SHEEP ABORTION VACCINATION

It’s time to order your vaccines for this autumn

The dual threat of Enzootic and Toxoplasmosis abortion is currently present on 40% of all sheep farms. Currently this is causing higher lamb mortality than other diseases such as Schmallenberg virus.

ENZOOTIC ABORTION

- Enzootic abortion accounts for 50% of all abortions in sheep.

- Enzootic abortion is highly contagious with ewe to ewe spread.

- The disease usually arrives on farm for the first time when infected replacements are bought in.

- At lambing time the organisms are then passed from ewe to ewe in infected afterbirth causing up to a 25% mortality rate.

- If each lamb is worth £80 in the current market, in a 100 ewes a loss of 25% would financially account for a loss of £2000/100 ewes/annum.

Enzootic abortion vaccines such as Cevac Chlamydia should be used yearly in young adults and replacements at least 4 weeks before tupping. Vaccination is better than the use of antibiotics (Terramycin LA) as it leads to less infection on the farm. The disease is already established when abortions are seen and organisms can live in the environment for up to 6 weeks. This is longer than the duration of the antibiotics. Furthermore resistance problems can occur with the overuse of antibiotics.
TOXOPLASMA ABORTION

• Recent results from MSD Animal Health’s FlockCheck found more than 86% of blood samples taken from ewes tested positive for toxoplasmosis.

• Toxoplasmosis is spread by cat faeces. There is no direct ewe to ewe transmission.

• One spoonful of kitten faeces is enough to infect 700 ewes with Toxoplasmosis. Cat faeces can harbour the infective organisms in the environment for up to 2 years living on pasture, in feed and forage.

• There is no treatment for Toxoplasmosis and vaccination is the only way to prevent the disease.

Using Toxovax at least 4 weeks before tupping can increase the number of lambs born by 6.4%.

So vaccination will increase profit margin of 100 ewes by over £500/annum not including increased mortality of abortion storms.

• TOXOPLASMA NEEDS TO ORDERED IN ADVANCE AS IT ONLY HAS ABOUT 1 WEEK SHELF LIFE.

• ENZOOTIC ABORTION VACCINE IS NORMALLY HELD IN STOCK.

• ENZOOTIC VACCINE AND TOXOVAX CAN BE GIVEN AT THE SAME TIME.

• YOU WILL NEED TO LEAVE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BETWEEN ANY OTHER VACCINATIONS.

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