



Disease Alert February 2017 – Summary

*Local farm conditions may change, consult your vet.
Effective worm control should be part of your veterinary health plan.*

For the Disease Alert Webinar please go to www.nadis.org.uk

COLOSTRUM MANAGEMENT

- Antibodies cannot cross the placenta.
- Colostrum allows 'passive transfer of immunity'.
- Poor colostrum intake increases the risk of death and disease.
- Consider monitoring of calf deaths, scour, pneumonia.
- Consider blood tests for immunity transfer



Recognised best practice recommendations

Colostrum Quality

- Very variable
- Dilution
- Immunity of dam
- Dry period
- Breed

Quantity

- Depends on quality
- Aim for at least 5% calf weight at first feed

Timing

- At birth – 25% absorption
- At 6 hours – 10% absorption
- At 24 hours – very little absorption
- Continued feeding has local protection only

Hygiene

- Contamination causes disease and reduces absorption
- Hygiene important at collection AND storage

DYSTOCIA IN EWES

- Around 5% of ewe deaths occur at lambing. Most due to dystocia
- Ewes with dystocia 10 times more likely to die than be examined by a vet
- Prompt identification of problems and veterinary intervention if required key to a successful outcome

Position and Ringwomb

- Positioning accounts for approx. 50% of dystocias.
- Be careful to identify limbs, and both limbs belong to the same lamb before traction.
- Ringwomb due to failure of hormonal control or failure of the lamb to engage the pelvis.

Oversize and Uterine Inertia



- Large lamb
- Narrow birth canal
- Immaturity
- Over-condition
- If the lamb is dead consider fetotomy
- If the lamb is alive, requires caesarean section
- Uterine inertia often secondary to metabolic disease

ALSO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR...

- Ringworm in calves
- Joint ill in early lambs

JOBS FOR FEBRUARY

- Get organised for lambing
- Consider lungworm vaccination

Prevention is better than cure

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

To view a **WEBINAR (video)** of the full Disease Alert please click

WATCH THE WEBINAR