

February 2010

With the **big thaw** we saw a **variation in temperature** of at least 20 °c over a very short time, consequently we also saw a lot of **coughing and sick calves**.

- At the risk of sounding like a broken down old record remember that the housing conditions are critical for preventing pneumonia.
- An **open door** on the majority of instances **does not suffice** for good, controlled ventilation. There needs to be **outlets as well as inlets**. A howling gale down the centre of the shed will often kill not prevent!!
- Experience has shown treating the sick animals with a product such as draxxin and metacam works very well. Also cover the in contact animals with a long acting antibiotic such as clamoxyl LA will nip the disease in the bud and stop you chasing your tails.

The bad weather is also a **worry for the sheep**. We are seeing an **increase in pregnancy toxemia / twin lamb disease**. Make sure the sheep have **access to a good quality forage and nuts**.

- For those of you who don't use the newsletter as loo roll I refer you to last month!!

As many of you know **Lydia in the office is pregnant**. Please could I ask all sheep farmers to be very aware of this and wait outside the lambing room or in the waiting room when coming to see us.

- Please don't be deterred or else we may get lonely!!!

After having 1 of our clients farm dogs die of **lepto**, we have a reduced price for the canine leptovaccine if you would like to administer it to them yourself.

- Lepto is a very nasty disease which attacks the liver and kidneys.
- Your dog becomes very weak, goes off its food eventually its gums and eyes turn yellow. It is very difficult to treat successfully.
- If you are interested then please contact us at the vets.

Joint ill / navel ill.

Unfortunately we still scratch our heads as to the real cause and how best to prevent this scourge. I have a few tips which I picked up when researching this at Liverpool.

- a) **Good colostrum intake** i.e. 50ml / kg in first 6 hours.
- b) **Good hygiene**. Keep lambing area clean as possible. With well littered down pens.
- c) Keep the **ewes as clean as possible**.
- d) **Navel spray or dip with iodine**. Don't handle the navel with hands.
 - If dipping make sure you clean the pot regularly or else this can spread infection.
- e) **Wear arm-length gloves when lambing ewes**. This sounds bizarre but we think our hands spread disease from ewe to ewe which then infects the lambs.
 - I have had seen excellent results when farmers have lambed ewes with long gloves.
- f) An injection of long acting antibiotic to the lamb at birth.

TB testing.

We know everyone is sick to the back teeth of this but unfortunately until the government grow some balls and realise the real source of the disease we are stuck with it.

- We try our hardest to book tests in to suit but we are getting very booked up so please, please book in well in advance, especially prior to turn out.

In their wisdom the **ministry vets are checking that your vet is carrying the job out correctly**, i.e. reading ear tag numbers on both days, measuring lumps and running them through the crush on both days. They are going to be spot checks so don't be surprised if you find a hard working ministry vet turning up at your farm!!!!

Dairy cell check:

Ave S.C.C	191	Average milk/cow /yr	7.8
Top 1/3 rd average	108	Ave Protein	3.5
Bottom 1/3 rd average	290	Ave Fat	4.4

