Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following is an abbreviated outline of the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

The scope and level of study which candidates will need to undertake in order to achieve the intended Learning Outcomes will depend on their existing familiarity with the topics, their individual learning needs, the production animal species being studied and the educational approach taken by module providers. The topics listed below are indicative of the required areas of study – they are not intended to be prescriptive and they should be viewed in the context of the production animal species being studied.

Evaluation and management of clinical cases and population/herd/flock health disease problems

- Application of evidence-based veterinary medicine
- Selection of appropriate laboratory diagnostic procedures and interpretation of results
- Diagnostic imaging, including radiology and diagnostic ultrasound
- Fertility and reproduction management, including approaches to pregnancy diagnosis where appropriate
- Disease dynamics in populations

Therapeutics and surgical practice

- Clinical pharmacology
- Surgical practice, including pre-operative evaluation, aseptic techniques, peri-operative analgesia, post-operative care and client education.
- Anaesthetic management, including pre-anaesthetic assessment, sedation, analgesia, anaesthetic equipment, monitoring and supportive measures, recovery/post operative care.

Population health and welfare

- Welfare, nutrition and husbandry
- Health and disease surveillance
- Population/herd/flock health planning and disease control
- Information technologies for improving animal health and production (for example, specific software analyses and farm databases)
Aim of the Module

The aims of this module are to:

1. develop in depth knowledge of diseases or disorders of ruminant farmed animals including consideration of the principles of management, handling and restraint, preventative medicine and diagnostic procedures;
2. develop clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine to an advanced level;
3. develop communication skills in case management and critical reflection to professional peers.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates should be able to:

1. demonstrate an in depth knowledge, and systematic approach to clinical problems in production animal practice utilising advanced clinical reasoning skills and evidence based medicine;
2. demonstrate a critical awareness of the techniques and developments at the forefront of production animal practice and an ability to systematically review the literature;
3. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the communication skills required to present case reports, including the ability to present information logically, concisely, discriminating between useful and extraneous information, and the ability to discuss the findings in the light of appropriately sourced literature;
4. demonstrate critical evaluation of issues raised by a case or clinical problem, or the subsequent review of the literature, and the application of learning into practice.

Module Structure

The module will be divided into 5 study units:

Study Unit 1: This unit will emphasise the importance of the dairy and beef industries to the UK economy and review the principles of ethical housing and transport, behaviour and nutrition. The significance of legislative codes in relation to the cattle industry is reviewed.

Study Unit 2: This unit will cover preventative medicine, biosecurity and zoonoses with a focus on the principles of healthy planning, epidemiology and the importance of early recognition of zoonotic and notifiable diseases.

Study Unit 3: This unit will cover the principles of fertility and fecundity, methods of pregnancy diagnosis and reproductive manipulation.

Study Unit 4: This unit will cover the topics of diagnosis and disease control. Particular emphasis is placed on the economic importance of disease control and implementation of accredited health schemes at an international, national, multiple and individual herd level.

Study Unit 5: This unit will review the principles of therapeutics and surgery including the pharmacology of commonly used drugs and the principles of surgery and surgical anatomy.
Assessment Strategy

4 x reflective case reports (1500 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)