

Coccidiosis in Lambs

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What is coccidiosis?

Fifteen different types of coccidia may affect sheep in UK but only two are 'pathogenic': *Eimeria ovinoidalis*

Eimeria crandallis

They damage the cells lining the gut (ileum, caecum and colon)

- ➔ Diarrhoea (may contain mucus or blood)
- Also straining, pain, weight loss
- Possibly death of the lamb
- Also sub-clinical disease (poor weight gain)



How do lambs get coccidiosis?

What is the initial source of oocysts?

EWES

1. Ewes pass low numbers

2. Some oocysts overwinter on pasture

**IMMUNITY IN LAMBS
INCREASES WITH
EXPOSURE**

Lambs are susceptible to disease from 3 weeks old

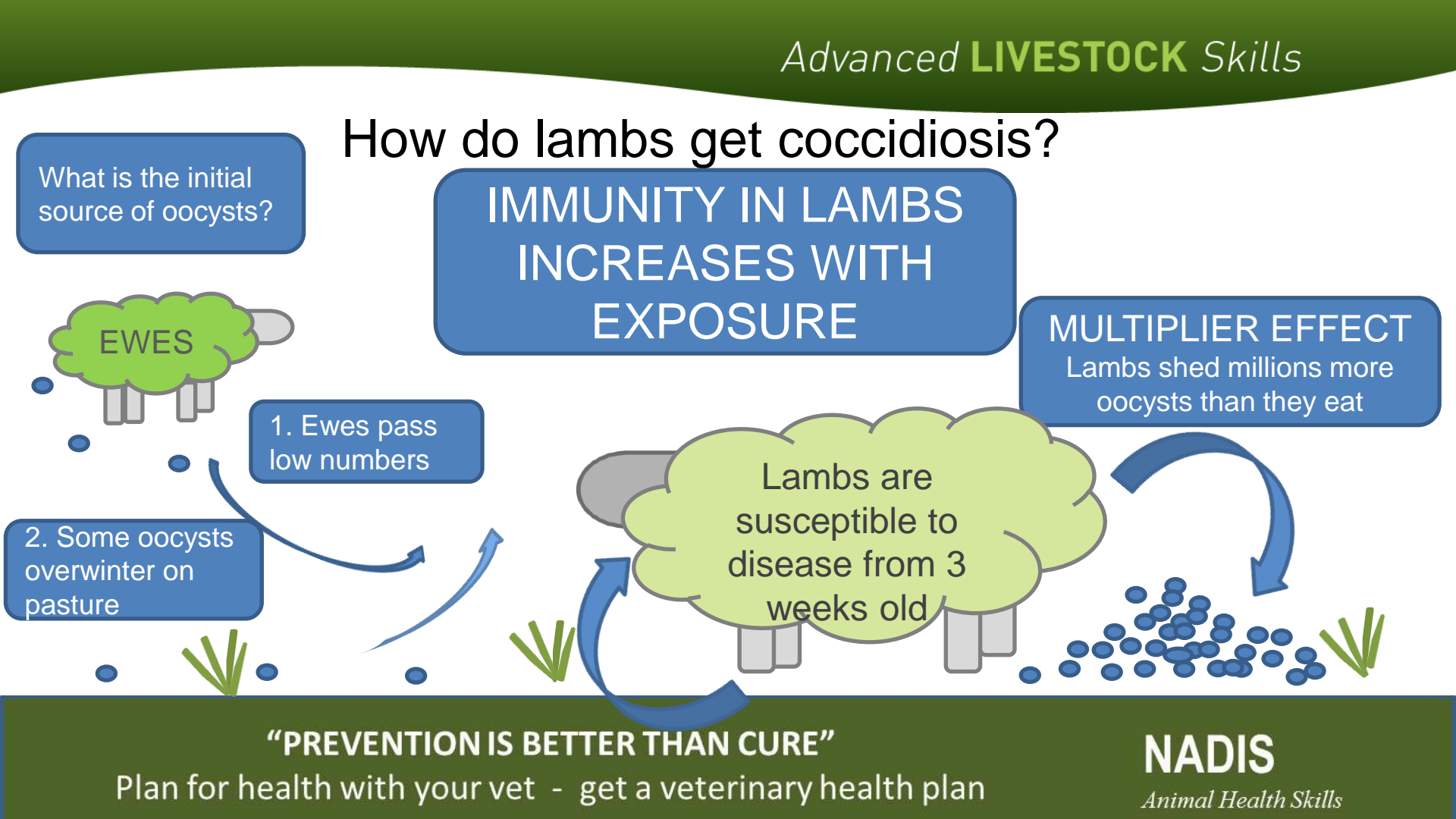
MULTIPLIER EFFECT
Lambs shed millions more oocysts than they eat

“PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”

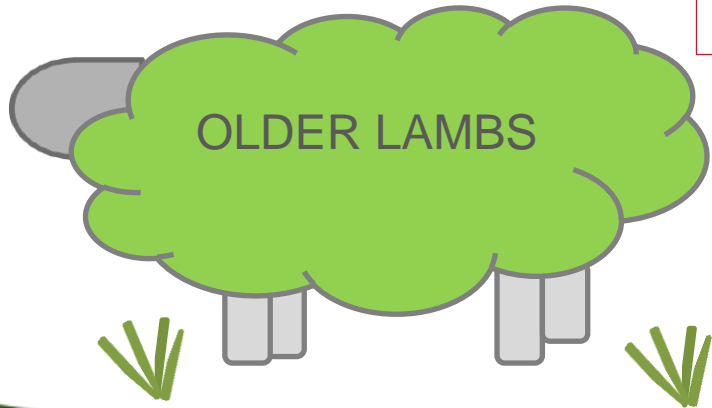
Plan for health with your vet - get a veterinary health plan

NADIS

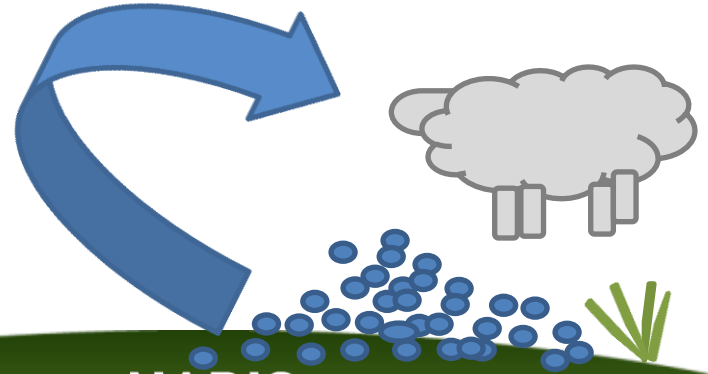
Animal Health Skills



OLDER IMMUNE
LAMBS MOVE FIELDS



SUSCEPTIBLE LAMBS
SUCCUMB TO DISEASE



NADIS

Animal Health Skills

Also high risk: lambs that were not exposed before the susceptible age



Coccidiosis

- The lamb's immune response to coccidia is very good.
- Severe disease seen when naïve lambs are suddenly exposed to high numbers of oocysts.
- Subclinical disease may be important causing poor growth rates.
- NB No cross-protection or immunity provided by exposure to a different species of coccidia – important if lambs from different flocks are mixed or moved into previously used fields.



PREVENTING COCCIDIOSIS...



What are the main risk factors for coccidiosis?

High oocyst challenge

Faeces in water or food supply

Dirty conditions

Heavily stocked

Older lambs previously in field

Susceptible lambs

3-12 weeks old

No previous exposure to that species of coccidia

Stress due to cold wet, weather

Stress due to poor nutrition

Treatment of coccidiosis

Targeted medication - diclazuril or toltrazuril

2. Group treatment in the face of expected high coccidia challenge:

In this situation there are no lambs yet showing clinical disease, but history and screening have indicated that the lambs will be exposed to a high level of oocysts.

Diclazuril: Note that timing is critical due to short residual activity.

Give 10-14 days after challenge (e.g. move into dirty pasture).

A second dose may be necessary 3 weeks later.

Toltrazuril: Timing is less critical as longer persistency in the lamb.

Dose one week after expected challenge (often at turn-out) or one week before signs of disease.

- Lambs treated with either diclazuril or toltrazuril shed fewer oocysts, have less diarrhoea and grow faster than untreated lambs.
- Lambs treated with one dose of toltrazuril shed fewer eggs than lambs treated with one or two doses of diclazuril.



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Baycox[®] 50 mg/ml
Prevent Protect Profit

Baycox[®] 50 mg/ml for Piglets, Calves and Lambs contains 50mg/ml toltrazuril. ©Registered Trademark of Bayer AG. Advice should be sought from medicine prescriber. Please refer to appropriate data sheet at www.noahcompendium.co.uk. Further information available on request. Bayer plc, Animal Health Division, Bayer House, Strawberry Hill, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1JA.

Tel: 01635 563000. POM-V



Coccidiosis – what should you do about it?

1. Understand the disease – what are the risk factors?
2. Understand your farm
 - which fields are a risk?
 - which coccidia species do you have?
3. Get a diagnosis
 - take faecal samples from 10-15 lambs that are 3-12 weeks old
 - pool the samples and ask for speciation
 - get veterinary post mortems done on dead lambs



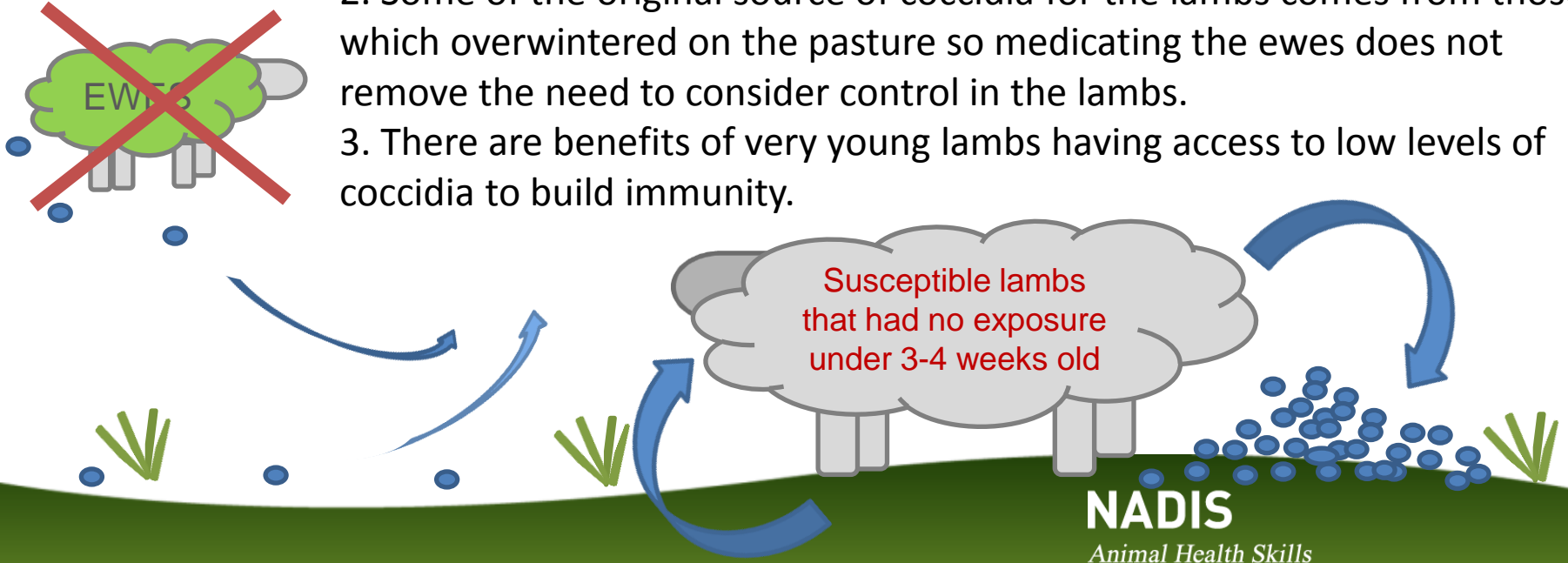
...COULD HELP YOU DRAW HIGHER RETURNS



Treatment of coccidiosis

Medicated Ewe Feed is NOT RECOMMENDED due to:

1. The ewes are medicated despite the fact they are unaffected by coccidia.
2. Some of the original source of coccidia for the lambs comes from those which overwintered on the pasture so medicating the ewes does not remove the need to consider control in the lambs.
3. There are benefits of very young lambs having access to low levels of coccidia to build immunity.



Treatment of coccidiosis

Medicated lamb creep

- Need 1mg decoquinate/kg body weight/day for at least 28 days.
- NB 10kg lamb must eat 100g feed per day for adequate decoquinate levels.
- A sick lamb (e.g. due to *Nematodirus*) has no appetite to eat medicated creep and thus also at risk of coccidiosis.
- Decoquinate is active only in the small intestine and only against the first stage of development. This means that lambs may still shed oocysts despite eating medicated feed and showing no clinical signs of coccidiosis.



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Prevent Protect Profit

**CONTACT YOUR VET
ABOUT COCCIDIOSIS TODAY!**



Treatment of coccidiosis

Targeted medication - diclazuril or toltrazuril

- Dose rate 1ml per 2.5kg of lamb
- Useful in two situations:

1. *Group treatment in the face of an outbreak:*

Immediately that coccidiosis is diagnosed in a single lamb in a group, either diclazuril or toltrazuril should be given to all lambs over three weeks old *in that group*.

It may be necessary to repeat diclazuril after three weeks.



Thank you for participating in
this webinar