

Arrowfield Veterinary Practice - Large Animal Newsletter March 2015

It is hard to believe that we are in March already. The weather has been kind on the whole although any rain and the fields become fairly waterlogged. The in-lamb ewes are in much better condition this year after a good autumn and kind winter.

CONTENTS: TB TENDERING
 SCABIVAX
 DRUGS AT LAMBING

TB TENDERING

After many years of talking and consultation on TB tendering it is finally here. As many of you will have read in the farming press the TB tendering process has now been completed. The South Wales region has been awarded to Iachd Dda and XL Farmcare Midlands will be running the Midlands region of England. These companies will take charge from 1st April and 1st May respectively. We understand that any herd TB tests already issued by Defra will be conducted as normal even if the testing date falls after 1st April/May.

Arrowfield Vet Practice is a member of both companies but the full implications of the new arrangement are not fully clear yet. One thing is certain is that there will be much more auditing of vets and of health and safety of cattle handling on farms. If you would like help to improve in this area, speak to one of our vets for advice.

No doubt there will be several teething problems as we move over to the new system. Paul and Wendy will be attending a meeting organised by XL Farmcare Midlands early in March where hopefully more will be found out. We will have to work together to ensure a smooth transition. One of the main ways you can help is to ensure that you reply to any letters regarding booking in TB tests as soon as they arrive. We will forward more information when known.

SCABIVAX – Orf Vaccine

Due to the unavailability of normal Scabivax Forte we have had to make special arrangements to import Scabivax from Ireland. There should be no problem with availability as we have a pre-ordered delivery through to May.

Please be aware that **the meat withdraw period will be 42 days and NOT 0 days for this Scabivax**. If this is an issue for you selling early fat lambs please contact the surgery so that we can help to sort out the problem.

Reminder:

- Scabivax is a live vaccine and orf is a zoonotic disease which can be transmitted to humans. Please take care when using this vaccine when cuts, grazes and chaps are present on your hands (very likely at this time of year).
- Each pot of Scabivax should be used within 8 hours once opened. It will not be effective the next day (as with all vaccines). Ensure enough lambs (~50) available to vaccinate in one go to be cost effective.

DRUGS FOR LAMBING

We have a lambing products list available to email on request or in farm animal reception. Fill in to pre-order so that we can have your order ready for you and save waiting time. A 5% discount will be available on your "lambing list" if goods paid for on collection.

The main lambing period is just getting underway. To preserve the effectiveness of the antibiotics and anthelmintics available they need to be used appropriately to limit the development of resistance. Quite often, Alamyacin LA is being used to treat every condition where antibiotics are required (and not needed!)

As a guide for use:

Antibiotic	Conditions/Disease
Alamyacin LA	Lameness, pneumonia
Pen & Strep, Depocillin, Bimoxyl LA	Most other conditions – lambings, mastitis, skin conditions, navel ill, joint ill, listeria, meningitis

Many of the conditions where antibiotics are used at lambing are painful for the ewe. If she is in pain the ewe will lie down more, not eat much, won't milk well and you will have hungry lambs to feed. All mounting to extra work load and lack of pen space as the ewes are longer in the sheds and more pressure! Giving a painkiller / anti-inflammatory injection as well as antibiotics will help to reduce all these problems. You can use:

Metacam 1ml/40kg under skin once (lasts approx. 2 days)

Allevinix 1ml/25kg in muscle for 1-3 days

ABORTION SAMPLES

If you are unlucky enough to experience aborting ewes don't just put it down to "one of those things". Abortion levels >2-3% warrant investigation. Speak to one of our vets sooner rather than later.

- Please leave samples in your vehicles until a vet is ready to look at them or directed where to leave them.
Please don't bring them into the reception
- Many abortions are zoonotic and especially dangerous to pregnant women causing miscarriages and severe illness, even death
- Samples: fresh aborted lambs & placenta
- Fill in form giving as much information as possible
- Use effective disinfectant footbaths, replace frequently
- Isolate aborted ewes quickly

SHEEP MARKERS

We will now be stocking a new **400ml sheep marker spray** from APS. They have been tried and tested and we have full confidence in them being used to the very last drop.

Colours: **red, green, blue, black, yellow, orange, purple**

1-4 cans @ £4.00 5+ cans @ £3.80

Stick marker crayon – Jumbo sized crayons £1.90 + vat

The Arrowfield Team