

**Following a recent news report regarding spreading of Gamebird feed and ruminants, we would like to draw the following information to farmer's attention:-**



Two incidents in quick succession have highlighted risks to ruminants from gamebird feed. One incident involved medicated partridge feed being fed on moorland being co-grazed by sheep; the second involved medicated pheasant feed to which beef cows and calves had access. Unintended exposure to medicated feed is bad practice and unacceptable for many environmental and animal related reasons. These include:-

- Clinical disease and death due to unregulated access to grain based feed. This could potentially cause grain overload and clostridial disease.
- Clinical disease and death due to unregulated access to feed medicated with lasalocid causing ionophore toxicity.
- Unintended exposure of ruminants to medications in feed which were not intended to be fed to ruminants. This requires a prolonged withdrawal period to be set and observed.
- Exposure of ruminants to gamebird feed which contains fish protein and as such is a breach of the Animal by-Products Regulations.
- Failure to follow guidance recommendations for the use of medicated feed including those associated with antimicrobial resistance.

The clinical signs of ionophore toxicity in ruminants include sudden death, diarrhoea, respiratory signs and recumbency, and pathological findings include focal cardiomyopathy, skeletal muscle necrosis and pulmonary oedema.

Should you require any further information, please contact your local Animal Health & Welfare Officer – [Animal.Health@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Animal.Health@argyll-bute.gov.uk)