

Robson & Prescott Vets

Farm Newsletter Feb 2024

Scanning rates

Please don't hesitate to call us once you have your scanning results this year especially if you have concerns over lower than expected percentages or high barren rates.

Abortion and barren rates in your flock should be <2%, if greater than that (especially if its over 4%) investigations are warranted.

There are several factors that can influence your scanning percentage – such as:

- The fertility of your rams – this may have also been noticed when they were first put out and either few ewes were covered with a raddle mark or some ewes were covered multiple times and remained barren.
- Body condition score (BCS) of your ewes and rams when they go out for tupping
 - o Being significantly under or overweight will lead to poor fertility
 - o Depending on breed ewes should be 2.5 to 3.5 BCS
- Stressors around tupping e.g. adverse weather
- Poor trace element status
- Lameness / worm burdens / other illness
- Reduced energy in the run up to and at tupping time

Pre-lambing bloods

Spring is finally approaching and so it is the ideal time to check the nutritional status of ewes pre-lambing. Inadequate pre-lambing nutrition results in a reduced colostrum yield as well as its quality. It can also severely reduce the mothering ability of the ewe.

The aim of the bloods is:

- Prevent body condition losses
- Prevent metabolic issues like pregnancy toxemia
- Allow early intervention to maintain your ewes in their best condition as they near lambing to maximise both their and their lamb's potential

Our recommendation is to sample at least 5 ewes of singles, twins, triplets - a range of body condition scores and 3 weeks before lambing. If you sample earlier than this metabolic issues can be missed, any later it is likely too late to make feed adjustments - avoid sampling ewes straight after concentrate feeding.

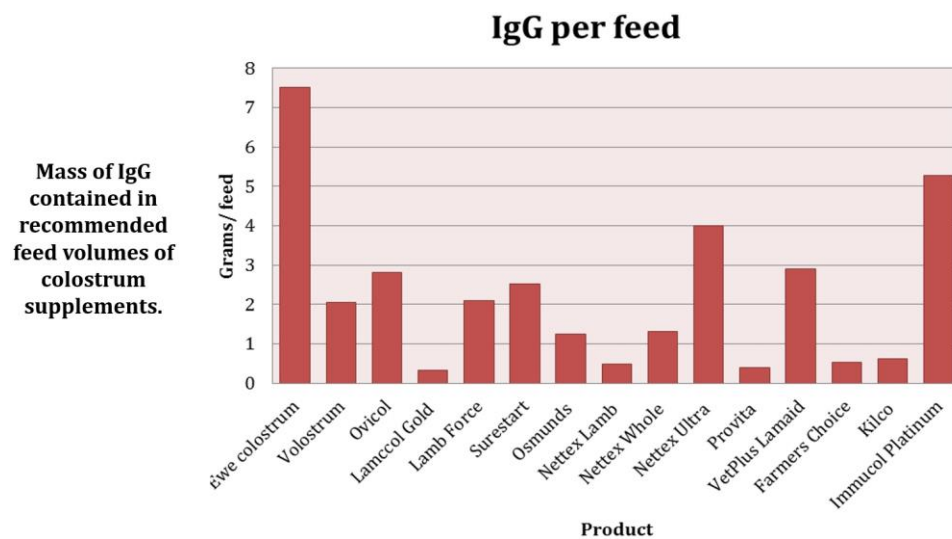
Colostrum

Colostrum is one of the most important factors in ensuring lamb health. Good quality ewe colostrum is always the best option for your lambs but if not available then artificial colostrum will need to be

provided. We will be stocking Quick Start pure 20 colostrum as usual. Some colostrum on the market, including market leaders, do not have a high enough level of IgG. These are the antibodies that give the lamb the protection they need and what you are paying for!

For both your lambs and calves – getting a large volume of high-quality colostrum will give them the best opportunity to grow well and remain healthy. For calves it is essential they receive 4L of colostrum in the first 4 hours of life and 8L within the first 12 hours.

For lambs they require 50ml/kg of colostrum in the first two hours of life and 200ml/kg in the first 12 hours. E.g. a 4kg lamb will need 800ml of colostrum in the first 24 hours.



Cattle fertility talk – Tuesday 27th Feb 2pm

Treat your loved ones to a thorough breeding soundness exam this valentine's day...

Most of the time in veterinary medicine we are responding and trying to correct issues that already exist on farms. Bull fertility testing is one of the few measures we can take to actively pre-empt issues to ensure that as many of your cows as possible become pregnant.

As such we are launching our **Bull Fertility Testing Offer** for the next 6 months:

First bull for £140 + vat plus visit fee

Subsequent bulls on the same visit £85 + vat

If you want to find out more, we will be hosting a cattle fertility talk at Whorral bank, focusing on cattle fertility and bull semen sampling and assessment. Snacks and drinks provided. Please rsvp with Amy/Libby/Emily in office if you would like to attend.

Lambing Course

Due to demand, we are planning to do our lambing course again this year. If you are interested in a practical lambing course demonstrating common complications, please let us know.

Information update.

We always want to keep our records up as up to date as possible. We have sent out contact information forms with the bills last month. We will be sending these out again this month as well as a google form by email. If you can please complete one of these and send it back to us it would be much appreciated. If you have already filled these forms in, thank you.

As always, we can be contacted on 01670512276 24 hours a day or on 07921401901 during office hours.