



### New advances in navel care: improved protection of your calves and lambs

As a practice, keeping informed of new developments and research that can ensure we offer you the best evidence-based advice is important to us. As we start to look ahead to the lambing and calving seasons, we're considering what else our clients can do to protect their youngstock.

Until now best practice has been to apply 'strong iodine' to the umbilicus, and sometimes ear-tagging sites. Dipping (using a non-return dip cup) offers the best coverage of the navel. The aim is to provide desiccation of the umbilicus and disinfection of the surface.

As an industry we've all worked hard to move away from blanket antibiotic use at lambing and spraying antibiotics onto the navel. Interestingly, there is little published evidence for a reduction in mortality rates using iodine as a preventative approach. Many of you often report that it is licked off (especially in male lambs and calves), drips off, and that re-applications are required.

As you'll all remember, in 2022, the iodine supply was limited and prices quadrupled (if you could get it!). In response to this, NoBACZ Healthcare developed a liquid solution containing a proprietary blend of shellac and metal salts in an ethanol base (NoBACZ Navel). It provides greater desiccation (drying out) of the umbilicus than iodine or chlorhexidine (with or without spirit), and 360° protection by forming a non-colonizable hydrophobic barrier - protecting the lamb from the environment. Uniquely, it also contains a bitter agent making it lick-resistant so that cows or ewes won't interfere and lick it off the navel.

Throughout the last lambing season Flock Health Ltd ran a randomized control trial with 6840 lambs involved (half having their navels and ear-tagging sites doses with strong iodine compared with half dosed with NoBACZ Navel).

**NoBACZ navel demonstrated superior protection compared with iodine** in the study[1]. Evidenced by the **21% reduction in mortality** that was observed in the NoBACZ navel group compared with the iodine group. The study also showed a clear benefit in spraying the ear before tagging.

For lambs, producers should target eight-week weights more than 20 kg. In the study, lambs that had NoBACZ navel applied to the navel and tagging sites were more than 230 g heavier than their iodine group counterparts at eight weeks.

To us, NoBACZ navel will benefit our clients by offering greater protection and significant economic returns: **3.4 more lambs alive per 200 born, and an average of 230 g extra bodyweight (per lamb) at eight weeks, more than justifies the decision to put NoBACZ navel in your lambing or calving kit!** NoBACZ navel is available from the practice and is included in our lambing kits. Call the team to order yours today!

[1] Lovatt, F. (2024). A randomised controlled trial to compare the use of a novel product (NoBACZ Navel) with strong iodine to protect navel and ear tag sites of neonatal lambs (with some additional data on neonatal calves). British Cattle Veterinary Association Congress. October 17-19, The Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales



## LAMBING KITS

### 2025

**FULL LAMBING KIT:**  
COST: £95.55 PLUS VAT

CONTAINS:

- 2 X VET LUBE BOTTLES
- RECTAL GLOVES
- DIGITAL THERMOMETER
- DIP CUP (FOR NAVELS)
- 10% IODINE 500ML BOTTLE
- 'EWE GO' DRENCH 1L
- 2 X LAMBING ROPES
- LAMB STOMACH TUBE
- 1 X VOLOSTRUM SACHET
- 1 X 50ML GLUCOSE 50%
- 1 X VIRKON SACHET
- 1 X REDSTART TUBE
- 1 X SELECT RESTORE SACHET
- ALL PRESENTED IN A HANDY STORAGE TRAY (RECYCLED PLASTIC)

**TOP UP' LAMBING KIT**  
COST: £57.71 PLUS VAT

PERFECT FOR 'TOPPING UP' YOUR LAMBING KIT FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

CONTAINS:

- 'EWE GO' DRENCH
- 1 X VOLOSTRUM SACHET
- 1 X REDSTART TUBE
- 1 X RESTORE SACHET
- 1 X 50ML GLUCOSE 50%

**NoBACZ Navel dip - coming soon. Ask to speak to your vet about it's advantages this lambing season**

**Scarsdale Vets**  
Farm

## Liver fluke testing update Fay Pooley MRCVS



In the middle of winter when all it seems to do is rain it would seem a prudent time to think about the risk of liver fluke to stock.

We have had some low-risk years of late, but this season seems set to revert to a more 'normal' higher risk period. One of the problems with fluke is that there is no one perfect test; the faecal egg count test will pick up fluke eggs if they are there, but this relies on the fluke being adults and producing said eggs which takes 10-12 weeks. In sheep and young cattle this may be too late, and the parasite may have already caused too much damage. Faecal copro-antigen can be done earlier but will still give a negative result if infection was less than 7 weeks ago. The only other option historically was to take blood and send it away to a lab to look for antibodies, this can be done from 2 weeks post-exposure.

Until now these were the only options, but we now have a new test, this test is animal side and gives results in minutes. It can detect antibodies to fluke from a very small blood sample from 2 weeks after exposure. This timeframe is the same as the blood test but can be done by the vet or the farmer animal side.

This test is designed to be used as a screening tool to decide whether treatment is necessary, it is best used in first grazing lambs or spring born calves after housing as these animals will not have had any previous exposure to fluke. Choosing 10 animals from the groups mentioned above and testing all of them can inform of the prevalence of infection within that group, and therefore give insight into infection risk on the farm.

The test involves obtaining a small blood sample from the skin inside the ear (sheep) or edge of the nose where it meets the skin (Cattle), putting this blood into a solution, which is then dripped on to a test slide (very much like a Covid test). This will then give you a result on a sliding scale of positivity. The results can then be discussed with your vet and together you can decide on the best course of action with regards to further testing or treatment requirements. The SCOPS / COWS guide below is a really good resource to decipher where and when all of the testing fits into herd management.

## Huskvac Reminder

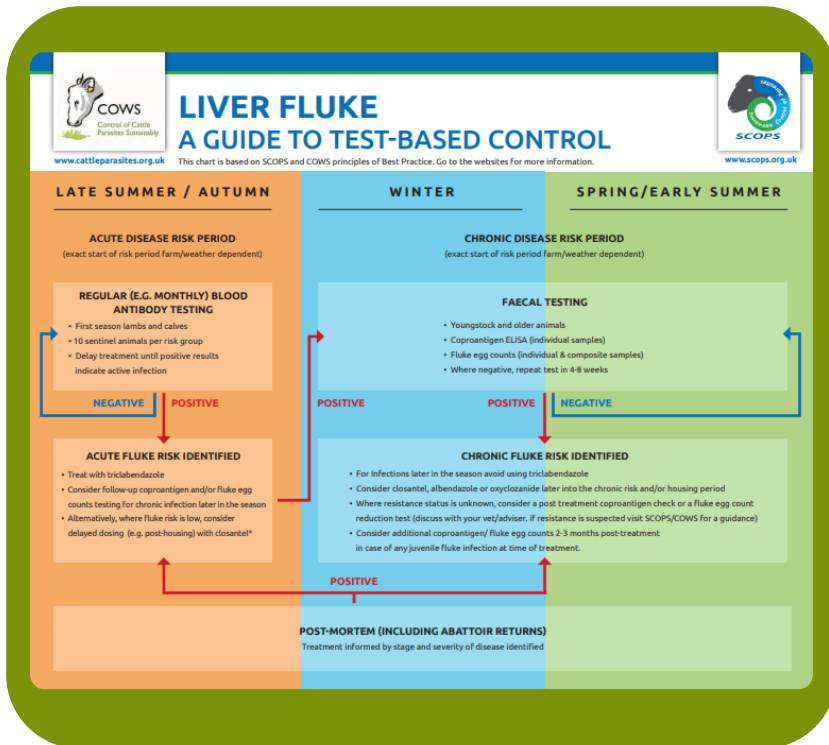
A reminder to contact the practice to plan your lungworm control strategies for this season and to order your vaccine soon. Remember that for dairy calves, vaccination should be completed at least two weeks before the calves are turned out to grass, and for suckled calves, the vaccine course should finish two weeks before the calves begin to eat significant amounts of grass. Wormers should not be given until two weeks after the final dose of vaccine.

Red Tractor approved  
'Mastering Medicines'  
Courses 2025

Wednesday 19th February 2025

Dairy 10:00am - 12:30pm  
Beef & Sheep 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Call 01332 294929 to book!



Practical Lambing Course

2025 Dates

Tuesday 28th Jan  
Thursday 6th Feb  
10am- 2pm  
£75 ex VAT pp

Please ring the practice on  
01332 294929 to book your place

**Farm and Equine Centre**  
Markeaton Lane, Markeaton, Derby DE22 4NH  
01332 294929

**Alfreton**  
01773 304900  
**Pride Veterinary Centre**  
01332 678333

**Allestree**  
01332 554422  
**Shelton Lock**  
01332 700321

**Hilton**  
01283 732999  
**Stapenhill**  
01283 568162

**Langley Mill**  
01773 304914  
**Mickleover**  
01332 518585  
**Oakwood**  
01332 666500