



Special offer!

Subsidised blood testing for enzootic abortion and toxoplasmosis

Penbode Farm Vets and the MSD Animal Health FlockCheck scheme are offering subsidised laboratory fees to test ewes for exposure to toxoplasmosis and EAE.

Six to eight blood samples will be taken from **unvaccinated** ewes that have either aborted, are barren or have produced weakly lambs.

**This offer is only available until 30 June 2020.
So take advantage of it now!**

The offer is available to everyone. Members of the Penbode Farm Vets Flock Health Club receive a discounted rate.

Price list (exVAT)	FHC Members	Non-Members
At the surgery	£20.00	£25.00
On farm	£25.00	£35.00
<i>There is no additional visit charge associated with these prices.</i>		

We are running area days for the FlockCheck Scheme. Check out the calendar below to see when's most convenient for you. A Vet or VetTech will come to your farm to take the bloods or you can bring ewes to the surgery. We have lambing bays at all participating branches.

Location	Date	Time
On farm	Weds 10 June	AM and PM
On farm	Weds 17 June	AM and PM
Holsworthy Lambing Bay	Thurs 18 June	From 2pm
Stratton Lambing Bay	Thurs 18 June	From 2pm
On farm	Weds 24 June	AM and PM
Holsworthy Lambing Bay	Thurs 25 June	From 2pm
Stratton Lambing Bay	Thurs 25 June	From 2pm

Covid-19

Two vets/vet tech will carry out the blood sampling together (one restraining, one sampling) whilst wearing face masks in order to minimise risks of infection. You must let reception know if you are isolating or if someone on your farm is isolating and we can manage your requirements accordingly.

Holsworthy 01409 253418
Stratton 01288 353766
Camelford 01840 213277

Bradworthy 01409 241241
Launceston 01566 86985

Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis

The two most common causes of sheep abortion

Toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion (EAE) are the two most common causes of sheep abortion that are diagnosed from post-mortem submissions by the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) (Figure 1). Sheep abortion results in considerable economic loss to the flock and increases stress during lambing.

Both diseases can cause abortion (lambs are often mummified with toxoplasmosis), stillbirths and the birth of weakly lambs that may die shortly after birth or are more likely to succumb to neonatal disease (Figure 2). Occasionally abortion storms may occur, whereby a large proportion of the flock aborts. Toxoplasmosis can additionally result in high barren rates and low scanning percentages. Toxoplasmosis is caused by the protozoan parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*, with ingestion of feed contaminated with cat faeces containing toxoplasma oocysts (eggs) being the main source of infection. EAE is caused by the bacteria, *Chlamydophila abortus*, and it is most commonly introduced to a naïve flock by buying-in ewes that carry the bacteria.

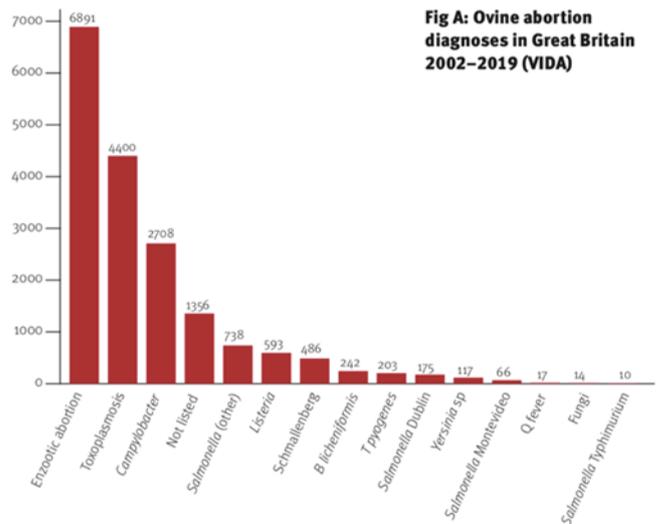


Figure 1: Sheep abortion diagnoses in Great Britain 2002-2019 (VIDA)¹

Controlling and Preventing Abortion



Figure 2: Aborted lambs²

There are a number of important measures to control and prevent Toxoplasmosis and EAE in your flock; some of these measures are specific to each disease but the preventative step common to both diseases is vaccination.

Toxovax® (Toxoplasmosis vaccine) should be given at least three weeks **prior to tupping** and is known to provide protection for at least two lambing seasons. Enzovax® (EAE vaccine) should be given at least four weeks **prior to tupping** and is known to provide protection for at least three lambing seasons. Enzovax® and Toxovax® can be given together.

References

1. Veterinary Record. 30th January 2020. Surveillance Focus: investigating abortions in small ruminants.
2. Abortion - MSD Animal Health Republic of Ireland [Internet]. MSD Animal Health Republic of Ireland. 2020. Available from: <https://www.msd-animal-health.ie/species/sheep/abortion/ss>

