

Farm Animal Practice News

Winter
2019



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Langford Vets 

 University of
BRISTOL

Welcome

Langford Vets Farm Animal Practice welcomes you to the January newsletter

Pricing Update

As we look ahead to what 2019 may bring, you might be pleased to learn that in the run up to lambing we have reduced the price of sheep caesareans to £60.00 + VAT and have changed lambing, which was previously charged on time, to a set fee of £30.00 + VAT. Any drugs used for either procedure will be charged in addition.

We have also made the decision to stop stocking Pen & Strep as we have alternative, more specific products available with longer shelf lives. Should you require Pen & Strep for anything please call the practice to speak to a vet who will be happy to advise on a suitable alternative.

Twin Lamb Disease

Twin Lamb Disease (also known as Pregnancy Toxaemia) is a disease of both undernourished and occasionally, overfat ewes, carrying twins or triplets. As the unborn lambs' growth rate accelerates during the last few weeks of pregnancy the ewe's own fat reserves are broken down in her liver to supply energy to the lamb, this process also produces units called ketones which are toxic to the ewe and cause the clinical signs of twin lamb disease.

Body Condition Scoring and feeding accordingly as well as scanning pregnant ewes and appropriate grouping can help to prevent the disease. However, should you find any of your ewes suffering with twin lamb disease during the lambing period then we recommend supplementing their energy intake with Ceto Phyton.

Ceto Phyton is a dietetic supplement to reduce the risk of ketosis in cattle and sheep. No other supplement contains the four constituents of sodium propionate, niacin, sylibum marianum, (the active ingredient in milk thistle) and monopropylene glycol, making it more effective than propylene glycol only products. Niacin and sylibum marianum help break the energy deficiency cycle and speed recovery.

Ceto Phyton is available in 1ltr bottles (50 doses) and costs £16.89 per bottle + VAT.

Colostrum

During pregnancy there is no transfer of any protective immunity (immunoglobins) to the foetus.

Colostrum is the 'first milk' produced by mammals during late pregnancy. It is packed full of these protective immunoglobins, as well as protein, sugar, fat and vitamins A and E to provide energy, warmth and a laxative effect. It is vital for the survival of the calf/lamb, as without it they cannot fight off infection.

A calf/lamb's intestines are designed to temporarily absorb these immunoglobins. It is called passive transfer and can only occur in the first 24 hours after birth and is most efficient in the first few hours.

There are 4 Qs of colostrum management to ensure the calf/lamb gets off to the best possible start:

- **Quality** – Ensure the dam is on a good plane of nutrition and is in good body condition. You can test the colostrum using either a colostrometer or a Brix refractometer to ensure the quality. The colostrum must also be obtained hygienically as bacteria in the colostrum will reduce the number of immunoglobulins that can be absorbed. If there is spare, good quality colostrum, this can be frozen. If it is poor quality, you can either top up with frozen, or ensure you give a higher volume.

- **Quantity** – 10% body weight: often given in 2 feeds so not to overload the animal. Roughly 2-3 litres in the first 2 hours of life at 38°C, then a second feed of 2-3L within 12 hours of birth. Remember, a calf requires approximately 20 minutes of continuous sucking to have consumed 3L of colostrum from the cow.

- **Quickly** – Ideally within 2 hours of birth to optimise immunity. The animal's ability to absorb immunoglobulins halves within 6 hours and is unable to absorb them after 24 hours.

- **Quietly** – If animals are stressed while being fed, then they won't absorb the immunoglobulins as efficiently as those that are calm.

Ideally a frozen store is kept on farm for times of need. Colostrum can be stored for up to 12 months in the freezer. However, if there is no frozen colostrum available, Immucol is the next best substitute. It is a natural bovine colostrum replacement and has the same level of immunoglobulins as good quality cow colostrum. It also has 20% colostrum fat to provide plenty of energy and is guaranteed free from Johnes, EBL and IBR.

Langford vets can test to ensure your calves/lambs/kids have had enough colostrum by taking blood samples in the first week of life. This is a cheap and accurate way to monitor the success of colostrum management on the farm. Please give us a call if you have any questions or would like some prices.



Preparing for Lambing

We have everything you need to get you through the lambing period.

Lambing/Sheep Equipment	Price excl. VAT	Price incl. VAT
4mm Lambing rope	£5.07	£6.08
Elastrator	£5.54	£6.65
Elastrator rings 100 pack	£1.85	£2.22
Hoof shears	£17.50	£21.00
Lamb feeding tubes	£4.30	£5.16
Lambing snare	£4.74	£5.69
Marker spray	£4.95	£5.94
Prolapse support/uterine support	£1.05	£1.26
Prolapse harness	£10.98	£13.18
Arm length gloves	£7.90	£9.48
Digital thermometer	£5.65	£6.78
Large blue paper towel	£1.08	£1.30
Gloves - small, medium, large	£5.58	£6.69
Iodine solution 10% 500ml	£7.45	£8.94
Vet Lubigel 500ml	£2.90	£3.48
Provimi Shepherdess Milk Powder 5kg	£12.99	£15.59

If there is something specific that you require which is not listed here, please call the practice as we may be able to order it in for you.

Vimco

In October we held a meeting to discuss Vimco, a new vaccine from HIPRA that can reduce the incidence of both clinical and sub-clinical mastitis in both sheep and goats. Dams that suffer from mastitis are unable to rear their progeny and often have to be culled as a consequence of the udder function not returning. The lambs cost more to rear and are later to finish. Dams that are used for milking have a reduced output, and all disease can result in reduced fertility.

The vaccine developed by HIPRA prevents against the common forms of mastitis. It requires each animal to have 2 injections; the first injection 5 weeks before parturition, and the second injection 3 weeks later. The total cost per animal is around £5.00 but please phone and ask Rosie for precise costings depending on deals on offer.

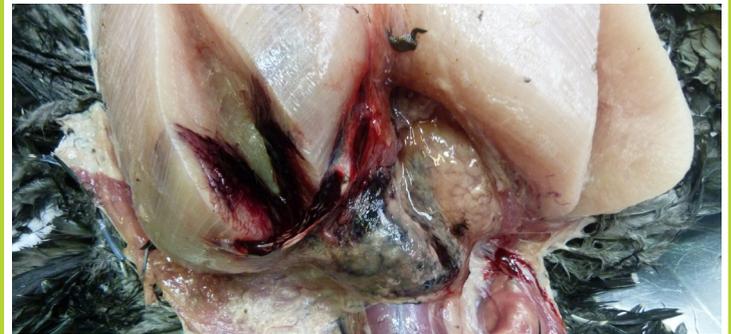


Update from the Pathology Lab ...

Myopathy is a disease of the muscle in which the fibres do not function properly. Exertional myopathy (not nutritional myopathy/white muscle disease) was diagnosed in an 18-month-old female turkey presenting with ataxia (a lack of co-ordination), malaise (general discomfort) and a wide legged stance. It was the second to show similar signs in a month in a small group of seven turkeys.

At post mortem there was a large 2 cm round blood clot occupying space in the anterior left pectoral muscle, and associated haemorrhage tracking into and around the thoracic inlet. There were patchy white streaks and occasional larger areas of pale white muscle in the pectoral and hind leg muscles. Histological examination confirmed severe extensive acute myopathy in the pectoral muscles and a milder myopathy in the limb muscles. The heart muscle was spared, and the changes were typical of exertional myopathy as seen when birds flap their wings excessively due to stress or handling. In this situation, the submitted bird was smaller than cohorts and bullying was thought to be a factor as these birds were kept in a reasonably small pen.

The images below show a large area of focal haemorrhage in the left pectoral muscle and pale areas in the hind leg muscles.



Red Tractor Meeting Round Up

Thanks to everyone that joined us in November for our meeting which updated clients on the responsible use of medicines, including an update from vet Andrea about what is new in the world of antimicrobial resistance and what this means to farmers.

We had a great attendance, perhaps due to the pizza and beer on offer! Clients who attended were given a certificate of competence, a new requirement from the Red Tractor scheme.

We hope that everyone learnt something about antibiotic use in the agriculture sector. We had a great time seeing everyone and particularly the competitive enthusiasm during the quiz!

Farm Animal Practice Events - at Langford Vets

<p>6th February 7pm</p> <p>Sheep</p>	<p>Ewe Metabolics</p>	<p>As lambing approaches it is important that farmers are aware of possible metabolic diseases that may affect ewes at this time. These diseases can vary in effect, resulting in reduced productivity and in extreme cases loss of the animal. The aim of the evening is to cover not only how to treat these diseases, but more importantly how to prevent the diseases.</p> <p>There will also be a reminder of the importance of vaccinating your sheep at this time of year, including the essential diseases that can be prevented by using appropriate vaccination protocols.</p>
<p>20th March 7pm</p> <p>Beef & Sheep</p>	<p>Trace Elements</p>	<p>While we all look forward to turning animals out to grass we need to remember that not all grazing is equal, and that deficiencies in trace elements can result in poor production and even disease. Supplementation of trace elements can be done in many ways, but which to use? Equally, over supplementing can be a waste of time, resources and money or even cause toxicity.</p> <p>At this meeting we will discuss what signs you might see if your animals have a deficiency and how we can test for deficiency / toxicity. We will also give you the opportunity to use trace element forage analysis kits prior to the meeting and discuss these with the nutritional consultant at the meeting.</p>
<p>6th April 10am-3pm</p> <p>Alpaca owners £50 each</p>	<p>Preparing for your Cria</p>	<p>Alpacas giving birth can be a very stressful experience for both owners and alpacas. This course will talk through how best to prepare your alpacas before they give birth, common problems that occur at birthing, and how to care for neonates. The day will discuss not only what you can do to help your dams and crias, but when is the right time to call a vet to ensure optimal care for your animals.</p>
<p>17th April 12pm-2pm</p> <p>Smallholders</p>	<p>Worming: what you need to think about</p>	<p>It's important as vets to never over-look common diseases that can affect both young and old animals. At this time of year an increase in youngstock, who have poor immune systems, often leads to overstocking; meaning that parasite numbers increase exponentially. The meeting will discuss the common parasites your flocks and herds may encounter, how we can treat the problems, and more importantly how we can prevent them. The meeting will include going over the latest SCOPs principles which should be utilised by all flocks in order to reduce the level of parasite resistance in a cost effective manner.</p>
<p>22nd May 7pm</p> <p>Dairy</p>	<p>Disease Surveillance</p>	<p>Disease outbreaks among farm animals can cause significant economic damage. There are many diseases we can test for to check what is affecting your stock and this talk aims to cover what, when and how to test for these and how accreditation schemes could help you maximise sales of animals to potential buyers.</p>
<p>5th June 7pm</p> <p>Sheep</p>	<p>Tupping & Ram Health</p>	<p>Healthy rams are integral to the future of your flock and it important that you get the most from them. Join us as we discuss Breeding Soundness Examination, the importance of good ram fertility and the impact of infertile rams.</p>

If you would like to sign up for our events please call us on 01934 852 650 or book using our website langfordvets.co.uk/events

Farm Animal Practice Opening Hours

Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Telephone:

01934 852 650

24 hour emergency cover

Email us: farmpractice@langfordvets.co.uk

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