



ARDENE HOUSE

VET PRACTICE LTD

Farm Newsletter

Tel: 01224 740700



Zoom meeting on Lambing Management

Dear Ardene clients,

Despite the difficult times we are living, our animals keep moving forward and they still need our attention and care. Lambing time has already started for some but there is a lot of work coming in the next few months.

To help our clients, we are delighted to announce that we are looking to run a **Zoom Management in Lambing session** lead by Jim Marr (former lecturer at Craibstone Agricultural College) on the **5th March at 2pm**. The cost of the session will be £15 including VAT.

It will cover common management practices around lambing including:



- **Preparation for lambing:** materials, nutrition, husbandry...
- **Practical skills:** signs of lambing, assistance, routine, importance of colostrum, use of the stomach tube...
- **Vet care of lambs:** hypothermia, watery mouth, congenital defects...
- **Vet care of ewes:** prolapse, abortion, metabolic disorders...
- **The orphan lamb:** fostering and artificial rearing.

If you are interested in taking part in the course please email us (alberto.luquecastro@ardenehouse.co.uk) or call the farm office.

Ardene Farm Vets

In this issue:

- Online Lambing session
- AgriWebb
- What are antibiotics?
- Scoteid Lookup

If you would like to receive our newsletters by email, please send an email to farmandequine@ardenehouse.co.uk

You can find previous newsletters on our website www.ardenehouse.co.uk

**24 Hour
Emergency Service
01224 740700**

AgriWebb

AgriWebb is the leading cloud-based livestock management software, providing tracking and record keeping tools to aid productivity and efficiency to sheep and cattle producers and their operations. AgriWebb makes it simple to record activities on farm in the palm of your hand, helping farmers maintain cross compliance and focus on sustainable and innovative practices to improve their operations and build a profitable business.

AgriWebb and Ardene House

AgriWebb is working with Ardene House to enable insight and visibility of the animal information they need, anywhere and at the time. Farming clients using AgriWebb can opt in to allow their vet access to their information* such treatment history, individual animal information and performance data to help with health plans, disease detection and benchmarking.

*The farmer owns the data and no information will be shared without consent.

To get more information please visit its website www.agriwebb.com/uk/ or contact us and we will be happy to guide and help you. There is now a 25% off for all Ardene House farm clients.



Proudly partnered with
ARDENE HOUSE

Improve your business, farm and profits.

Farm management software that works with you. Capture every animal, mob and paddock record on the go, offline.

Get 25% off with code **ARDENEHOUSE** at agriwebb.co.uk

Now from
£99
a year!



What are antibiotics?

National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

This article aims to provide a basic background to improve understanding of how important antibiotics are and how we can all play a part in ensuring they are available and can be used effectively for many years to come. Primarily only effective against bacterial infections antibiotics have no action against viruses. They can be formulated into injectable forms, topicals (sprays, creams or eye drops) or oral forms (liquids or tablets). Within the veterinary sector injectable antibiotics are most commonly used due to convenience of administration. At a basic level, antibiotics can be used therapeutically – to treat a diagnosed infection or prophylactically – to prevent an infection from becoming established; for example blanket treatment of a group of animals.



How do antibiotics work?

The basic aim of an antibiotic is to prevent bacteria from multiplying. Some antibiotics are concentration dependant where the drug concentration must be maintained above a certain threshold at the required site. Whereas some antibiotics are time dependant i.e need to be present at the site for a certain period of time. It is for these reasons that repeat dosing and completing a full course of antibiotics is important to ensure they are effective.

A key factor in the success of any antibiotic treatment is that it needs to get to the site of infection. For example, to treat mastitis the drug needs to travel to the udder, for pneumonia it needs to travel to the lungs and for joint ill it needs to gain access to the affected joint. This is in addition to it being effective against the bacteria likely to be there. It is for these reasons that certain antibiotics are more appropriate choices than others depending on the clinical problem that requires treatment.

Development of resistance

Unfortunately, bacteria are finding ways to evade antibiotics and are developing resistance. Risk factors that may promote resistance in bacteria include:

- Using an inappropriate antibiotic for the bacteria present
- Administering too low a dose
- Dose not being present for long enough (course too short)
- Using antibiotics in animals that do not require it

There is concern that overuse or inappropriate of antibiotics in agriculture could lead to resistant bacteria that will not only become a threat to animals but also a huge concern for human health.

Critically important antibiotics

Critically important antibiotics (CIA) are those that have been identified as important to human health and should only be used in animals as a last resort when sensitivity testing has been performed and no other alternative is available. In the UK, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and colistin are recognised as the most important CIAs.

What can I do?

Safeguarding antibiotics is the responsibility of everyone. Food retailers and consumers are becoming more aware of responsible antibiotic use with some health schemes requiring collation and reporting of antibiotic use on farm. Reducing antibiotic use by not treating animals could result in poor welfare and reduced production efficacy. Antibiotics should therefore be used 'as little as possible as much as necessary'. If antibiotics must be used, discuss the most appropriate choice with your vet. It is really important that you give a dose appropriate for the weight of the animal and give the correct length of course. Review your antibiotic use with your vet as part of a health review and assess where it could be refined.

– Review biosecurity

Minimise entry of disease onto the farm by considering your buying in policy and contact with neighbouring stock

– Reduce stress

- Stressed animals have a reduced immune response. Consider if stocking densities could be reduced, minimise stress during handling procedures.
- Mixing of ages in a group will cause stress as they are in competition for feed space but there are also younger, more susceptible animals are likely to contract disease from the older animals.

– Consider alternative treatments

- Environmental alterations such as assessing shed ventilation may be more beneficial and profitable than treating pneumonia in calves. Preventing pneumonia in this way may also lead to higher growth rates due to a reduction in subclinical infections.
- Consider the use of vaccines to prevent disease negating the need for treatment and potential antibiotic use.

– Good nutrition

- There is no substitute for colostrum to protect against disease. Ensuring all animals have a balanced diet and are not deficient in any minerals or trace elements will maximise the natural immune system.

More information can be found at www.ruma.org.uk



LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY

EID RESEARCH

Cattle

BVD Lookup
BVD PI Locations
BVD Guidance



Are you moving cattle to another holding for grazing, or for housing over Winter?
There is always a risk!

You can use the 'Look Up' on [ScotEID.com](https://www.scotEID.com)

Use the BVD Look Up

- Look up the holding you are using - it may have a BVD status (these are also shown on your ScotMoves home page).
- If you know of other keepers using the holding, you can look up the BVD status for their holding too.

Use the BVD PI Locations listing

- Look for BVD Positive holdings in your area - the BVD PI Locations List displays the holdings that have retained PIs for more than 40 days.

Check the surroundings

- Use grazing fields that are double fenced.
- Ensure waterings are not shared with other livestock.
- Check the biosecurity recommendations for animals in B & B Winter housing.
- Take extra care of your in-calf heifers by adopting biosecurity measures.

Your vet can advise you on biosecurity measures to adopt.

ScotEID.com

The ScotEID Helpline
01466 794323