



Neonatal Nutrition and new born lamb care

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 flockhealthltd

NADIS
Animal Health Skills

Plan for health – ask your vet for a veterinary health plan

Principles of neonatal nutrition and lamb care

- Ensure viable birthweights
- Maximise consumption of quality colostrum at the correct volume
- Maximise speed of intake
- Reduce the challenge from disease – hygiene
- Using the #Protect Plan Prevent for Lambing success
- Immediate post lambing care
- Pre turnout – 48 hour checklist



PLANNING FOR LAMBING

NETTEX



Fit &
Well Fed



- ✓ Good body condition
- ✓ Quality balanced diet
- ✓ Fully vaccinated
- ✓ Sound in foot
- ✓ Dagged & clean

Colostrum
Quality Quantity
Timing

Protect

Plan

- ✓ Analyse forage & arrange quality diet
- ✓ Sort care of new-borns
 - Maximise colostrum
 - Minimise stress
- ✓ Monitor colostrum quality & transfer
- ✓ Keep good records



Lambing Success



Prevent

- ✓ Sufficient shelter outside
- ✓ Clean, dry, draught-free inside
- ✓ Plenty of fresh bedding
- ✓ Turn-out as soon as possible
- ✓ Good hygiene
- ✓ Clean & disinfect equipment



Ensuring viable birthweights

- Ewe nutrition, BCS, DMI in last few weeks of pregnancy
- Targets – Singles over 5kg, Twin over 4kg, Triplet over 3.5kg
- Brown fat
- Circulating blood glucose
- Minimise hypothermia-starvation
- Reduced lamb mortality



PLANNING FOR LAMBING

NETTEX

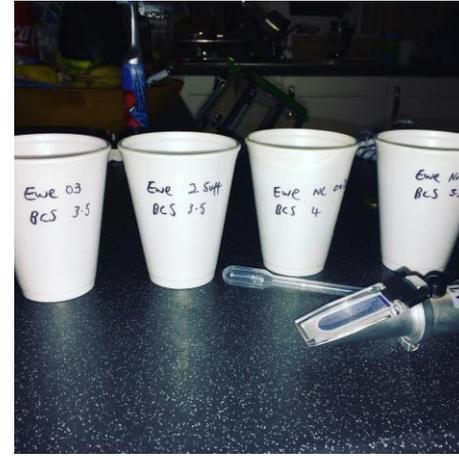
Maximise colostrum consumption

#ColostrumIsGold

- Test quality – refractometer
- Aim – first feed within first 2 hours
- Beat the bug consumption challenge
- Ewe colostrum is ~50g IgG/litre at lambing (but it declines by ~3.3g/L/h in 24-36 hours)

A 4kg lamb requires 20g IgG for adequate passive transfer (ie 400ml of good ewe colostrum in first few hours)

- Amount – 210ml/kg in first 24 hours
- Adjust depending upon weather, indoor/outdoor
- Suckling for 10 mins
- Lame/thin ewe – won't allow effective feeding



What if the colostrum supply is inadequate?

- Best alternative is colostrum harvested from another ewe!
- Goats and cow colostrum – increased feeding rate
- Johnes disease risk and haemolytic anaemia risk
- Fridge 7 days – Freezer 1 year. Thaw/warm water bath to defrost
- Powdered supplements
- A good source of energy and protein to prevent hypothermia



PLANNING FOR LAMBING

NET|TEX

Reduce disease challenge

- Diseases caused by – environmental micro organisms and pathogenic species
- Reduce challenge – fleece, teats, hurdles, buckets, bedding
- Dry bedding
- Lambing areas
- Soapy clean utensils and dry
- Individual pen hygiene
- Turn out ASAP



Immediate post lambing care

- Navel treatment – ASAP, within 15 mins then again within 4hrs
- Race the bugs
- 10% Iodine with alcohol
- Will anything prevent it sucking? Dystocia, head, big, trauma?
- Ear tags – disinfect the tag point with surgical spirit
- Ring application, post 24 hours





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