



Dalehead
Veterinary Group Ltd

STATION ROAD, SETTLE BD24 9AA

MOUNT PLEASANT, HIGH BENTHAM LA2 7LE

GISBURN AUCTION MART, GISBURN BB7 4ES



24 hour
dedicated
farm cov-

FARM NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2018

How Do You Use Your Vaccines?

One of the presentations I attended on a course recently about vaccine use had some surprising statistics and made me consider how we often do every day things without thinking and can get into bad habits. I thought that sharing some of the findings from this project might be worthwhile!

The presentation was a student project of several hundred units where stockmen were questioned about vaccine use in livestock. The farmers that replied detailed all the vaccines that they routinely used-including Heptavac P, IBR, BVD, clostridial, and abortion vaccines. Here are some of the findings from their study:

- Only 48% of the respondents gave the second dose of the vaccine at the correct time
If the second dose is given at the wrong time the animal will not get a full immunity
- 23% gave the vaccine by the wrong route; i.e. injected under the skin rather than into muscle
Administering by the wrong route will have a huge impact on the efficacy of the vaccine
- 31% gave the vaccine at the incorrect site; i.e. injecting into the rump rather than the neck.
This causes muscle damage and losses at slaughter, but it won't affect the vaccine hugely
- 0 %, yes - **NONE** of the fridges tested maintained the temperature at the correct level.
The vaccines potency will be severely affected if it is not stored at the correct temperature

These statistics certainly made me think about re-evaluating some of the things I do on 'auto-pilot'. I know that our farm clients at Dalehead are far better than average and would do better than these statistics, however it is worth a few minutes just to read the data sheets and rethink our regimes every now and then! We can also source max-min thermometers for you to check your fridges if you need one, please just ask at the surgery.

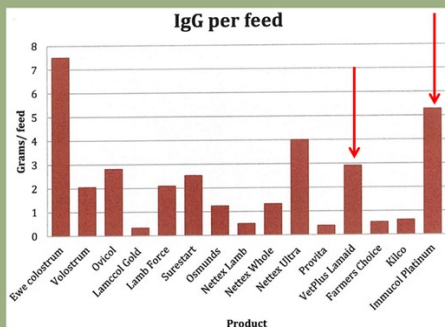


Colostrum Management For Lambs

COLOSTRUM

	Ig G level
Lamb Requires	20g
Good Ewe Colostrum	50g/l
Ewe Colostrum 6 hrs Lambd	30 g/l
Good Holstein Colostrum	35g/l
Good Quality Artificial Colostrum	20g/l

COLOSTRUM



Mass of IgG contained in recommended feed volumes of colostrum supplements.

Colostrum is a valuable source of antibodies to give protection against disease. The high fat content of colostrum ensures that it is also a valuable source of energy to prevent hypothermia (exposure) and starvation. The fact that in studies [over 80% of lambs dying in the first 48 hours of life are found to have received either no colostrum or to have inadequate colostrum uptake](#) shows how important it is to ensure that lambs get their quota of good quality colostrum.

[A lamb should receive 60ml/kg of colostrum as a first feed as soon as possible after birth](#) and the same amount 6 hours later. In total a lamb should receive 200ml/kg of colostrum in the first 24 hours. The ideal colostrum for a lamb to receive is its own mothers supply. The following table shows that at the time of lambing colostrum harvested from a healthy ewe really is like liquid gold containing 50gms/litre of antibodies

By the time the ewe has been lambed for 6 hours the antibodies in the colostrum are diluted down by milk production to 30gms/ litre. If a ewe lambs and has a dead lamb or has surplus colostrum this can be milked out, stored and then fed to other lambs. Colostrum can be stored for up to a week in the fridge or frozen if it needs to be stored longer taking care not to destroy the antibodies by over heating when thawing out. Good quality cow colostrum can be used to feed lambs although the fat content isn't as high so more needs to be fed.

LAMB LOSSES- INFECTIONS

Prevention – Colostrum- top tips

- **Freezing**
Freeze in plastic bags laid flat
- **Thawing**
Never microwave or overheat
- **Cleanliness**
Keep the containers, teats and tubes spotless



If feeding artificial colostrum (if the mother has an insufficient supply) then choose a good quality colostrum which has a high antibody and fat content. [The two powdered colostrums which we stock are two with the highest antibody contents \(Immucol Platinum and Lamaid\) and have fat \(energy\) contents comparable to good quality ewe colostrum.](#) Because the antibody content of any supplement is less than that of the ewe's own colostrum they should be used to 'top up' the colostrum from the mother rather than replace it.

If freezing colostrum it is a good idea to freeze it in plastic bags laid flat as this creates a large surface area so it will thaw out quickly and also regularly disinfect the stomach tube feeder and

teats used to administer the colostrum so as not to allow a build up of bacteria on the feeding equipment.

Responsible Use Of Antibiotics Rattlebelly Preventions

Rattlebelly (water mouth, slavvers) is an E Coli bacterial infection picked up by newborn lambs which multiplies in the gut. If numbers build up sufficiently before the lambs immune system fights the infection off or if the lamb hasn't received sufficient protection through colostrum antibody the lamb will develop symptoms of rattlebelly within the first 2-3 days of life.

Twins and triplet lambs are more likely to develop disease as they often don't receive as much good colostrum as a single lamb and lambs born later in the season are more likely to be affected as the weight of infection from the environment in the lambing pens builds up. Many farmers use preventative antibiotics on newborn lambs to try to reduce the build up of the E Coli in the gut therefore preventing the disease.

LAMB LOSSES- INFECTIONS Prevention – PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTICS

E. Coli resistance to antibiotics		
Antibiotics		Resistance
Terramycin	Tetracyclines	52.5%
Spectam	Spectinomycin	29.8%
Synulox	Amoxycillin clavulanate	24.7%
Norodine	Trimethoprim sulphonamide	13.9%
Oroject	Neomycin	11.2%



We have all heard concerns in the news about increasing levels of resistance to antibiotics used in human medicine and how there is pressure to reduce antibiotic usage in farm animal medicine. Studies recently have shown the level of resistance of E Coli bacteria in lambing sheds to the commonly used antibiotics and while they will still work to help to reduce the incidence of rattlebelly, overuse will only encourage increasing levels of resistance.

In order to protect the efficacy of these antibiotics in your flocks it is important that they are used sparingly and responsibly.

Best Practice

1. Maximise colostral protection given to lambs.
2. Try to avoid build up of infection in lambing pens - avoid overstocking and use disinfectants e.g. Lime and plenty of clean straw in lambing pens.
3. Use antibiotics sparingly and strategically i.e. Avoid blanket treatment of all lambs at birth but consider use only in vulnerable lambs such as multiples, after a hard lambing, later in the lambing season.
4. Whatever product is used make sure it is used at the correct dose rate.



Bulk Milk Salmonella Screening Test

Salmonella infections can cause a wide range of clinical signs including sick cows running high temperatures with diarrhoea often in new calved cows which are immunosuppressed as well as abortion in cows 5-8 months in calf.

In young calves symptoms include scours, high temperatures, collapse and dehydration as well as pneumonias and joint-ills. Isolating Salmonella from dung samples taken from affected cases can be quite difficult in herds where the disease is present. There are likely to be symptomless carrier animals which intermittently excrete the organism in their faeces to contaminate the environment and infect susceptible cows and calves.

Recently a new bulk milk test has been developed which will detect antibodies to Salmonella and will give an indication whether Salmonellosis is likely to be a problem in your herd.

It would be unusual for a herd to have Salmonella problems in calves if the bulk milk sample is clear of evidence of exposure to the disease. At less than £10 for the test I think it would be a very useful screening test to be carried out in any herd which thinks it may intermittently have symptoms which could be attributable to Salmonella.



Topical Sheep Diseases

Reported by the Scottish Agricultural Colleges



Schmallenberg Disease

Surveillance testing carried out on 2017 born animals in South West Scotland has shown that they have been exposed to Schmallenberg virus during last summer/autumn.

During February/March 2017 we saw a significant number of lambs born with deformities due to Schmallenberg infection, although (fingers crossed!) we have not seen or heard of any such problems yet in 2018.

We would however be interested to hear from anyone who thinks they may be experiencing problems due to Schmallenberg this year.

Black Disease



Scottish Agricultural Colleges are diagnosing more cases of Black Disease in sheep than usual at the moment. Black disease is a Clostridial disease caused by the bacteria *Clostridium Novyi* which is a normal inhabitant of ovine liver. All cases have presented as sudden deaths.

Black disease is associated with migration of immature flukes through the liver causing cellular damage which encourages a rapid multiplication of the clostridial organisms in the damaged tissue which leads to rapid death.

Ewes in a Covexin, Bravoxin or Heptavac P vaccination system will be protected against the disease but unvaccinated sheep or these only protected by Ovivac P will be susceptible.

If you would like to review your vaccination protocols please contact the surgery on 01729 823538.

PRACTICAL LAMBING COURSE



As mentioned in our December newsletter, we are once again holding a Practical Lambing Course on:

14th February 2018

At Gisburn Auction Mart, BB7 4ES

TIME: 6.30PM

Spaces are limited so please contact the surgery if you would like to attend on 01729 823538 to reserve your place.

**JANUARY
2018**



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

