



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

Summer Update

2022

## Enzootic Abortion—For Flock's Sake Vaccinate

Enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE) remains one of the most common causes of abortion diagnosed in sheep, despite the availability of cost-effective vaccines. The bacterium (*Chlamydophila abortus*) is spread from sheep to sheep, predominantly at lambing time when affected ewes shed large numbers of bacteria in their foetal fluids and placenta.

Infection in a flock can result in the birth of dead and/or weak lambs from around 3 weeks before lambing is due to start. However, if sheep are infected after 100 days of pregnancy, they will not abort at this lambing but the bacteria becomes **latent**. The bacteria then reactivates to cause abortions during the lambing period the following year. The highly infectious nature of Chlamydia, as well as this latent infection, means that levels of abortion can be relatively low one year, but resulting in a storm and significant losses in the next year.

With the increasing value of lambs and replacement ewes over the last few years and the ever increasing costs to keep them, it is vital we maximise the return that each ewe can bring.

### Just one abortion due to enzootic abortion is a wasted cost of...

- Getting the ewe in lamb
- Supporting that pregnancy (feed, scanning...)
- Cleaning up after abortion (labour, disinfectants...)
- Vet/disease investigation
- Carcass disposal
- Veterinary costs to treat the ewe
- Potential sale of lamb(s) or purchase of replacement

Estimated cost:  
**£85 PER ABORTION**



The cost of just one abortion has been estimated at £85. This figure was calculated in 2009 and has probably significantly increased since then. If chlamydia is present on farm, we would expect to see abortion rates of anything between 2-30% in one year. Not only could this have a huge financial impact but also a big effect on team moral. Any farm that buys in ewes or has neighbouring sheep in the area are at risk of chlamydia entering the flock. In these instances, the most effective way of prevention is to vaccinate the flock.

### For a flock of 100 ewes:

Cost of 4 abortions

**£340**

Cost of vaccination

**£300**

**Vaccination against enzootic abortion is only required once in a ewe's lifetime. In following years, only replacement ewes require vaccinating. A good vaccination protocol will easily result in a saving of 75% of the costings mentioned above.**

### Why are you waiting to vaccinate?



**FOR FLOCK'S SAKE  
VACCINATE!**  
PROTECT YOUR FLOCK & FINANCES

### For Flock's Sake Get Tested!

In the absence of a solid vaccination programme there is always a risk that enzootic abortion of ewes can enter your flock. To help combat this, Ceva have developed **Assure Ewe**, a subsidised EAE blood testing scheme which allows us to test for enzootic abortion in your flock whether you've experienced abortions or not at just a fraction of the price. The scheme is running until the end of September so you still have time to get your flock tested! Available to any of our clients!

#### The Assure Ewe Scheme enables you to:

Sample up to 6 breeding females from non-vaccinated flocks & sample those that aborted, were barren or had weak lambs.

Contact the practice to discuss the testing and vaccination of your flock in preparation for next lambing season. Don't leave it too late, vaccination should be given pre-tupping!

*A 2020 survey revealed; 57% of farmers who did not vaccinate the previous year would consider vaccinating.*

**Remember:** Toxoplasmosis is another significantly important infectious disease that should be considered alongside EAE.

# Buying in Sheep—What to Consider



By the end of the lambing season, many of you will be beginning to think about buying in replacement ewes and rams. The key when choosing replacements is to source from as few farms as possible (ideally just one) and find out as much as you can about the disease status and flock history of the farm, as well as any vaccinations. Although, it is important to use what you have been told as a guide, unfortunately we cannot believe everything we are told from sellers.

## Assume the worst!

It is of the upmost importance to protect the existing flock by following quarantine and isolation procedures.

- Isolation areas must be at least 2 metres away from other stock.
- Seek a vets advice if ill health or abnormalities during isolation occur.
- Examine feet daily and foot bath at 5 day intervals.
- Vaccinate new animals before introducing to the rest of the flock.

Scab, resistant worms and liver fluke are among the many reasons we must quarantine incoming stock. All replacements must be dosed with effective parasite treatments to remove any burdens they may have upon arrival at the farm. We must also protect the existing flock from any potential infectious diseases or foot problems that replacements may have such as:

## Footrot and CODD

Although most flocks will have some level of footrot, it is worth remembering that 10 different strains exist and they all differ in how they spread and how badly they affect the sheep. Bought in sheep must be assumed to be infected by both the most severe footrot strain and CODD. Inspect the feet of all new replacements, treat any affected animals and isolate on their own if possible. During quarantine, sheep should be foot bathed at least weekly with an appropriate solution. A vaccination against footrot is available—although not CODD. Either the existing flock can be vaccinated or the replacements depending on which group is the most likely to infect the other—something that will vary from farm to farm.

## Infectious Diseases

There are a huge range of other diseases that can be brought in, including enzootic abortion, toxoplasmosis, maedi visna and borders disease. By isolating any replacements for three weeks, you should be able to check for many of these diseases. Some diseases such as orf, enzootic abortion and toxoplasmosis can be vaccinated against. Alternatively, sheep coming from accredited flocks can be safely assumed to be disease free. Accreditation schemes can be trusted as they show that flocks have been tested and proven to be unaffected e.g. maedi visna. Where sheep are sold as “vaccinated” it is best to ignore this and assume they are completely unvaccinated. Each farm should have their own infectious disease and vaccination protocol.



Quarantine yard and footbath in one.

To summarise, when buying in replacements, a good isolation procedure will greatly reduce the chance of spreading of disease between the existing flock and the new sheep. The best option would be to create this plan with one of our vets! This way we can tailor it depending on diseases already present and current vaccination and treatment plans.

- Take care when sourcing sheep
- Quarantine all animals on arrival
- Treat to prevent introduction of resistant worms
- Treat for liver fluke
- Treat for sheep scab
- Treat for Footrot and CODD
- Treat for infectious diseases
- Develop a farm specific health plan

**And remember... Always assume the worst!**

**Keep a look out for invitations to our upcoming meeting on the 19th of July with a more detailed focus on buying in new sheep, the quarantine and isolation period and what you can do to prevent the spread of disease.**

Rebecca will be back from maternity leave and taking the lead with this one alongside Ceva, the drugs company who brings us Cevac Chlamydia - the vaccination for enzootic abortion.

## We want to hear from you...

Now the 'living with covid' phase is in place, we want to hear your thoughts about client meetings. We would love to know if our workshops and talks are something you have missed and how you would like for us to progress after 2 years.

Look out for a poll on Facebook to leave your feedback or feel free to email or call us.

*Do you prefer online Zoom meetings, or would you rather meet in person?*

*How far would you be willing to travel for meetings and what time of day suits you best?*

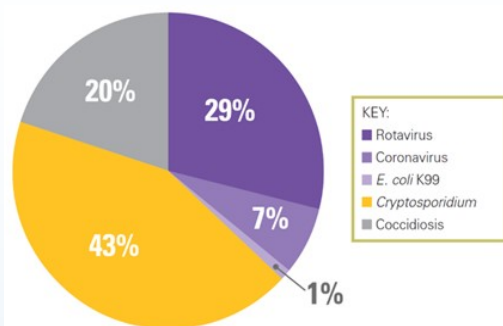
*What topics would you like to be covered?*



# Calf Scour—Causes, Costs & Prevention



Calf scour is the most common cause of disease and death in calves during the pre-weaning period. More than a third of deaths in young calves are due to scour.



APHA Surveillance Data for Scour Pathogens 2012-2017

Cost	Calculations	£/cow/ in herd
Reduced average growth rate for 86 calves of 0.1kg/day for 180 days. Selling price £2/kg	$(86 \times 0.1 \times 180 \times £2) / 100$	31
4% calf mortality due to scour (calves valued at £540 less £54 production costs)	$(4 \times 486) / 100$	19.44
Treatment of scour – 30 calves treated @ £25/head	$(30 \times 25) / 100$	7.50
<b>Cost of scour outbreak</b>		<b>57.94</b>

ADAS estimates the total cost of a scour outbreak in a 100-cow suckler herd (assuming 90 calves are born) is £5,794



Thanks to serological strips we are able to quickly and easily test the faecal samples of sick calves to diagnose the culprit pathogen on farm. We can perform these tests in house, or even calf side! The kits test for Rotavirus, Cryptosporidium, E.coli and Coronavirus (different to the one that caused the pandemic!).

- **Rotavirus** and **Coronavirus** are the most common viruses responsible for scouring calves.
- **E.coli** might be less common, but this bacteria produces toxins which can rapidly lead to fatal disease.
- **Cryptosporidiosis** is a common causes of scour and is incredibly infectious. Hygiene and disinfection is the only possible prevention since there is currently no vaccination available.

Viruses like rotavirus and coronavirus cannot be cured with antibiotics and so vaccination is the only effective way of controlling these scours. Vaccinating the dams with a single injection of Bovigen Scour in the 12 to 3 weeks prior to calving will produce high levels of antibodies against rotavirus, coronavirus and E.coli K99. These antibodies will then protect the calves in the critical stages of their development.

**Jorge Robayna**  
MRCVS



## Calf Fluid Therapy

### Measuring Dehydration

1. Check the space between eyelid and eyeball: there should be no space in a healthy calf and so an increasing gap links to increasing dehydration. A gap of 7-8mm is usually characterised as severe dehydration.
2. Skin test: A calf's skin should be completely elastic and return to normal within seconds when pinched. The longer the skin takes to return to a normal position, the more pronounced the dehydration.

### Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) versus Intravenous Fluid Therapy (IRT)

Oral fluids are cost effective and easily administered, making them generally the preferred approach, however sometimes intravenous fluids are more appropriate. ORT should only be administered if the calf is able to stand and suckle independently otherwise the fluid is at greater risk of ending up in the lungs which can lead to pneumonia. Alternatively, ORT can be given via a stomach tube so long as care is taken with placement of the tube in recumbent calves. Milk and water must always be continued alongside any fluid replacer. Intravenous fluids should only be administered by a vet who will also be able to help with a diagnosis and an ongoing treatment plan.

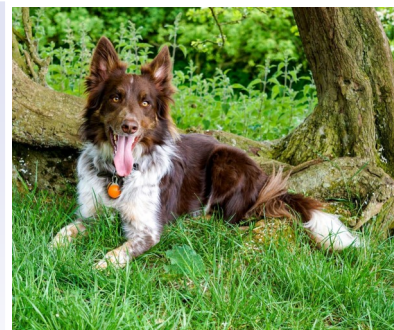
## Farm Dog Management

### Worming

Worming your farm dogs every three months is recommended for a number of reasons. Firstly, worming is key for your dogs health. Puppies are especially at risk of intestinal blockages and ill thrift with high burdens. Secondly, roundworms and tapeworms are both capable of causing disease in humans. The main risk of spread being contaminated faeces. Finally, tapeworm eggs from infected dogs can infect livestock and cause cysts in carcasses which can lead to condemnation at slaughterhouses with significant financial losses. Worm treatments for your dogs are kept in stock at all of our branches. Give us a call to place your order and we can provide you with an appropriate product.

### Vaccination












Traditionally, people may consider farm dogs as not requiring yearly vaccinations as they rarely leave the farm, however this is ill informed. Farm dogs are at the same risk, of the potentially fatal diseases we vaccinate for as any other dogs. Theoretically, foxes pose a risk of transmitting Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus Leptospirosis can be contracted from rats and contaminated water sources. Leptospirosis can be passed to humans and is of particular concern with Weil's disease which is potentially fatal. To make life easy, our farm vets are able to vaccinate your dog(s) on farm during routine visits, just call us in advance so we know to bring the vaccine.



**Andrew Thomas**  
BVSc MRCVS

If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Summer Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 option 2 to speak to one of our Receptionists, SQPs, Vet Techs or Vets.

# VPS Products– Summer Deals 2022

PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 <b>Enovex Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days	2.5L—£29
 <b>Eprizero Pour-on</b>	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mange mites and lice in dairy cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£120 5L—£190
 <b>Taurador Pour-on</b>	Doramectin pour on for the control of roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—35 days Milk—do not use	1L—£75 2.5L—£115 5L—£190
 <b>Endospec SC 2.5%</b>	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days	2.5L—£35 10L—£75
 <b>Oramec Drench</b>	Ivermectin (clear) drench for the control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Oral drench 2.5ml per 10kg	Sheep Meat—14 days	1L—£16 2.5L—£32 5L—£49
 <b>Chanaverm 7.5%</b>	Levamisole (yellow) drench for control of roundworms in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—20 days Sheep Meat—20 days	5L—£85
 <b>Spotinor 10mg/ml</b>	Deltamethrin spot on for prevention of flies in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike and ticks in sheep.	Topical Spot-on Cattle: 10ml Ewes: 5ml See pack.	Cattle Meat—17 days Sheep Meat—35 days	500ml—£40 1L—£65 2.5L—£120
 <b>Ectofly</b>	Cypermethrin solution for the treatment and prevention of blowfly strike, ticks and lice in sheep.	Pour-on See pack info for dosage.	Sheep Meat—8 days	2.5L—£49 5L—£71
 <b>Solantel</b>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and Haemonchus (barbers pole worm) in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml per 5kg	Sheep Meat—42 days	2.5L—£60 5L—£90
 <b>Bravoxin 10 Vaccine</b>	10 in 1 clostridial vaccine for cattle and sheep. Primary course 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart, annual boosters required.	S/C Injection Cattle—2ml Sheep—1ml	0 days	100ml—£32
 <b>Footvax</b>	Dichelobacter Nodosus vaccine for prevention and treatment of footrot in sheep	S/C Injection Sheep—1ml	0 days	20ml—£32 50ml—£67 250ml—£260

*To place an order or for more information, please call 01664 567481*

A member of



**Emergency Contact: 01664 567481**

Email: [farmteam@rutlandvets.co.uk](mailto:farmteam@rutlandvets.co.uk)

**Farm Veterinary Solutions**

1-3 Kings Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1QF

Elms Farm Industrial Estate, Bitteswell, Lutterworth LE17 4LR

Langton Garden Centre, Melton Road Market Harborough LE16 7TG

12a Ayston Road, Uppingham LE15 9RL

**Farm Office: 01664 567481 option 2**

**Lutterworth: 01455 248500**