



### Mobility Scoring

Mobility scoring is a simple standardised method of assessing mobility of a cow herd, each cow is individually scored between 0-4 and this information is then used to assist in early detection and intervention and monitor the prevalence of lameness.

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
0	Will have good mobility and will walk with even weight bearing rhythm on all four feet
1	Less than perfect movement without being immediately identifiable as lame and would most likely benefit from preventative foot trimming
2	Obviously lame but can readily keep up with the cow herd, usually needing more prompt treatment and should be attended as soon as practically possible.
3	Will be immediately identifiable as lame and, unable to keep up with the herd.

Why should we mobility score? (Benefits of Mobility Scoring, as listed by AHDB)

1. Cows are regularly assessed for the early signs of poor mobility prompting efficient foot trimming action lists
2. Mobility trends can be monitored to identify new problems at an early stage.
3. Collation of figures allows for benchmarking performance.
4. Regular mobility scoring makes staff more aware and alert to foot health generally
5. Generates motivation and accountability to improve herd mobility and therefore overall herd health.
6. Economic benefits of early detection on limiting negative effects on yield, fertility and longevity as well as reducing treatment cost
7. Early detection often allows treatment without need for antibiotic usage

### Cost of Lameness

Lameness cases that are promptly identified are often treatable by dutch 5 point trimming +/- block alone, whilst delays in treatment can result in deep infection requiring antibiotics, discarded milk. However the biggest cost of lame cows is often hidden through loss of yield, reduced fertility and increased cull risk. Anywhere between 2-16% reduction in overall lactation yield is seen in lame cows with an average Holstein-friesian lame cow suffering an overall 400ltr yield loss alongside an extra 2 services and a 2.7 times increased cull risk. In beef suckler animals lame dams will tend to produce calves with poorer weaning weights, and again are less likely to get back in calf and consequently stay in the herd.

Mobility scoring is ideally performed fortnightly-monthly by a trained consistent individual with cows walking on a level hard surface. *Contact MBM farm vets to discuss mobility scoring your herd.*

### NEW Wopa Foot Trimming Crush

MBM Farm Vets have recently taken delivery of a brand new Wopa Foot Trimming Crush, which some of you may have seen out and about already. This is a superb piece of equipment, which allows the farm vets to quickly and safely lift feet to identify and treat causes of lameness as well as corrective foot trimming.

The crush is now ready for work so contact the MBM Farm team to discuss your foot trimming needs.



### Parasite Treatments at Lambing

Worms • Adult sheep generally have good immunity to worms and will rarely benefit from worming, apart from at lambing time when immunity drops (6 weeks pre/post lambing).

- Fit sheep, particularly those carrying singles, will still have good immunity, so worming of these is unnecessary. Aim to leave 10-20% of the flock undosed, to minimise the risk of resistance developing.
- Best practise is to worm as close to lambing time as possible (or 1-2 weeks after), using a short-acting or medium-duration product.  
*Speak to a vet for specific advice.*



### Fluke

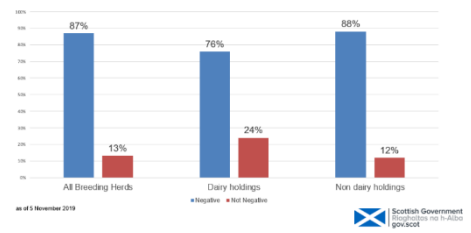
Using a product effective against intermediate/adult fluke stages, will help to reduce egg output and pasture build up over the summer.

## Phase 5 BVD Eradication December 1<sup>st</sup> Onwards

As you will be aware from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December phase 5 of the BVD eradication scheme started. Testing for BVD continues as before. However there are a few changes

- When tissue tagging animals under 20 days old official tags must be used
- Herds that have been not negative for 15 months or more have to undertake a Compulsory BVD Investigation (CBD)
- BVD positive holdings to have further restrictions on movement
- Re- testing of PI animals must be carried out by a vet
- Animals considered “risky” (from a non breeding herd or outwith Scotland) must have a BVD negative status before they move out of a breeding herd.
- A PI Locator service will be available on ScotEID.com which will display the CPH of all herds that have had a suspect or confirmed BVD PI animal in the herd for more than 40 days.

Percentage of negative and Not Negative Herds



**CBD** - Herds that have been not negative for 15 months or longer will need to carry out a Compulsory BVD Investigation. Each animal in the herd must have an individual BVD status to determine if there are any PIs in the herd. Once this has been carried out (assuming no PIs are found) the practice will submit a CBI confirmation Certificate to ScotEID declaring the herd BVD Negative. However after this period the herd must continue to test calves born in the next 12 months from the date of the certificate but the herd is classified as BVD negative and has no movement restrictions unless a PI is found.

BVD Herd Status Table

Category number/ BVD herd status	Description	Impact on animal movements to other herds or a livestock market
Note: Individual animal status will override herd status and should be referred to wherever possible.		
0 Non-breeding	Keeper is non-breeding (no calves registered in past 12 month) or has declared that the herd is non-breeding	None
1 Certified Negative	The herd is CHeCS accredited as BVD Negative.	Can move anywhere. Testing is optional.
2 Screened Negative	The herd is Screened Negative, either by testing all calves, all animals or by check testing young stock.	Can move anywhere. Testing is optional.
3 Not Negative	The herd shows evidence of exposure to BVD: • status has expired; • status was never established; • has been downgraded.	Cattle that don't have an individual BVD Negative or Assumed Negative status must be tested prior to move.
4 Positive	Herd includes one or more persistently infected (PI) animals.	Cattle that don't have an individual BVD Negative or Assumed Negative status must be tested prior to move.

**BVD Positive Holdings** - These are holdings that have identified a suspect or confirmed PI animal and are shown as number 4 on the table. Herds in this category will not be able to bring animals into the herd except under licence. Animals will be able to move off herd as long as they have an individual negative or assumed negative status. Untested animals can move also as long as they go straight to slaughter (not through a market!)

*This is a VERY brief summary of the changes in phase 5 for further information please contact the practice or look at all the changes for phase 5 on the government website at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-bvd-eradication-scheme-phase-5-december-2019/>

## Colostrum is Gold

Colostrum is essential for lamb survival. **Ewe colostrum** is best (and free!) and provides:

- Protective antibodies (tailored to lambs' environment)
- Vitamins A, D and E
- Energy (fats and carbohydrates)
- Gut growth factors

**210-290mls/kg** should be fed in the **first 24hrs**, with the **first feed within 2hrs** of birth.

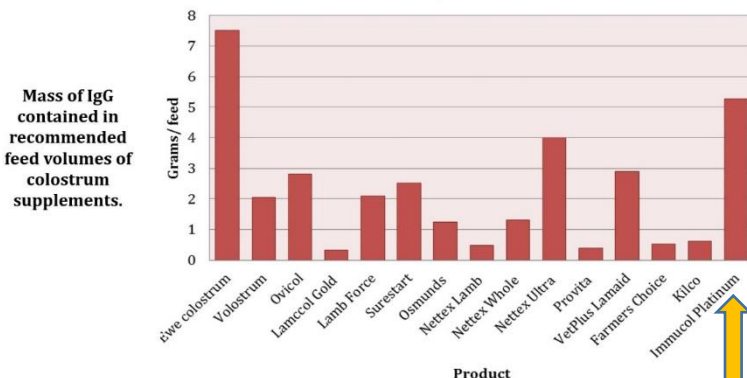
It has been shown that lambs fed enough colostrum **do not succumb to watery mouth**.

Over **50% of lamb Ecoli** (the bacteria causing watery mouth) are **resistant** to the antibiotic spectinomycin (**Spectam** – common watery mouth treatment/prevention).



### Antibody Quantities in Colostrum

IgG per feed



### Feeding enough colostrum is best way to prevent neonatal lamb disease and death.

Although ewe colostrum is best, supplements are a useful back up for when ewe colostrum isn't available.

**Antibody (IgG) levels vary greatly** depending on brand, with some providing less than 25% of the antibody levels of others.

We stock **Immucol Platinum** as it has one of the highest levels of antibody per feed, reducing the likelihood of lamb disease.

## MBM Veterinary Group

MAUCHLINE  
(01290) 550452

KILMARNOCK  
(01563) 522701

BEITH  
(01505) 502126



WWW.MBMVETGROUP.CO.UK