



OVERVIEW

Enterotyphlocolitis in a Limousin heifer with malignant catarrhal fever

Chronic copper toxicity in lambs

Deaths due to acorn toxicity in Scottish blackface ewes

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The 6th and 7th of October proved to be the wettest two-day period on record for Scotland overall. This was followed by Storm Babet later in the month with 150 to 200 mm of rain in the worst affected areas. While the east of Scotland experienced its wettest October on record the south-west was drier than average with the overall rainfall figure for the whole country 118 per cent of the 1991 to 2020 average. The mean temperature was

of average.

CATTLE

Generalised and systemic conditions

A thriving seven-week-old suckled calf was found dead at grass. There were no other losses in the group of 14 cows with calves at foot. Postmortem examination identified serous pleural and pericardial effusions plus dramatic interlobular pulmonary oedema (Fig 1). These findings suggested clostridial enterotoxaemia type D (pulpy kidney) as the cause of death which was further supported by the detection of epsilon toxin in ileal contents. Histopathology did not provide any further evidence of enterotoxaemia or an alternative cause of death. It was considered that this was a peracute presentation which proved fatal prior to the development of brain lesions.

Figure 1 Interlobular pulmonary oedema in a calf with clostridial enterotoxaemia type D

A yearling Limousin cross heifer housed in a single pen within a shed containing other cattle developed scour and was treated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. It was the only animal affected. It appeared brighter for 48 hours but then became anorexic and was treated for suspected pneumonia. Blood was noted in the faeces, and it was found dead the following morning. No evidence of pneumonia was detected on postmortem examination. The liver was swollen, and enterotyphlocolitis was apparent. The most severe lesions were found in the distal jejunum where there was distinct reddening of the mucosa on either side of the mesenteric attachment (Fig 2) and enlargement of the mesenteric lymph nodes. Further inflammation was found at the caecal-colon junction and there were



ovine herpesvirus 2 confirming a diagnosis of malignant catarrhal fever. The possibility of previous contact with sheep was confirmed.

Figure 2 Ovine herpesvirus 2 arteritis in the jejunum of a yearling heifer with malignant catarrhal fever

Musculo-Skeletal conditions

Investigation was carried out to identify the cause of

