elements of the Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice.

Course Content
• The biology of each of the diseases
• The principles and limitations of diagnostic tests, their applications for each disease and case based examples for discussion

Tutors
(subject to availability)
• Helen Carty, SRUC Veterinary Centre Manager
• Tim Geraghty, SRUC Veterinary Centre Manager
• Colin Mason, SRUC Veterinary Centre Manager

Course Times
• The course starts at 10.00am on Day One and will finish around 4.00pm on Day Two.

Course prices (Inc VAT)
• Early bird price* £490
• Standard price £540
Practical Bovine Ultrasonography (Advanced)

Date: 8 February 2024  
Venue: SRUC Barony Campus, Parkgate, Dumfries, DG1 3NE

Course Summary
This course is aimed at veterinary surgeons who already are experienced in basic bovine ultrasonography and want to learn more on fertility work and advance their practical skills on determining the age of pregnancy and sexing embryos. The majority of the course is practical with morning and afternoon practical scanning sessions with small group tuition.

Course Content
- Benefits of using ultrasonography on farm and discussion on the key stages of the oestrus cycle and pregnancy
- Guidance on how to assess the entirety of the bovine reproductive tract
- Guidance on how to age stages of pregnancy
- Guidance on how to identify twins and determine the sex of the embryo
- Guidance on how to identify common abnormalities
- Examples of the main causes of infertility available for examination with discussion on infertility diagnoses

Tutors
(subject to availability)
- Iain McCormick, SRUC Veterinary Investigation Officer
- Iain Dick, Ark Veterinary Practice
- Amy Haylock, IMV Imaging
- Claire-Louise Townsend, IMV Imaging

Course Times
- 10.00am – 4.30pm

Course prices (Inc VAT)
- £550

To ensure participants obtain adequate practical experience during the course, places are limited to 8 delegates.
Cattle and Sheep Parasitology

Date: 29 & 30 May 2024  
Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA

Course Summary
Refresh your knowledge with a review of the important endo- and ecto-parasitic diseases of cattle and sheep. Sessions will cover the epidemiology and control of parasitic gastroenteritis, lungworm, coccidiosis, liver fluke and sheep scab. The course will include discussion on changing disease patterns and highlight opportunities for monitoring and health planning. Information on new and emerging parasitic diseases will also be covered. Case based material will be used to discuss diagnostic testing options and interpretation of results which together with an update on new test developments will equip you to investigate problems.

Course Content
• Introductory classroom theory session with images of key stages of pregnancy and infertility diagnoses discussed
• Morning and afternoon practical scanning sessions with small group tuition
• Examples of cows at all stages of pregnancy to 28 days post-insemination available
• Examples of the main causes of infertility available for examination
• Technical advice on choice of scanners to suit practice needs

Course Times
• The course starts at 10.00am on Day One and will finish around 4.00pm on Day Two.

Course prices (Inc VAT)
• Early bird price* £490
• Standard price £540
Free Online Talks

We offer evening live CPD webinars on a variety of veterinary topics that are delivered by experts in the field. The live webinars, which are also recorded, are delivered to veterinary practitioners free of charge.

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What our clients say about our courses

Brilliant speakers and really personable and patient with daft questions. Thank you to another excellent SRUC CPD session!

Really great to have full set of handouts for each day. Very good level of organisation, keeping to time and facilities!

I much enjoyed the course. Must say I learned much more than on the average course I tend to attend!

I felt that the two days were very useful, it shows the way forward for improving beef farm profitability and cooperation with vet!

Well run course with informative and engaged speaker!

Price includes refreshments and lunch, accommodation is not included.

*Early bird course prices apply to bookings made more than six weeks in advance of the course date.