

Hafren Veterinary Group Large Animal Newsletter January 2019



Welcome to the January 2019 edition of our newsletter, bringing you seasonal and topical information and updates.

PRACTICE NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

We welcome back our head nurse Joedie Evans from maternity leave.

We also have exciting news that we expanded in our Knighton area with the acquisition of Ashburn Large Animal vets.

Lambing Preparation

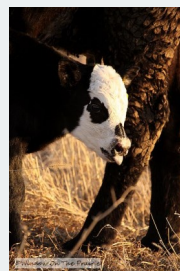


In order that you are fully prepared for the busy lambing period ahead, here is a list of cupboard essentials that you may need:

- Lubricant Arm length gloves
- Latex gloves Lambing ropes and head snares Lamb jackets
- Iodine Lamb Colostrum Lamb feeding tubes and bottles
- Elastor rings
- Ewe Retainers or harnesses
- Marker sprays and ear tags for identifying problem or aborted ewes
- Disinfectant such as FAM or Virkon for cleaning out pens in-between ewes
- Variety of clean needles and syringes
- Nylon tape
- Anti-inflammatories drugs for the ewe after a difficult lambing
- Calcium 20 CMD Oral twin lamb drench & Oral rehydration therapy for sick or scouring lambs (such as effydral or life aid)

New Year Issues

The lambing season is upon us (and has already started for some people!) The season has kept us quite busy – our main jobs have included difficult calvings, routine castrating and de-horning and TB testing of course! As always, pneumonia in calves has been an issue on some farms. Our current approach to helping reduce the incidence involves blood testing some young cattle to see what viruses they may have been exposed to and instituting an appropriate vaccination protocol if necessary. Importantly, we have been assessing cattle buildings and calculating if their ventilation and air flow is adequate. Altering buildings can be a cheap and very effective method to help reduce pneumonia on your farm. Please contact us if you would like some input on this, or if you are designing a new shed and would like to check that it will be suitable.



Abortion investigation in ewes

Infectious causes of abortion are most common after day 100 of pregnancy. An abortion rate of over 2% is suggestive of an infectious cause and veterinary investigation is essential at an early stage. The cost of abortion is variably quoted as £20 to at least £60 per aborted ewe. All aborted ewes must be isolated, tagged and aborted material and infected bedding removed and destroyed to prevent spread of disease on your farm. Ewes that give birth to dead/weakly full-term lambs should also be isolated. Many causes of sheep abortion are also spread to humans – always wear gloves and disinfect after handling these. Submit samples for abortion diagnosis as soon as possible, as further losses may be reduced. We will usually require the aborted lamb or stomach contents, a piece of placenta, and a blood sample from the ewe as part of our investigations.

