



Disease Alert January 2018 – 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

Milk Fever

Aetiology

- Blood calcium below 1.5mmol/L
- Can be fatal
- Usually dairy cows at or soon after calving
- Costs associated with treatment AND increased risks of other diseases



Clinical Signs

- Initial tremors and stiffness
- Rapid deterioration to recumbence
- Constipation
- Bloat, dyspnoea and death
- Intravenous calcium if recumbent
- Oral calcium if standing
- Good nursing and diet to prevent complications and recurrence

Prevention and Treatment

- Good transition cow management
- DCAB diet
- Restricted calcium?
- Prophylactic calcium at calving

PREPARATION FOR LAMBING

- Body condition score ewes and adjust feed accordingly
- Aim for condition score 2.5-3 (out of 5)
- Separate by lamb numbers if possible
- Vaccinate ewes for Clostridia
- Monitor for pregnancy toxæmia and vaginal prolapse

Staffing and equipment

Ensure enough competent staff

Equipment and supplies should include:

- Arm-length gloves
- Bucket, clean water, disinfectant soap
- Lambing ropes/snares
- Obstetrical lube
- Retainers for prolapses
- Antibiotics/anti-inflammatories and respiratory stimulants



Stages of Lambing

1st stage

- 3-6 hours
- Separation, increased activity
- Mucous string present at vulva

2nd stage

- Expulsion of the lamb(s)
- Usually takes a hour
- 10-60 minutes between lambs

3rd stage

- Expulsion of the placenta and membranes

ALSO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR....

- Toe Necrosis

JOBS FOR JANUARY

- Vaccinate ewes for clostridial disease
- Review fertility parameters

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

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