

SHEEP NEWS – DECEMBER 2019



Welcome to our Christmas sheep newsletter! I can't quite believe that it's nearly the end of the year – where has 2019 gone? We've had a really good year on the woolly side of the business. We have held three client meetings, looking at lambing; nutrition and worming. Our numbers in the Flock Health Club continue to grow; and we have never sieved so much poo for our faecal egg counts – all good stuff, keep it coming!

As many of you will be imminently in the throes of lambing, I thought that we would focus on some hints and tips for the coming season, drawing on some points raised in Lucy's last newsletter.

Many thanks for your custom over this last year, Merry Christmas, Nicky

LAMBING – What to record

The number of lamb losses experienced during a lambing season can make the difference between financial success and failure within a sheep enterprise. **Each** lamb lost (up to the point of lambing) under a lowland system is estimated to cost £20-25. This means that understanding where lambs are lost is crucial to pinpoint areas for improvement.

The number of lamb losses is influenced by ewe body condition score and health; ewe nutrition (influencing colostrum and milk yield) and hygiene in the lambing shed/field.

Below are some key pieces of information to record during the lambing season:

Factor	Your flock
Number of ewes to the tup	
Number of ewes scanned in lamb	
Total number of lambs scanned	
Number of ewes lambed	
Number of lambs born alive	
Number of stillborn lambs	
Number of lambs turned out/alive at 48 hour	

SUMMERLEAZE-VETS.CO.UK

Ewe Mastitis

We will be having a meeting focusing on new information on sheep mastitis in the New Year, but here are some pointers for the meantime:

- Mastitis is estimated to cost the UK sheep economy over **£120 million per year** due to direct and indirect costs associated with the disease.
- Sheep most at risk of mastitis are: younger (ewe lambs and shearling) and older ewes (>4 years old); those of body condition score <3 at lambing; and ewes under-fed protein and energy in late pregnancy and early lactation.



Photo source: AHDB

Clinical signs of mastitis include:

- Hot, painful udder
- Increased temperature
- Watery or blood-tinged milk
- Depressed ewes with poor appetite
- Lameness in hindleg/s
- Hard lumps in the udder at any time of year
- Poor lamb growth (indicating poor milk yield)

Treating mastitis:

Most cases of mastitis with clinical signs in the ewe will require a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory, for example Betamox LA (1ml per 10 kg intramuscularly) and Metacam (1ml per 20 kg under the skin).

If you are seeing an increase in the number of ewes with mastitis, please get in touch at the practice as we have funding available to help with investigations.



Christmas Opening Times..

Christmas Eve

8am till 4pm

Christmas Day

Closed - Emergencies Only

Boxing Day

Closed - Emergencies Only

New Year's Eve

8am till 4pm

New Year's Day

Closed - Emergencies Only

For any emergencies, please call

01297 304007

PLEASE rest assure that we have dedicated Farm vets on call for emergencies throughout the festive season.