

## September Diary

Summer is always an interesting time to be a vet, normally it's a quieter time with harvest predominating, however we're far from sitting around and twiddling our thumbs! Summer work brings some variety – across the south east we do a significant amount of game bird work which is a bit different from dealing with other farm animals! At times this year has been a great year for birds with (mainly) dry conditions and good temperatures. So much of the success with gamebirds is achieved from good pen design, feed and water hoppers. Mainly we've been getting involved along the lines of annual visits to inspect the birds and offer advice whenever we can. Unfortunately we've had a few pretty impressive deluges of rain which have caused a few problems but with quick identification from gamekeepers, diagnosis from us and treatment put in place, the losses have been minimised and the flock health maintained.

Just around the corner it looks to be a very busy time with the start of autumn calving, looking towards housing and the rams going in. It's an essential planning time; we've been doing a lot of work with nutrition planning for autumn/winter, bull and ram fertility testing and usual herd health work. For the autumn calvers we've been looking at nutrition and body condition in the run up to calving, making sure grass is fully utilised and nutrition is matched to requirements. It's been a very busy time for ram fertility testing making sure all are in tip top shape for the number for the number of ewes to go with.



In the next few weeks we have a pre-tupping workshop coming up at the Sevenoaks practice following on from a very successful lambing workshop back in spring. It looks to be a really comprehensive meeting covering aspects of nutrition, parasites and breeding for more information contact the practice on 01959 564383.

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