

May 2011.

After the winter we have experienced we never would have thought that we all would be praying for rain at the beginning of May. We are starting to see a few **niggles in the sheep** sector. A farms are suffering from awful out breaks of **joint ill in the lambs**, with the typical presentation of lambs being **around 2 weeks of age** then going down with it. Unfortunately at this late stage in lambing it is very **difficult to suggest any recommendations** as the damage has already been done. We have taken blood samples to look at colostrum levels which were excellent. The only positive recommendation that I keep coming back to is **wearing gloves at the time of lambing the ewes**. We think that the bug is spread by our hands into the ewes vagina and then swallowed by the lamb. Another problem area is that in this **hot weather all the lambs shelter under the hedges** and trees which become contaminated. Regularly moving the lambs is often not an option but may help.

- If you are experiencing joint ill as a treatment I would recommend the **under the skin dose of resflor** or failing that a **mixture of penicillin and steroid into the muscle every other day**.

We are also seeing **lamb deaths** which we are attributing to **chlostridal disease** despite good vaccination history in the mothers. I would recommend **the use of ovivac P/ heptavac P** and a single injection of **depocillin** to all the lambs.

- We are very very sorry about the mess up with **Scabivax**, we were luckier than most as we did get quite a large allocation of our normal supply but no where near enough. It has been totally out of our control but that is not really any help to a lot of you. The only alternative at the minute would be a **mineral lick** specifically for orf these will help reduce but not eliminate it.
- We have not seen the **nematodirus flush** we were expecting which is good. My only worry is that if the **rain suddenly comes this may trigger it** so please be aware. Be careful when using **levamisole** that you **don't over dose** as this can cause problems of its own.

Fly control in sheep:

We are starting to see blow fly strike already this year.

- There are different products out there that need to be **tailored to your system**.

Product	Blowfly strike. Prevention	Strike treatment	Headfly Protection	Ticks Protection	Lice	Meat withdrawal
Dysect	8-10 weeks	Yes	6 weeks	8-12 weeks	Treats	28 days
Clik	16 weeks	No	Nil	Nil	Nil	40 days
Crovect	6-8 weeks	Yes	4 weeks	Treats & controls	Treats	8 days
Vetrazin	10 weeks	No	No	No	No	3 / 28 days
Clikazin	8 weeks	No	No	No	No	7 days

- If you have **itchy sheep** then get the **problem diagnosed**, as scab and lice are treated totally different. You could **waste lots of money** by assuming it is the wrong parasite.

If you have **lice** then the best time for eradication is **a couple of weeks after shearing**.

We **stock all these products**, at competitive prices and will endeavour to deliver if asked.

- Unfortunately you will notice that **Vetrazin is going up to 28 day meat** withdrawal, this means it has a limited use in fat lambs. There is a new product out called **clikazin** and the info is above. This will ultimately phase out vetrazine. If you have some of the old vetrazine you can use it at reduced meat withdrawal until you run out!!! **We still have quite a few bottles in stock so first come first serve**.

Cattle worming for youngstock

Noromectin pour on- 5 weeks after turnout and then 8 weeks later. (Cheapest and best for meat withdrawal.

Cydetin LA injection – Ideally 5 weeks after turnout, this lasts for 120 days.

Autoworm bolus at turnout. No need to worm again. (Most expensive)

Dairy cell check:

Average S.C.C	232	Age at 1 st calving	33 months
Average conception rate	30	Ave calving to 1 st service	90
Average lactation yield	8.1	Average protein	3.3