

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

March 2020

Spring Vaccinations

When the rain finally stops and you can turn out cattle to grass there are a few vaccination protocols to consider.

Lungworm

It is essential to vaccinate all cattle going out to graze for the first time to avoid lungworm infection.

Vaccination protocol: 2 doses of Huskvac 4 weeks apart, with the last being given 2 weeks before turnout.

Leptospirosis

Wet spring grazing provides the best conditions for this disease to spread. The organism survives in the kidneys and the change to a grass diet alters the pH of urine allowing the organism to survive and be excreted more readily. Spread is through ingestion of contaminated grass. For these reasons vaccination is best given in the spring. Youngstock require 2 doses 4 weeks apart and cows a booster before turnout.

Blackleg

Wet grazing increases the soil contamination of grass and silage. This increases the number of clostridial organisms ingested, which can in turn increase infection rates. There are a number of clostridial vaccinations available, please phone the practice for more information.

Don't forget the BVD and IBR vaccinations also.

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

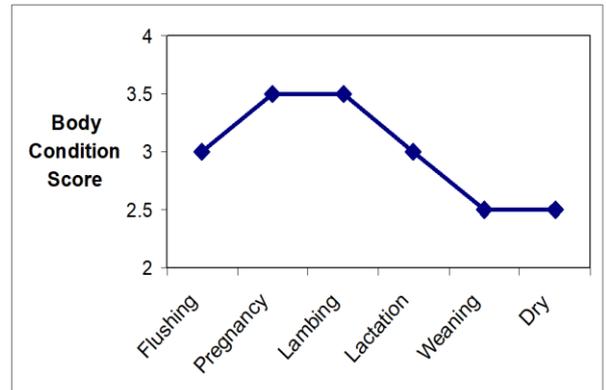
We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has had their test already, or got theirs booked in. We have, unfortunately, had some breakdowns in the past few months which has added to the workload.

Thank you for your understanding, as always we will endeavour to get everyone done within their testing window.

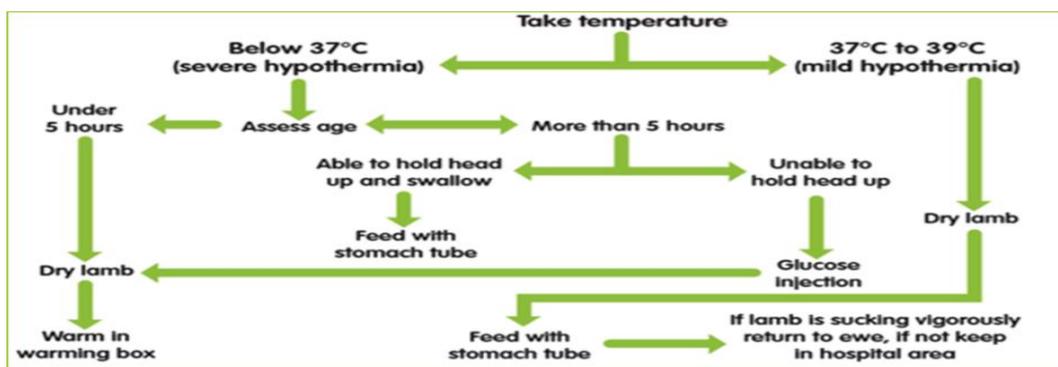
Lambing Losses

Lambing is always a stressful time of year. We know it is difficult to keep on top of records etc, but there are many reasons why keeping records to reduce those losses during the lambing period:

- 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 £13.38 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



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

Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie & Emily

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