



Farm Veterinary Solutions

December Update

2020

Ewe Clostridia and Pasteurella Vaccine

Clostridial disease and pasteurella are the most common cause of death in growing lambs. With tupping season now over for most, it is time to start thinking about a vaccination plan for ewes to protect them and their unborn lambs against these diseases.

Clostridia are bacteria that can be found in soil or in the intestinal tract of sheep. Animals become infected by ingestion or contamination of wounds. The damage is caused by toxins released by the bacteria. Unless vaccinated, production of antitoxins by the animal is slow and sudden death occurs. Diseases caused by clostridia include braxy, pulpy kidney, black disease and lamb dysentery.

Pasteurella are widespread bacteria that are often found in the respiratory tract of sheep without causing a problem. It becomes an issue as a secondary infection when the immune system is suppressed. This is often triggered by stress from housing, transport, dipping or parasites. When infected, the bacteria invades the lungs causing pneumonia or sudden death.

Heptavac P Plus Vaccine

We highly recommend all breeding ewes to be on a Heptavac P programme. The vaccine protects the ewe and enables antibodies to be passed on to the lamb via colostrum, therefore giving passive immunity for the first few weeks of life until the young animal develops immunity of their own.

Replacement ewes should receive a primary course of the vaccine with two doses given 4 weeks apart, the second dose being 4-6 weeks before lambing.

Ewes that have been previously vaccinated only require a yearly booster given 4-6 weeks before lambing. Heptavac can also be given to lambs over 3 weeks of age that are being retained for fattening. They will require a primary course of 2 vaccines 4 weeks apart.

Disease covered by Heptavac	Age of animals commonly affected
Lamb dysentery	<3 weeks
Pulpy kidney	6 weeks—1 year
Struck	Adult sheep
Braxy	Young sheep
Black disease	Adults and older lambs
Tetanus	Any age
Blackleg	Any age
Pasteurella	Any age

If you wish to discuss a vaccination programme, call the farm team and speak to one of our SQP's who will advise you on the best plan for your flock. Please order vaccines in advance as most are not available for same day collection.

Did you know that you can book in for Robyn, our vet tech, to vaccinate your flock? Robyn is available 5 days a week to visit you on farm and lend a hand with vaccinating, blood testing and much more. Call 01664 567481 to speak to Robyn and find out about how she can assist you and your flock.



The Importance of Colostrum

What is colostrum?

Colostrum is a dam's first milk which is concentrated with antibodies. These antibodies can be absorbed by the new born through the gut to gain passive immunity. The "borrowed" antibodies circulate and protect the young animal for weeks to months depending on the quality of colostrum.

Why is colostrum important?

Without sufficient colostrum of good enough quality, the young animals will be susceptible to a range of diseases due to their lack of immunity e.g. lamb dysentery, neonatal scours, tetanus etc.

The new born animal must receive 5% of its bodyweight in colostrum within the first 6 hours of life and a further 5% of its bodyweight by 24 hours of age.

The efficacy of antibody absorption from colostrum declines rapidly from 40% at birth to less than 2% in 20 hours. It is very important that young animals get an adequate feed after being born to optimise immunity. Ensuring young animals have had good quality and quantity of colostrum within the first 6 hours of being born will reduce disease and mortality.

Colostrum alternatives:

If the dam is unable to give adequate colostrum, or if the new born will not suckle, it is important they receive a good quality colostrum supplement. The best option is to give colostrum from another dam on the same farm by bottle or stomach tube. Alternatively artificial colostrum is available to purchase. It is a good idea to collect and store colostrum from dams on farm to keep on hand if needed.

Are you ready for Lambing?



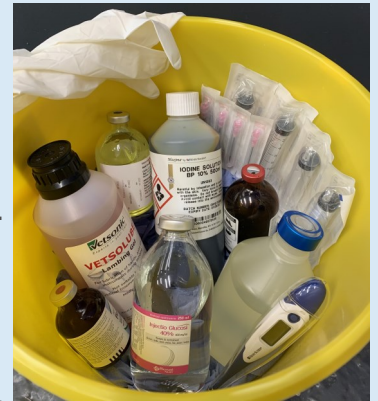
It is never too early to start preparing for lambing. Take some time to ensure you have everything you could possibly need to care for your ewes and unborn lambs.

Lambing Kits

Having a lambing kit is the best way to keep organised and efficient.

Here is a list of medications and equipment you may need:

- ◆ Lambing ropes; examination gloves; obstetric lubricant; iodine; needles and syringes.
- ◆ Antibiotic: to be administered to the ewe after an assisted or difficult lambing.
- ◆ Analgesic (pain relief): to be administered to the ewe after a difficult lambing.
- ◆ Oxytocin: for use as an aid to let down milk or for reducing the uterus after lambing.



We also advise you to have a uterine relaxant on hand for difficult lambings—speak to the practice for details.

Other Essentials:

Other necessities you may need over the lambing period include: glucose injection, calcium injection, electrolyte solution, towels/blankets, lamb colostrum, stomach tubes, nipple bottles, castration rings, mastitis tubes and a thermometer.

Recording Lambing Losses:

Keeping simple records of basic data can become a great tool to give you and your advisors ideas for improvements to put in place. Recording lambing losses can help to see when and where things are going wrong and even why they are happening. Your record keeping can be as simple or as complex as you like, whatever best suits your farm.

Pre Lambing Blood Testing

Pre lambing blood tests are extremely useful to assess the nutritional health of ewes before they lamb. The test allows for nutritional adjustments in the 2-3 weeks before lambing. This in turn will help to reduce the incidence of pregnancy toxæmia, milk fever and swayback.

It is best to sample 5 sheep from each group (singles, twins, triplets) no more than 2-3 weeks before lambing. Blood tests also useful for flocks that do not scan as the same principles apply.

Elements analysed are:

Betahydroxyrate: An indicator of negative energy balance. (Twin lamb disease)

Albumin: Low levels indicate liver damage, blood loss, prolonged disease or long term protein undernutrition.

UreaN: An indicator of protein intake. Low protein results in suboptimal colostrum and reduced milk production.

Magnesium: Low levels can cause staggers but magnesium is most useful as an indicator for calcium levels as magnesium regulates calcium.

Copper: low levels result in failure in development of nerve cells in the brain leading to swayback in lambs.

Please call the farm team to for more information on the benefits of pre lambing blood tests or to book a visit with our vet tech, Robyn 01664 567481.



Christmas Opening Times

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at FVS.

After a very strange 2020, we would like to say a big thank you to all of our clients for being so patient and understanding during these uncertain times.

Christmas Eve (24th):

8:30am-1:00pm

Christmas Day (25th):

EMERGENCIES ONLY

Boxing Day (26th):

EMERGENCIES ONLY

Sunday 27th December:

EMERGENCIES ONLY

Monday 28th December:

EMERGENCIES ONLY

Tuesday 29th December:

8:30am-5pm

Wednesday 30th December:

8:30am-5pm

Thursday 31st December:

8:30am-1pm

Friday 1st January:

EMERGENCIES ONLY

A member of



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

Emergency Contact: 01664 567481



Farm Veterinary Solutions

VPS Products– Winter Deals 2020

PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 Enovex Pour-on	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—£28
 Eprizero Pour-on	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£120 5L—£190
 Closamectin Pour-on	Ivermectin and Closantel pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat— 56 days Milk—do not use (>150 days)	2.5L—£215 4L—£305
 Zanil	Oxyclozanide oral drench for cattle and sheep for the control of adult liver and rumen fluke only.	Oral drench 3ml per 10kg (up to 105ml)	Cattle Meat—13 days Milk—108 hours	5L—£75
 Endospec SC 2.5%	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days Cattle Meat—14 days Milk—60 hours	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 Endospec SC 10%	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days Cattle Meat—14days Milk—60 hours	2.5L—£55 5L—£96 10L—£160
 Endofluke 10%	Triclabendazole drench for cattle and sheep for the control of early stages and adult liver fluke.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—56 days Cattle Meat—56 days Milk—do not use	2.5L—£60 5L—£105
 Solantel	Closantel drench for the control of late immature and adult liver fluke and Haemonchus (barber's pole worm) in sheep (Flukiver alternative)	Oral drench 1ml per 5kg	Sheep Meat—42 days	1L—£34 2.5L—£64 5L—£90
 Bovigen Scour	A vaccine for cattle in late pregnancy to improve colostrum antibody levels against common causes of calf scour.	3ml by subcutaneous injection	Cattle Meat—0 days Milk—0 hours	15ml(5ds)—£35 90ml(30 ds)—£210

Please call 01664 567481 for more details or to place an order.