



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Lambing and calving

Spring is a busy (and exciting!) time on farm as calving and lambing get into full swing. A strong start for newborns sets the tone for growth, health, and performance all year long. Here are some key ways to prevent common problems before they start.

Colostrum: the first and most important feed

Colostrum is a newborn's first line of defence. Make sure every calf and lamb:

- Receives colostrum as soon as possible, ideally within the first 2 hours
- Gets enough (calves ~3-4 L in first feed; lambs ~50 ml/kg)



- Gets clean, high-quality colostrum from healthy dams
- If you're unsure about colostrum quality, we can test it for you.

Navel Care: a small job, with a big impact

Dip navels in strong iodine, chlorhexidine or Ambu-green soon after birth. This simple step helps prevent joint ill, liver abscesses, and septicemia.

Hygiene: clean calving & lambing areas are essential

Good hygiene reduces scour, pneumonia, and navel infections.

- Bed deeply and clean out regularly
- Separate sick animals
- Avoid overcrowding





Infection Prevention and Control: scour & pneumonia

Early treatment saves lives. Call us if you see:

- Watery or bloody diarrhoea
- Dull, weak, or cold newborns
- Coughing, nasal discharge, or fast breathing



Nutrition for dams lead to healthier newborns

Late-pregnancy nutrition is critical. Energy, protein, and minerals (especially selenium, iodine, and copper where appropriate) all affect colostrum quality and newborn vigour.



Have a Plan; and the kit you might need on hand

Make sure your calving/lambing kit is stocked with:

- Gloves & lubricant
- Lambing ropes and snare
- Navel dip
- Stomach tubes
- Thermometer
- Electrolytes

These are all available from us should you need them. Also keep our number handy in case you need it, early help can make a big difference.

If you'd like help reviewing your calving/lambing setup, colostrum management, or newborn protocols, we're very happy to come out and advise. Many farmers choose to tie this with their annual Attestation visit. Call us on 01328 864444 if you have any questions.

