



Continuing on from last month we discuss further tips for a rewarding lambing season. Hopefully the weather will lend a hand and dry up ready for turnout of ewes and lambs on to fresh pasture!

### Record keeping continued....

As mentioned in last months newsletter it is important to have useable lambing records so that these can be reviewed at a later date. Below are 2 possible formats that could be laminated and put in the lambing shed or office so that they are easy to fill in for anyone involved in the lambing process. Please ask us for copies. If they are easy to use then they will get used and when you are less tired after lambing you can reflect on the successes (hopefully!) – discuss why these worked and anything that didn't. These discussions can take place with your team or can include your vet and are particularly useful to make the most out of a health plan.

LAMBING TREATMENT RECORDS – 2020						
DATE	EWE IDENTIFICATION	SPRAY ID	LAMBS BORN ALIVE	LAMBS BORN DEAD	COMMENTS - Lamb deaths, reasons, placenta description, ewe udder, issues?	EWE or LAMB TREATMENTS

LAMBING 2020							
DATE/WEEK	BORN ALIVE	BORN DEAD	<24 HRS	PRE TURNOUT	AFTER TURNOUT	PRE WEANING	COMMENTS/CAUSE
Example 17/1/17		I	II	I	II - fox		I CAPPED I WATERY MOUTH I UNKNOWN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							

### Benchmarking

These records allow you to benchmark on your farm between different groups of ewes, against peers or even against national averages. Ultimately we are all aiming to have more lambs for sale or replacements so hopefully it is a motivator. It can be rewarding to put a number on a target sheet rather than just a feeling to show that sometimes things didn't go as badly as you thought.

Below are some aims for lambing:

## Abortion rates:

### Aim for a total of less than 2%:

- Any more than 3 ewes aborting in one day suggests a cause for concern and should be investigated
- Remember to keep lambs and collect placental tissue from any abortion cases to allow investigations
- Call as soon as possible as fresh samples generally reward with useful results
- Aborting ewes must be isolated to minimise spread!

**\*\*If you are bringing samples to the surgery please leave them in the car and advise us that you have arrived so we can receive samples in the PM room around the side of the building. Not only is this more pleasant for anyone in reception but equally protects any pregnant members of the team or public from possibly contracting a zoonotic disease \*\***

## Lamb losses:

- **Less than 5% of lambs should be born dead**
- **Less than 5% of lambs should die within the 1<sup>st</sup> week of life**

Any higher than this and broad investigation of maternal nutrition, dystocias/lambing difficulties, starvation and disease history on farm needs to be carried out – this is where your record keeping comes in to play. Post mortem investigations of any dead lambs will provide useful information concerning time of lamb death and any patterns regarding lamb mortality. These can easily be done on farm or at the surgery with prior arrangement.

If you have any concerns then remember to discuss with your vet and we can advise on the most appropriate route forward for investigating cost effectively.

## Twin Lamb Drench, is yours effective?

Twin Lamb drenches come in many shapes and forms and there are generic products available that unfortunately **do not** contain effective energy substrates to effectively treat down or suspected Twin Lamb ewes.

Please be aware that for ewes to rebuild their own glucose supply, we need to drench them with a **glucose precursor – specifically Propylene Glycol**. Other forms of sugar are often included, but these will only be feeding the rumen microflora and typically provide a transient short term energy supply and will not 'reach' the ewe herself.

**Please read the label of your products, look for one of the following ingredients:**

- Propylene glycol
- 1,2 propanediol (in Ceto Phyton, which we stock)
- Propionate
- Monopropylene glycol

**These are all propylene glycol derivatives!**

If none of the above are listed it is unlikely to be beneficial in treating Twin Lamb. Treatment is most successful in the early stages of Twin Lamb disease. Once ewes present down, a successful outcome is only achieved in 30% of cases. The longer a ewe remains down the worse the prognosis. Each foetus requires 30–40 g of glucose/day in late gestation, which is preferentially directed to the foetuses rather than the ewe. If you are experiencing Twin Lamb cases on farm, please don't hesitate to ask for advice as further treatment with calcium or an injection to induce labour may be required.



## Upcoming meetings:

**Lambing Skills for Small flocks – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Advanced Lambing Skills course – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**Time: 1.30 - 3.30pm**

**Venue for Both: WVG**

**Cost - £20 + VAT**

*Free to scheme members*

**PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE**