

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

March 2019

Upcoming Farmers Meetings

Responsible Use of Medicines

Wednesday 24th April, 7pm

Duke William Pub, Church Street

The meeting will be covering all required elements for the red tractor inspection. There will be a small fee of £10 which will be claimable back on farm expenses.

As there will be a hot meal at this meeting, we will need exact numbers, so please let Hollie know if you would like to attend to avoid disappointment!

Cat Neutering

The cats' protection league is continuing to run their farm cat scheme.

This means you will get the neutering and any post-operative pain relief for £10 per cat.

If you would like to utilise this offer, please let us know. Let's try to prevent all those unwanted kittens!

TB Testing

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has had their test already, or got theirs booked in, for your cooperation in getting them early in the testing window.

We understand that this isn't optimal for many of you, but it ensures we can get everyone done in time!

Respiratory Disease

We are seeing a marked increase in respiratory disease at the moment due to the fluctuating weather.

Zoetis are currently running a scheme to test calves for a causative agent. The bloods are £12 or £14.50 per calf depending on how many agents you test for. Agents tested for are:

- IBR
- BVD
- RSV
- PI3
- Mycoplasma

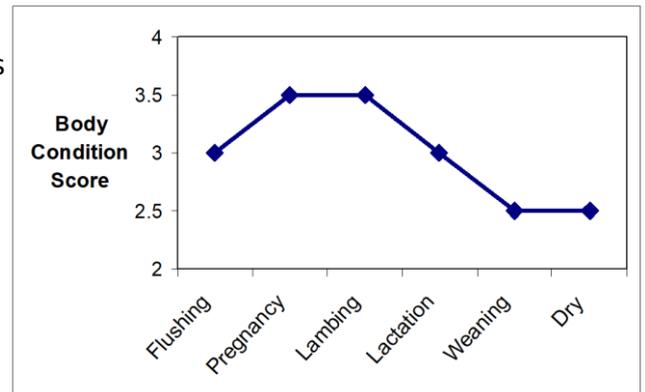
Several of you have already had some bloods done, if anyone else is interested please get in touch. If we find a causative agent, it will help us manage respiratory disease on farm and can also help to set up a vaccination protocol.

Calves tested should be 5 months + in age, and should not have received any treatment for the disease.

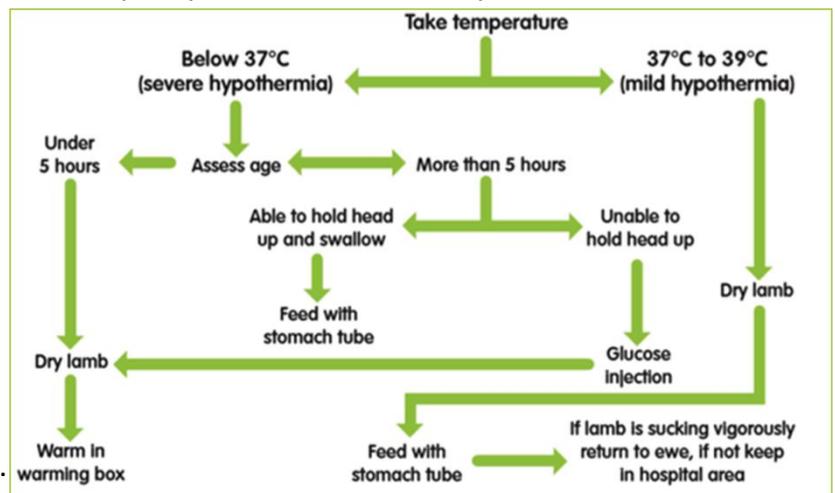
Lambing Losses

We hope everyone who attended enjoyed our lambing talk. The overruling theme was keep accurate records and get them to us for analysis. Here is an overview of what was spoken about:

- Reducing lambing losses will result in an increased profit but in order to do this effectively record keeping is essential as it will enable you to identify which areas you need to focus on.
- Reduction in lambing losses starts during pregnancy. Having your ewes at an ideal body condition score (BCS) will improve nutrition status. Ewes with low BCS will have lambs with a poor birth weight and poor nutrition, those with a high BCS are more predisposed to pregnancy toxaemia and prolapses.
- In late pregnancy the ewes' nutrient requirements increase. Nutrition at this time affects:
 - lamb birth weight
 - lamb vigour
 - lamb growth rates
 - udder development
 - colostrum quality
 - maternal ability



- Parasite infection in ewes can reduce twin lamb births and lamb birth weight. Ewes require worming at lambing due to a peri-parturient rise. Prior to this (during lambing) the ewes shouldn't require worming unless you have a serious problem. If you think this is the case on your farm then bring in a faecal sample for a worm count **before** worming. This is £10.82 ex VAT.
- Between weaning and sale parasite management of lambs is essential. A worm burden will reduce appetite and can cause permanent damage to gut resulting in reduced protein metabolism and impaired mineral retention. The longer it takes to fatten, the more likely it is that lamb price will have dropped and the grass will be of lower quality in autumn which may mean that supplementation is required.
- The largest numbers of lamb losses are seen within the first 48 hours of lambing, 39% of which are due to hypothermia and starvation. This percentage can easily be reduced with small changes in husbandry.
 - Lambs require 200ml/kg colostrum within 24 hours including 50ml/kg in 2 hours.



As always, any issues you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us,

Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie, Ken, Maddy & Wenna

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