



**THE
WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP**



As the majority of flocks have finished lambing or likely coming to the end of lambing, we really hope the weather is finally turning a corner! The weather looks set to get a bit warmer, with the temperatures on May bank holiday weekend reaching 18 degrees Celsius here in Gloucestershire! Therefore, we will discuss fly prevention in this month's newsletter.

We will also discuss prolapses in ewes as we saw a significant amount of prolapses in sheep this year, likely due to the poor summer experienced last year.

Fly strike Prevention

After flocks have finished lambing, and the weather is warming up our attention turns to preventing fly strike. Shearing sooner rather than later will prevent losses from ewes getting on their backs and crutching mucky tails will prevent strike in the short term. A full range of products are listed below in the table, detailing their active ingredients, brand names, protection length, what the products works against, withdrawals and other important information.

Active ingredient	Name of product	Activity	Blowfly protection length	Withdrawals	Other considerations
Dicyclanil	ClikZin (1.25%)	Prevention of blow fly strike only	8 weeks	7 days meat Must not handle sheep without gloves/protective clothing for 2 months after application.	All the fleece is protected by fleece bind technology, the product spreads via the lanolin in the wool. Not permitted for use in sheep producing milk for human consumption. ClikZin – can be used 3 weeks after shearing. Clik – does not specify Clik Extra – can be used straight after shearing
	Clik (5%)		16 weeks	40 days meat	
	Clik Extra (6.25%)		19 weeks	Must not handle sheep without gloves/protective clothing for 3 months after application.	
Alphacypermethrin (1.25%)	Dysect	Control and treatment of strike. Reduces headfly and	Up to 10 weeks	49 days meat; no milk withdrawal	To be used after shearing when there is at least 1cm of fleece
	Zermasect				

		controls ticks for 8-12 weeks			
High-cis cypermethrin (1.25%)	Crovect	Prevention and treatment of fly strike.	Up to 8 weeks	8 days meat, 5 days milk	
	Ectofly			Treats and control headflies, sticks and lice	
	Vectocert				
Deltamethrin	Spotinor	Will only treat active fly strike. Treat and prevent ticks and lice	none	35 days meat, no milk withdrawal	
Diazinon dip	Golden fleece sheep dip		Up to 10 weeks	49 days meat, no withdrawal for milk. Sheep not to be handled/shorn for 3 months after	Will treat SHEEP SCAB.

Vaginal and Uterine Prolapses

This year we saw an increase in the number of vaginal and uterine prolapses in our flocks. The increase in uterine prolapses is likely due to lower lambing percentages as a knock on effect of the hard, dry summer we suffered last year, and hence large single lambs which are more likely to cause trauma to the ewe during birth and require most traction to remove. The increase in vaginal prolapses was possibly due to ewes not being in the ideal body condition around lambing.

General risk factors for vaginal prolapses include incorrect body condition score (>3.5 or <1.5) around lambing, diets high in bulky feeds such as fodder/sugar beet that swells in the rumen after eating, lameness, steep fields and low calcium levels.

Small-medium sized vaginal prolapses can often be cleaned off and gently replaced with ease. Prolapse harnesses are very good at applying pressure exactly where it is required. However, these do require removal as the ewe starts to lamb. Spoons/T-shaped devices can be used but often cause more irritation than good, although ewes can sometimes lamb through them on their own. Anti-inflammatories and a long-acting antibiotics should be given to prevent infection resulting in dead lambs. For recurring/problematic vaginal prolapses, it is best to call the vet for surgical repair. Uterine prolapses are a different kettle of fish! They are a veterinary emergency and require prompt treatment.

Ewes must be culled after suffering with vaginal prolapses, this is due to the likelihood of them recurring the next year as the muscles in that region will be damaged from prolapsing. There is also a genetic component and so it is best to not keep their daughters! Ewes that uterine prolapse can remain in the flock, providing they get back in lamb again.

MSD Flock check scheme

The MSD flock check scheme is up and running again this year! If you did experience >2% abortion rate or had more than 2-3 ewes abort over a couple of days, then get those ewes tested! MSD are subsidising the blood sampling of 6-8 unvaccinated ewes which aborted, were barren or had weakly lambs, and will test for enzootic abortion and/or toxoplasmosis. This scheme will run until 30th of June 2023. If your ewes are vaccinated against enzootic abortion, then we can just test for toxoplasmosis and visa versa.