

Farm News June 2024

Teaser Power

What is a teaser tup?

Teaser tups are vasectomised tups, meaning they have had part of their vas deferens removed. They retain their testicles and therefore their desire to serve ewes but are unable to impregnate them as they no longer produce semen.

Why use a teaser tup?

When a tup is introduced into a group of ewes, the ewes are stimulated to begin to cycle and start to ovulate. Generally, ewes have a 'silent heat' 3-4 days after introduction, they cannot conceive at this heat, but it is necessary to start the breeding season in sheep. Ewes will then have two peaks of oestrus 17 and 25 days later, meaning it is unlikely pregnancy will occur until these peaks. If a teaser tup is introduced for 14 days, the ewes are stimulated to cycle as above. The fertile tup can then be introduced, meaning there is a significant increase in likelihood of pregnancy at the start of the breeding period, making lambing seasons more compact.



Which tup to choose?

Selected tups should ideally be experienced, with mature males making better teasers. However, the procedure can also be performed on ram lambs. Cross bred rams are preferred due to their hybrid vigour and chosen tups should be fit and healthy, with good feet and no other concerns.

How does a tup become a teaser?

A vasectomy is performed under sedation and epidural. The tup is turned over and held in a seated position, local anaesthetic is applied and then surgery is performed to remove part of the vas deferens (the tube transporting the sperm) on both sides.

How long before a teaser can be used?

Sperm can remain in the glands and tubes for up to 6 weeks after the procedure so it is important that they are not used for 6 weeks after the operation.

How should a teaser be used?

Ewes should be kept out of sight and scent of tups for 4 weeks before introduction (scent can carry for a mile). Teasers should be introduced 5 - 5.5 months pre-lambing at 1 teaser to 50 - 100 ewes. After 2 weeks the teasers should be removed and the stock tups should be introduced straight away. Because the ewes are synchronised a higher ratio of 1 tup:30 ewes is required. Pre-breeding tup fertility testing is advised to ensure the tups are working adequately.

Day 0 (5.5 months prior to lambing)	Introduce the teaser
Day 14	Remove teaser and introduce breeding tups
Day 25	Remove breeding tups

The effectiveness of a teaser declines after 2-3 years so they should be replaced after this.

How much does a vasectomy cost?

A ram vasectomy is **£80** ex VAT (meds included) when carried out at the surgery. For further information contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200.





BEST FOOT FORWARD

MOBILITY AND FOOT HEALTH WORKSHOP

16TH JULY - 10:00 - 2:00
JE CHAMBERLAIN & SON

Hollyhurst Farm, Marston Montgomery, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FD

You are invited to a **FREE** Stride farm workshop to share the latest thinking on cost-effective reduction of foot health issues. It will be valuable to anyone involved in managing foot health on dairy farms. Stride is the not-for-profit initiative committed to helping improve foot health, cattle welfare and farm profitability.

PROGRAMME

Tea and coffee

Cow-time budgets and mobility

Renowned international speaker Tony Hall, ruminant technical services director with Lallemand Animal Nutrition, will discuss how managing your cows' time can positively impact mobility.

The Stride National Mobility Survey

What were the main learning points from the Stride survey and where are the opportunities to make a difference on farm?

Practical workshops

A series of workshops by the Stride partners offering practical advice on different factors influencing foot health, including: breeding and mobility, foot bathing, foot trimming, cow comfort and transition management, and mobility scoring.

Discussion and Lunch of BBQ/hog roast



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