

SHEEP NEWS



Winter 2019



Drove Farm Vets would like to wish all of our clients a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020. This means lambing is around the corner, so here are a few bits of information to get you prepared.

Neonatal Lamb Risk assessment

As you are all well aware, farms are expected to demonstrate responsible and appropriate use of antibiotics to help minimise overall usage and avoid increasing the level of antibiotic resistance. Prophylactic use of antibiotics, such as oral neonatal lamb products, has been under scrutiny in recent years and the industry as a whole is trying to avoid their blanket use. There are cases where these products may be necessary, and the following neonatal lamb risk assessment tool should assist you in your decisions (please see the reverse of this newsletter). Your annual flock health review is an opportunity to discuss changes in management practices to reduce the need for prophylactic antibiotics.

Lamb colostrum replacer

Where ewe colostrum is not available, a colostrum replacement substitute can be a helpful product to have in stock. There is a MASSIVE variety in powdered colostrum substitutes. We have the XL vets home brand high quality colostrum available, which is 40% crude protein with 3g of IgG (antibody) per feed which means this product exceeds the IgG level of most of the other products available.

The colostrum will be available in two sizes: 500g (20 doses) and 1kg (40 doses). These are zip lock pouches with a measuring scoop and clear instructions for use (2 level scoops in 75ml of water). Please contact the farm office for orders.

£42.50 for 1kg sachet (40 feeds) ex VAT

£27.50 for 500g (20 feeds) ex VAT



Drove Farm Vet's Lambing Course

Designed both as a starting point for beginners or as a refresher for experienced farmers, our lambing course involves theory based and practical learning.

Topics covered include the benefits of scanning, pre-lambing vaccinations, stages of labour, care of the newborn lamb and diseases of the ewe and lamb around lambing.

Participants also get hands on lambing experience with our popular lambing simulator, where we simulate different lambing presentations which may be encountered using fresh cadaver specimens.

Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 10.30am @DVH SN1 4RW.

Cost £50 +Vat with lunch provided. Currently 3 spaces left available.

C		Environmental Factors		
Lamb Factors	1	Single	8	Outside
	2	Twin	9	Inside
		Triplet, Quad, Quin	10	Stocking rate - low
		Size - ideal (4-8kg)	11	Stocking rate - high
		Size - not ideal but not extreme	12	Shelter - good
		Size - too small (<3kg)	13	Shelter - poor
		Birth - simple, unassisted	14	Weather - good
		Birth - assisted but OK		Weather - poor
	3	Birth - difficult		Bedding - clean and dry
		Colostrum - filled self from ewe		Bedding - dirty or wet
		Colostrum - unknown or artificial		Bedding - dirty and wet
	4	Colostrum - insufficient	13	Early stage of lambing time
		BCS - OK/ideal	14	Mid-end if lambing time
		BCS - not ideal or too fat		Little of no disease so far
5	BCS - too thin		Disease in other groups this season	
	Ration - good (quality checked)		Disease in this group this season	
	Ration - not checked			
	Ration - low energy/protein			
6	Ewes - clean and sound			
	Ewes - dirty or several lame			
	Ewes - dirty and several lame			
Ewe Factors				

Green – indicates low or minimal risk

Yellow – indicates possible increased risk

Orange – indicates increased risk with cumulative effect

Avoid treating lambs with ticks in predominantly green or yellow boxes.

