

MAXIMISE PROFITS BY OPTIMISING LAMB PERFORMANCE

Weaning is a stressful period for lambs. It can take up to three weeks for the rumen to fully adapt to new feed so care is needed to prevent a weaning check. Ideally all treatments, such as vaccinations or wormers should be given prior to weaning as the stress can compromise the lamb's immune system. This can increase their susceptibility to disease. By following the steps below you can optimise your lamb's performance.

Post Weaning Protocols for Best Performance

1) Weigh lambs

- Monitor growth rates: 1 kg/week should be possible just from grass alone
- Ideally batch lambs based on weight so that feed can be targeted efficiently
- To make sure that all lambs are on target to finish when expected, weighing 10-20% of the group every one or two weeks can help to highlight any problems as they arise.

2) Faecal egg count monitoring - can confirm the level of parasite challenge in recently weaned lambs. Pasture management can be used to help minimise exposure to parasites. Ideally finishing lambs should not be put on pasture that has grazed ewes and lambs that season.

3) Clostridial diseases - normally cause sudden death in the best lambs. Any protection gained from colostrum only lasts up to 14 weeks of age. Vaccination is important to maintain protection after this point.

- A vaccine that also protects against Pasturella pneumonia is advised to cover all bases.

4) Feet - Monitoring lameness when weighing can help to spot a problem quickly. A flock lameness of more than 5% is a problem and veterinary advice should be sought.

5) Ill thrift - Worm egg counts can rule out parasites, but blood samples are needed to check for nutritional deficiencies (copper, cobalt, selenium). Call your usual branch if you want any further advice.

Worm Egg Count (WEC) Offer

Optimal timing of worm treatments maximises growth rates and saves money by avoiding unnecessary treatments. Regular WEC monitoring helps decide when to treat and can be helpful at choosing the right product.

10 WECs for £70 + VAT, that's a saving of almost 50%. You also get a £5 voucher for wormers bought from us.

Worm egg counts on this scheme need to be submitted by the end of 2016.

SUPER SUMMER OFFER

Through our XLVets membership, Penbode has secured a super saver, seasonal offer with Spotinor. It is available with next day delivery to your nearest branch.

Spotinor treats and prevents infestations of ticks, lice and keds. It also treats established blowfly strike/maggots.

The 250ml pack is enough for 50 sheep and costs £24.59.

The 2.5L pack treats 500 sheep for only £155 and comes with a FREE application gun.

CASH PRICES QUOTED - EX VAT



XLVets
Excellence in Practice

OUR BENCHMARKING SERVICE IS ON-GOING AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN

If you would like to see how you are getting on in comparison with other flocks in the area then please fill in the forms attached and return to your local branch. All data is confidential, your name will not be visible to any other farmers.

Blood testing 10 thin cull ewes is the most cost effective way of actively monitoring 'iceberg' diseases. Eg MV, Johnes and OPA. If you sell breeding stock negative surveillance results can really promote the health status of your flock.

Please speak to one of the sheep team vets for advice on how best to use this package and what other options are available.

REDUCING THE HIDDEN RISKS...

Subfertility can be Costly

Up to **10%** of rams can have **low fertility** and this can even develop in older, proven rams. We recommend that **ALL rams are given an MOT health check EVERY YEAR.**

Ram MOTs should be done 2 months prior to tupping and include checking the **five 'Ts' – Teeth, Toes, Testicles, Tone and Treatment.**



We shall be holding Ram Testing days at the Penbode Farm branches on **Weds 17th August at Holsworthy and Mon 22nd August at Stratton.**

Ram MOTs are from £20+VAT which includes semen collection and evaluation if required. To book a place for your ram(s) please call your usual branch.

Bought in Diseases can be Costly

Good farm biosecurity and disease surveillance cannot be overestimated. Anthelmintic resistance reduces productivity and can delay lamb finishing by up to 28%.

These simple steps can reduce the risks of buying new stock:

- Source animals from the highest health status flock. MV/EAE accredited schemes are normally pedigree flocks but some commercial flocks complete annual screening for diseases such as Johnes, CLA and MV.
- Bought in animals must be quarantined, ideally for 28 days with 48hrs on concrete.
- Monitor disease in your flock. Regular monitoring allows to pick up any disease as soon as it starts and to treat as soon as possible.



WANT A COMPACT AND EARLY SPRING LAMBING PERIOD?

Teaser rams could be the answer.... they can naturally advance the breeding season by a fortnight and synchronise the ewes without the need to hormonal sponges.

Contact your sheep team vet for more info about ram vasectomies and the benefits of using teaser rams. But be **QUICK**, vasectomies have to be done **at least 6 weeks** prior to the teaser's intended use.

Lameness Action Plans Can Save You Time and Money

Lameness can feel like a never ending battle but it doesn't have to be.

Correct diagnosis along with a sensible choice of treatment can stop lameness in it's tracks. For this you need to work however, a change of thought is needed: **STOP TRIMMING and START TALKING.**

We are confident that we can save you money with the investment of a Lameness Action Plan, but to do this you need to contact your sheep team vet. Clients that have previously sought advice are now already seeing the benefits as a **significant reduction in flock lameness and long-term will see a reduction in their antibiotic usage.**

Call your usual branch for more information.

Don't want to miss a future copy?

Sign up for FREE at www.penbodevets.co.uk or email farm@penbodevets.co.uk

Penbode Sheep Benchmarking Group 2016



The benchmarking group is a *free* way for you to see how your flock stacks up against other sheep flocks in the area.

If you would like to take part, please fill in your details and return it to us. We will then assign your farm a number and when we have collated the data we will email or post you a report.

All data is regarded as confidential and your name will not be visible to any other farmers.

Once completed please return to your local branch or email to farm@penbodevets.co.uk

Part 1A: Scanning Data was collected early 2016

Part 1B: Lambing Performance - please complete and return if you haven't yet done so.

Name:	Mob No:
Farm	Email:

Q1: Do you currently vaccinate for:

- a: Toxoplasma? Yes No
- b: Enzootic abortion? Yes No
- c: Heptavac P Plus or other clostridial vaccines to breeding ewes? Yes No
- d: Heptavac P Plus or other clostridial vaccines to fattening lambs? Yes No

Q2: Do you consider your lambing season a good success? Yes No

Q3: Are you happy with your ewes' body condition? Yes No

Q4: Do you think you have your flock's lameness under control? Yes No

Q5: Please list any topics you would like included for future newsletters or as farmer training or discussion sessions?

LAMBING DATA	NUMBER
Ewes put to tup	
Ewes barren	
Ewes aborted	
Ewe lambs put to tup	
Ewe lambs barren	
Ewe lambs aborted	
Lambs born live	
Lambs born dead (excluding abortions)	
Lambs dead within first 7 days	
Lambs dead within 3 weeks	

Part 1C: Lamb Sales and Replacement information – Please complete as soon as you have the data available.

Name:	Mob No:
Farm	Email:

Q1: Do you currently vaccinate for:

- a: Toxoplasma? Yes No
- b: Enzootic abortion? Yes No
- c: Heptavac P Plus or other clostridial vaccines to breeding ewes? Yes No
- d: Heptavac P Plus or other clostridial vaccines to fattening lambs? Yes No

Q2: Do you consider your lamb growing season a good success? Yes No

Q3: Are you happy with your ewes' body condition? Yes No

Q4: Do you think you have your flock's lameness under control? Yes No

Q5: Please list any topics you would like included for future newsletters or as farmer training or discussion sessions?

LAMBS	NUMBER
Sold finished	
Sold or retained store	
Sold or retained breeding	
EWES	NUMBER
Total ewe deaths	
Culled ewes	
Number of replacements purchased/retained	

Once completed please return to your local branch or email to farm@penbodevets.co.uk

If you have any questions on the benchmarking service or other sheep services please feel free to contact the Penbode Sheep Team.

Stratton: Kate Forgan 01288 353766

Camelford: Steph Prior 01840 212229

Holsworthy: Sarah Gilbert and Vicky Westwood 01409 253 418

Bradworthy: Liz Howse 01409 241241