

February 2012.

For some of you lambing is under way and the commonest questions are about **twin lamb disease**. There is a high risk of this occurring this year due to the unseasonal amount of **grass in the back end**. The problem was that the energy was very low in this grass and the **ewes have lost a fair amount of condition**.

- These ewes **go very quiet, don't want to eat, stand in the corner** with their heads down.
- In worse cases they won't stand and eventually die.
- To prevent this make sure your ewes are around condition score 3.

If you are worried about the ewes condition place some high energy licks / molasses tubs in with them.

- A **good quality forage** that is fed from a rack is essential.
- A **concentrate** of around **12.5 - 13 mj** of energy along with a **protein of 18%**.

If you are in any doubt about the diet then please contact us at the vet or bring along your concentrate ticket for us to have a look at.

- Twin lamb disease is very difficult to treat once it has set in so prevention is the key.

For treating we recommend:

1. 5- 10 ml of **combivit** under the skin for 3-5 days.
2. 2ml of **metacam** under the skin as a single dose.
3. **Ketol** drench, little and often.
4. An injection of **tetroxy LA** to prevent infection setting in.

- This time can be a very depressing time as it is **when abortion often rears its ugly head**.
- If your ewes are aborting then take one of the **lambs to the lab straight away**. This way we can get an exact diagnosis of what the problem is and then **recommend the best control strategy**.

Keep any **aborted ewes away from the main flock**. Dispose of the lambs / after birth and straw effectively.

The types of abortion include, **Enzootic abortion, Toxoplasma (cat), Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria**. If you are worried then please call us.

Schmallenberg virus.

- Unfortunately this is a **new disease** which is affecting both cattle and sheep.
- It is a virus and so will **not respond to antibiotics**. We think it is **transmitted by the good old midge** but animal to animal contact cannot be ruled out, nor cow to foetus contact,
- It has been found in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium and now very unfortunately in the **South of England**.
- There is a new test to detect this virus but the animal has to be suffering from it at that time as it will not show whether there are any antibodies to the virus.
- There is **no vaccine to this disease**, the earliest date would be in 2 years time.
- In **adult cattle** they show a **fever**, a **50% milk drop** for a week. In some cases there can be severe diarrhea.
- In sheep the main signs appear to be abortions and **deformed lambs with twisted necks and joints**.
- There does not appear to be **any risk to humans** from this disease.

Parasite watch.

1. **Chronic fluke** in sheep and cattle: Faecal egg counts will confirm.
2. **Coccidiosis in lambs**: Mainly indoor where stocking density is high.
3. **Lice in cattle and sheep**: These are highest during the late winter.
4. **Sheep scab**: This is constantly a problem and a nightmare to get at this time of the season.
5. **Parasitic gastroenteritis** in store lambs and hogs. This is due to the warm weather. If your lambs are scouring then bring us **10 poo samples**.

Owch that hurts:

February 16th at Welshpool market.
Refreshments provided.

Excellent speaker on why we should be using painkillers on our stock and how it benefits your pockets.

Congratulations to Tom Owen. He has smashed the last record and achieved a SCC of 52.

- Very well done.

We would be really grateful if you **require a bulk order of drugs** you could give us a bit of warning so that we can **label them up correctly**.

- Sorry to be a nag but it will really help us out and mean you don't have to wait as long. Although it is always good to catch up at the desk!!