

Aborting Ewes

Although lambing time is now in full swing if you are experiencing problems with aborting ewes it is well worth while finding out the cause in order to both limit the extent of the outbreak this year, and to be able to prevent the disease next year. Until a diagnosis is reached you should always assume that an aborted ewe, her lambs and her afterbirth are contagious to other ewes, and that she should be isolated at least until any discharges clear up. Submitting aborted lambs and afterbirths either to us or direct to Barton Hall is the ideal way to find the cause or if this is not possible Intervet are offering free laboratory fees to process bloods taken from 6-8 ewes which have aborted to look for evidence of Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis (all you pay for is the cost of taking the blood). Intervet are also hosting a meeting on May 16th to discuss the problem of sheep abortion and its control. If you are interested in attending please contact the surgery for further details.

Control of external parasites in sheep

With fewer people dipping sheep problems with itchy sheep due to scab and lice infestations seem to be on the increase. Symptoms can appear similar with these 2 infestations and because none of the multitude of injectables and pour-ons available will treat both scab and lice we feel that it is important to reach an accurate diagnosis before a treatment programme is undertaken. We are able to check wool samples and skin scrapings at the surgery to confirm the cause of the itching and give advice on the most appropriate course of action.

Through negotiation with manufacturers and bulk purchasing we can offer the full range of external parasite injections and pour-ons for treating sheep this summer at extremely competitive rates with free advice as to the most appropriate products to use. We currently have promotions on both **DYSECT** and **CROVECT** for treating ewes and lambs returning to tick infested moor-land after lambing and will be advocating the use of **CLIK** for up to 16 week protection against blowfly strike. We also stock a full range of pour-on treatments for lice, as well as **Dectomax** and **Cydectin** injections for scab control.

BVD and Leptospirosis vaccination.....

Before turn out is the time when most people boost herd immunity for Leptospirosis and BVD. If you are a dairy herd who has had a bulk milk sample showing evidence of BVD but don't vaccinate or you just vaccinate bulling heifers, Pfizer are running a scheme offering free lab testing for BVD antibody of up to 10 blood samples from young stock (over 9 months old). This will determine how much active BVD there is on the farm and show how effective your current control measures are. For more information please speak to one of the vets.

Brucellosis Testing.....

From 8th April all routine Brucellosis blood testing will be stopped on instruction from DEFRA. This does not affect the reporting of cows which have aborted for Brucellosis testing. It is important that cows which abort are still reported to either us or DEFRA to see whether they need testing. Tuberculosis testing remains unaffected by these new arrangements.