



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 ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

Isolation Protocols of Purchased Sheep

Isolation of purchased sheep (both male and female) from the main group is something that we would always recommend to prevent introducing disease to the rest of the flock. They are best housed or put in a paddock that is stock proof and 5 metres or more from other stock for at least 21 days. This gives you time to treat them with recommended worming and fluke doses and time for many signs of disease they may be carrying to become apparent.

Isolation Worm Protocol:

- Dose sequentially with monepantel (Zolvix) and a 3-ML drench (Cydectin, Noromectin). Keep on a yard overnight so all resistant worms in the purchased sheep are not passed onto the pasture.
- Turn out onto a worm contaminated pasture i.e. one that has been recently grazed with lambs and ewes.

Isolation Fluke Protocol:

- The quarantine protocols for fluke varies with the snail and fluke levels on the farm. In our area we all have a fluke risk. The aim is to stop resistant fluke being established on our farm from purchased stock.
- Treat with 2 products a few weeks apart. A sensible choice would be triclabendazole (e.g. Endofluke) first then closantel (e.g. Flukiver) 6 weeks later.
- Sheep can pass eggs for 3 weeks after adult fluke are killed. It is ideal that sheep are kept on quarantine



Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

IBR is a disease of the upper respiratory tract of cattle which can vary in severity depending on the strain of the virus involved and other factors which may influence the immune status of the animal.

The classical signs of IBR include...

- High Temperature
- Runny eyes and snotty nasal discharge
- Coughing due to inflammation in the upper airways (can be confused with lungworm infection)
- Noisy breathing which may lead to secondary pneumonia
- Milk drop in dairy cows

The virus is mainly spread by aerosol infection (one cow breathing in virus particles which another infected cow has breathed out). Animals which have been infected with IBR, assuming that they recover, will be carriers of the virus for life (latently infected). The latent virus can be re-activated at any time (usually caused by stress) to spread and cause more disease. This flare up of disease will often occur around calving when the cow's immune system is suppressed (particularly in heifers entering the herd) or after housing when the virus can pass easily from cow to cow. When housed, animals should be kept at an appropriate stocking density in well ventilated, dry buildings. Other infectious disease which can lower the cows' immunity, particularly BVD, should be controlled.

Screening For IBR

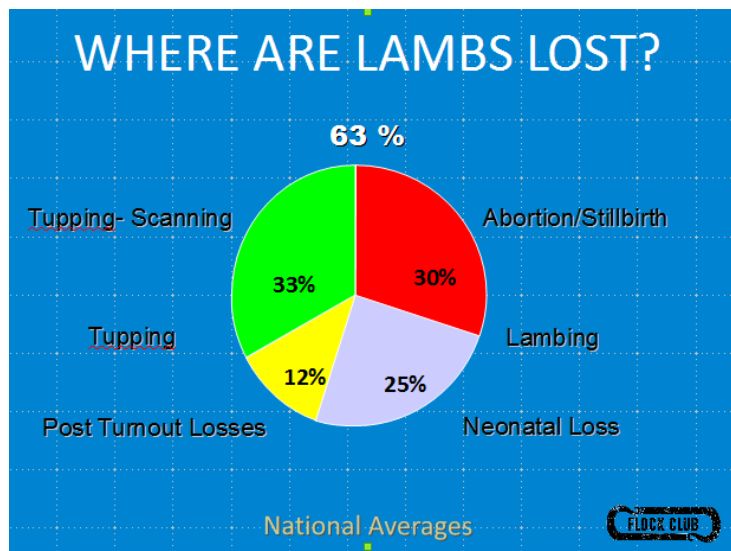
In non-vaccinated dairy herds bulk milk samples can be tested for evidence of exposure to IBR to determine whether your herd is clear of infection.

Vaccination



FANTASTIC FLOCK FERTILITY

The topic in our most recent flock club meeting in August was pre tupping management. The discussion started with the data from AHDB which reveals that almost 2/3rds of lamb losses are pre lambing. This shows that attention to detail pretupping and during pregnancy will have an enormous impact on your lambing percentage.



On the night the discussion started with ladies first, as it always should be! The take home message was that the ewe should have the correct Body Condition Score (BCS) and supplemented for mineral deficiencies pre tupping. BCS is influenced by so many factors but by far the most significant is condition at weaning and fluke infections in the flock. It takes 6-8 weeks on good grazing to increase a BCS by one score, a good reason for assessing ewes 8 weeks before the tup is loosed. This check is also a good opportunity to blood sample the ewes for mineral levels to identify deficiencies. The figures from the monitored Flock

Club farms showed that those that had struggled with fluke control had the worst scanning figures and geld rate. Fluke control is an issue on a lot of holdings. It is impossible to generalise, we need to tailor the fluke treatments to your flock, farm management and fluke activity that varies year to year. The two factors that consistently prove to be problematic are the pre-tupping dose being given too early and triclabendazole resistance. If you feel you need to look at your fluke situation contact a member of the farm team and we would be happy to advise you.

CONDITION SCORING AND LAMB %

BCS	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
Topping							
Welsh Mountain	60	65	105	116	123		
Swaledale		78	133	140	156		
Mule			149	166	178	194	192
Scottish Halfbred					183	217	202

(lambs born per 100 ewes mated)

FLOCK CLUB

The looking after the lads section of the night highlighted the fact that the 8 week pre tupping check is relevant for the tups too. Semen production takes 6-8 weeks so an MOT well before a tup is expected to work will help identify those that are sub fertile or infertile. This prevents a surprise later in the breeding season where you have a lot of ewes repeating or geld. Carrying out a physical check on

tups will identify over 90 % of those that are subfertile. The message here was that for a Tip Top Tup we check toes, teeth, tone, testicles and treatments. Yes we had to practice saying that a few times! Simply we body condition score, examine teeth, testicles and genitalia, and check for lameness and abnormalities. In the numerous checks we have done in the last few seasons there is barely a flock where we have not identified a least one “wrong un”.

The chart above also shows that 30% of lambs which are lost are due to abortions. Infectious abortion accounts for the majority of these with EAE accounting for **nearly 50%** and Toxoplasmosis a further **25%**. We have had a flurry of sales of Toxovax and Enzootic abortion vaccine since our meeting which is a clear indication that the message that vaccination is a benefit to all sheep units was taken on board.

Emergency Slaughter On Farm



In order to be able to travel to the slaughterhouse, an animal must be able to bear weight on all of its limbs. In some cases, catastrophic injury can occur on farm which render an animal clearly unable to travel to the slaughterhouse. If the injury is acute (i.e. it has happened in the period immediately prior to examination) and the animal was showing no signs of ill health then it may be possible to arrange on farm slaughter.

The same conditions which occur at a normal ante-mortem inspection apply, so emergency slaughter is not suitable for animals which have been injured for several days or are generally unwell. Any animal for which arrangements are made for on farm slaughter will need to be inspected by a vet, so phone us if you have an animal that fits these conditions and we will liaise with the slaughterhouse.

In summary:

- On farm slaughter is only for animals which have suffered an acute injury.

A Date For Your Diary - Open Day - Beef Breeding Day

Date: Sunday 24th September

Time: 11 am

Location: Gallaber Farm, Burton in Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 3LU

Anyone with an interest in breeding beef cattle and returning a profit is invited to the open day we are hosting at the end of the month. We are running seminars on bull and heifer selection and fertility, synchronisation for breeding. There is a topic in there for every person that is calving beef cattle! In conjunction with the NW Limousin Club there will be a seminar on EBV's and gene markers. A quote from the farming press in recent years is " Identification of the myostatin gene has been one of the most important findings in beef cattle in the last decade", but do you understand what homozygous, mutations, Q204x, nt821 and F94L all mean ? Well on the open day we are on a mission to demystify !



SEPTEMBER



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