



THE
**WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP**



SHEEP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

As usual, we can't believe another year has flown by and we are already in December. We hope you are feeling festive and can take some time over the Christmas period to relax (a little bit) before lambing 2025 is soon upon us! This week's newsletter contains a useful checklist for those lambing early next year as well as an exciting update on the practice refurbishment.

New Farm Reception!



We are delighted to announce that after a very long refurbishment process involving the entire building, we have finally banished the green portacabins from the carpark and the build team are very nearly off site.

We have moved into our new farm offices with a dedicated farm reception area. This is now located on the front of the building on the right-hand side under the glass roof. There is a hashed parking area in front of this reception which you are welcome to park in if the main car park is full.

This office will be open 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and covered by one of our amazing farm support team. Main

reception at the left of the building will then be available from 5.30pm to 7pm as before.

As part of this project, the meeting rooms have also had a refresh and we will be hosting meetings at the practice from the new year as well as hosting some open days and tours of our exciting new facilities so watch this space for dates.

Early lambing checklist

✓ Get your supplies in–

- **Lubricant** - plenty of lubricant will aid with reducing the risk of vaginal tears when assisting ewes lambing
- **Lambing ropes/snare**s – ensure these are clean and disinfected after use, so they don't spread infection!
- **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (e.g. Metacam)** – essential to reduce pain and therefore improve feed intakes in ewes after difficult lambings. This is on-cascade as not licensed for sheep in the UK so needs a discussion with your farm vet to prescribe the right one.
- **antibiotics (Alamycin LA or Betamox)** - if using these antibiotics, Alamycin LA is a one off injection that lasts approximately 3 days. If using Betamox, this must be given as a course of 3 or 5 days and not a one-off



injection! Always discuss antibiotic usage with a vet to ensure the right antibiotic is being used for the right condition.

- **Calciject** to treat any ewes with hypocalcaemia and **Propylene glycol** for any ewes suffering from twin lamb disease.
- **Fresh needles and syringes** – dirty needles can cause injection site pain, abscesses, or even worse, spinal abscesses. Dirty, blunt needles have a direct link to carcase condemnation at slaughter so be sure to use a new needle every time

- ✓ **If lambing indoors, house ewes at least 4 (ideally 6) weeks pre lambing and feed appropriately** – this ensures that ewes have time to acclimatise to new diet and housing. We need ewes to be comfortable and eating this close to lambing otherwise there is a high risk of twin lamb disease.

- ✓ **Measure housing requirements (feed trough, water trough and lying space)** – The tables on the right are the AHDB recommendations for trough and lying space. In late pregnancy, ewes require 4.5 litres of water per ewe per day with dry diets, or two litres per ewe per day with moist silage or root diets. This increases to 10 litres per day in early lactation when they are producing lots of milk!

- ✓ **Pre-lambing bloods** - Prepare for the season ahead! Get in contact with the practice to book in pre-lambing blood sampling to determine whether nutrition is sufficient. These need to be done 2-3 weeks before lambing, this then allows for changes to be made if there is a problem. Doing these bloods and acting on results should reduce the risk of pregnancy toxemia (twin lamb disease) in ewes.

- ✓ **Vaccinations** – It's time to plan your **Heptavac P** boosters again. Ewes not previously vaccinated will need 2 injections 4-6 weeks apart. The second injection and all boosters for older ewes must be completed 4-6 weeks pre lambing to ensure adequate antibody levels in colostrum. Unfortunately, there have been stock issues with Heptavac P (and other Pasteurella vaccines) so please get in touch with your requirements so we can try our best to accommodate them. Also, if you have a known Orf issue on farm now is a good time to consider vaccinating with **Scabigard**. Vaccination of ewes must be completed 7-8 weeks before lambing to allow time for the infectious scabs to drop off. During this time ewes should be kept well away from intended lambing areas. Get in touch to discuss vaccinating further.

Table 12. Trough space

	Concentrates (mm/ewe)	Restricted forage (mm/ewe)	Ad-lib forage and TMR* (mm/ewe)
Large ewes (70–90 kg)	500	250	150
Small ewes (50–70 kg)	450	200	150

Table 11. Lying area allowances

Type of sheep	Area on straw (m ² /ewe)
Large ewe 60–90 kg in-lamb	1.2–1.4
Large ewe 60–90 kg in early lactation	1.4–1.8
Large ewe 60–90 kg – with lambs to 6 weeks of age	2.0–2.2
Small ewe 45–60 kg in-lamb	1.0–1.3
Small ewe 45–60 kg in lactation	1.3–1.7
Small ewe 45–60 kg – with lambs to 6 weeks of age	1.8–2.0



It's only just December but... **CHRISTMAS MEDICINE ORDERS**

Please ring ALL medicines orders in by
Friday 20th December to ensure collection/delivery on visits over Christmas and New Year!



Festive Opening Times

Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th Dec:	Normal Hours
Sat 21 st and Sun 22 nd Dec:	Emergencies Only
Mon 23 rd to Tue 24 th Dec:	Normal Hours
Christmas Day (25 th):	Emergencies Only
Boxing Day (26 th):	Emergencies Only
Friday 27 th Dec:	Normal Hours
Sat 28 th and Sun 29 th Dec:	Emergencies Only
Mon 30 th and Tue 31 st Dec:	Normal Hours
New Years Day (1 st):	Emergencies Only
Thurs 2 nd Jan Onward:	Normal Hours



Wood Vets Farm Team



@woodvetsfarmteam