

The Lamb Loss Survey 2019

With continuing interest from an increasing number of flocks, we are running our lamb loss survey for the sixth consecutive year.

Why should you be involved if not previously?

- Novel data which can slot straight into your flock health plan
- Being involved in monitoring/benchmarking against other similar flocks
- Interactive meetings pre-tupping!
- Anonymous and only directly shared with your routine vet

- Two flocks saw a 20% reduction in lamb mortality between the first and second year of data inputting and interpretation. Many other flocks also demonstrated reductions.

- **You can't manage what you don't measure**

- ◊ More lambs reared, spreads input costs- more profit per lamb!

Why should you continue to be involved?

- As you continue to accumulate data we can look at trends- is performance improving, or does the data suggest an underlying change?

- Will help keep your flock plan up to date. Data recording is an essential part of Farm Assurance.

- Interactive meetings later in the year



Sheep News

It has been a busy quarter since our last newsletter. Lambing has largely gone well apart from some challenging weekends in April with bad weather and continued scab challenges. We have been running fresh grass mineral analysis on our high risk Cobalt flocks with variable results between farms (speak to your vet to discuss this for your flock). The theme for 2019 so far seems to be "earlier than expected" with early *Nematodirus* spikes and early flystrike. In anticipation of *Haemonchus* favouring the weather we ran our *Haemonchus* evening at Synergy HQ with over 75 in attendance. A solitary bread roll remained. Our prices for fly control are competitive



so please see dispensary details below. There are also some price advantages to early purchasing of Toxovax to minimise the autumn rush. Lastly, this newsletter is a very special one for the Sheep Team @Synergy will be lots of goodies to be won (including a lucky dip with a launch of our new sheep logo- hopefully recognisable as a Poll Dorset and symbolising our pride in working with flocks in the South West. We look forward to seeing you on stand 75 in the field at the NSA South West event. Cake has been ordered and there



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Synergy Farm Health Benchmarking 2019

Please complete the following form for your flock and return to us by the **1st September 2019**. Please don't give percentages as it will complicate our calculations. Results will be presented as percentages so that flocks are anonymous.

Your name and farm name: _____

Indoor or outdoor lambing? (please circle)

Month of lambing: _____

Total number of ewes to the tup	
Total number of rams	
Total number of ewes scanned as singles	
Total number of ewes scanned as twins	
Total number of ewes scanned as triplets	
Total number of ewes scanned as quads	
Total number of barren ewes at scanning	
Total number of ewes who aborted	
Number of lambs at end of lambing i.e. tailing, turnout	
Total number of lambs weaned	
Age of weaning	
Total number of ewes died between tupping and weaning	
Total number of rams died between tupping and weaning	

Definitions

Abortions: the loss of a pregnancy before full term i.e. in comparison with lambs dying during lambing. Please record the number of ewes who aborted.

Haemonchus Evening Round Up



Given the challenges some of our flocks faced with *Haemonchus* during the extended 2018 summer, we felt it was a worthy topic for our Team Sheep summer campaign meeting. The earliest case of *Haemonchus* we diagnosed within the practice last year was in the first week of May, so an end of April meeting was set to get us all up to speed. Following the success of last year's Sheep Scab Evening, this year's meeting took a very similar format, with groups moving through interactive stations and finishing with fantastic hog roast, provided by 'Posh Pigs'. We were incredibly fortunate

that Hannah Vineer, expert parasitologist from the University of Liverpool was able to join us and fill us in on the latest understanding of this clever little gut worm. A huge thank you must also go to our three sponsors: Ceva, Norbrook and Zoetis for their support.

We had over 75 in attendance, thank you to everyone who came along. For those who couldn't attend (some were lambing some were stuck on tractors) the take home messages from the evening were:

- ✓ *Haemonchus* or Barber Pole Worm is a gut worm affecting sheep, but also other ruminants, particularly camelids
- ✓ It is a blood sucking parasite so can cause: anaemia, lethargy, weight loss, bottle-jaw and/or death in **ANY** age of sheep. Scour is not usually a feature of *Haemonchus* infection
- ✓ Diagnosis can be made on post-mortem examination, looking for the worms in the abomasum

(fourth stomach) or by performing faecal worm egg counts

Deciding which individual animals need treatment can be achieved using FAMACHA, which involves looking at the inside eyelid to assess anaemia. Targeted treatment will help to reduce the overall amount of wormer we are using

Quarantine treatment of all incoming sheep is essential to prevent bringing in resistant parasites

For more information please speak to your vet or one of the sheep team.

Supported by

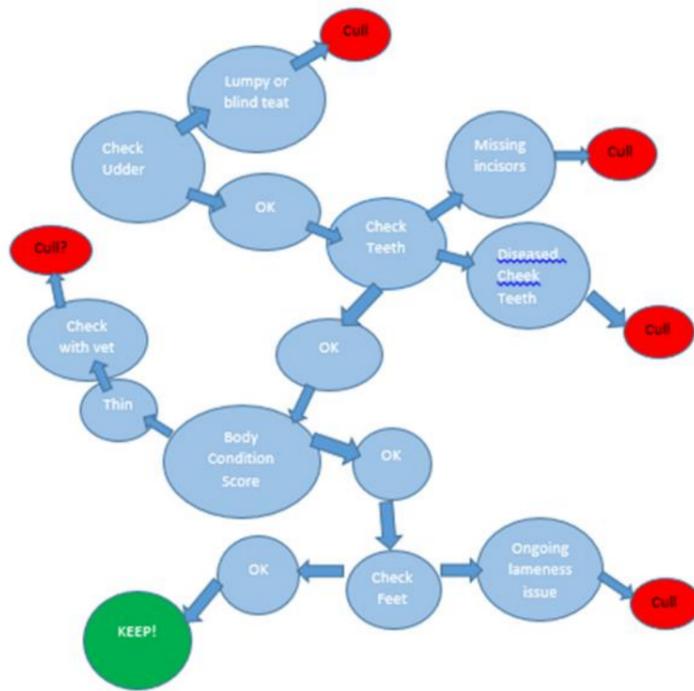
zoetis Norbrook



Charlotte Moulard



Culling Ewes: Decision Making



Culling decisions need to start before a hands on examination of ewes. For example it would be good practice to record ewes that have issues around lambing such as vaginal prolapses, small pelvis, little milk or mastitis. If you don't have individual records for your ewes then it is useful to use a plain colour tag to identify animals in the flock that have had issues. Lameness is another problem that is often easier to identify repeat offenders with tags. The more information you can gather about your ewes the clearer your culling decisions will be.

Clare Eames



Teasers Reminder

Now is the time to get your rams vasectomised ready for tugging! A teaser ram can run with the flock 14 days before tugging to help synchronise the ewes, creating a more compact lambing period. The teasers should be removed and replaced with entire rams. One teaser can run with 100 ewes and more rams may be required to serve all the ewes that ovulating at the same time. Remember to get teasers fertility tested annually to ensure they are still infertile. Ram vasectomies are discounted for members of our **Flock Health Advisory Package**, speak Charlotte on 01935 83682 for more information.



Dispensary News... Quarantine

As you bring replacements into your flock this year, don't forget to quarantine drench them to prevent bringing resistant parasites onto your farm. This needs to include a new generation wormer, a suitable sheep scab and liver fluke treatment and isolation for 3 weeks.

We can dispense individual doses, so the prices for a **90kg ram** would look like...

Zolvix- £1.80 + VAT

Solantel- 54p + VAT

Cydetin 2%- £1.44 + VAT + Dispensing Fee of £5.73

Flock Health Packages

Just a reminder that we have 3 flock packages up and running to suit different flock sizes. These are designed to spread the cost of preventative health care by way of a pay-monthly scheme and allow you to build rapport with one main vet. For more information speak to Emily or Charlotte on 01935 83682.

Meetings and Training

We are committed to our training services for sheep farmers at Synergy and the next quarter is action packed. If interested in any of the below please contact our office to book onto a course (01935 83682).

Please note that some of our upcoming courses are being held at our new centre at Mole Avon, Axminster.

Safe use of Veterinary Medicines for commercial sheep flocks

17th September
10.30—2.30 at Mole Avon, Axminster (£66 + VAT)

"How do we realise full potential from our investments in medicines?" and "How to use them effectively and safely".

It is now a Red Tractor Recommendation that one person from each farm has attended a course on the handling and administration of veterinary medicines.

Our course satisfies this recommendation and is aimed at commercial shepherds and members of the team administering or handling medicines. Lunch included.

Certificate for Flock Plan at end of course

Lameness in Your Flock

8th October **NEW!**
10am—2pm at Mole Avon, Axminster (£66 + VAT)

** For commercial flocks **

Brand new course reviewing the latest advice for infectious and non-infectious causes of lameness. There will be a particular focus on sustainable antibiotic use and how to tailor the AHDB Five Point Plan on Lameness to suit your flock. In the afternoon we will be visiting a nearby sheep farm to practise mobility scoring.

Faecal Egg Counting workshop

FULL 12th June or 10th July
10am—3pm at Evershot (£80 + VAT)

** For commercial flocks **

Back by popular demand, this is a general parasitology course looking at we can reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic resistance in our flocks and control parasites in a sustainable way. Guidance as to what equipment is needed will be given.

Welfare of Sheep and Humane Slaughter Course for Commercial Flocks

Please let us know if you have an interest in attending a Welfare of Sheep and Humane Slaughter Course for commercial flocks. We ran a course last year with the Humane Slaughter Association, which included captive bolt use and maintenance, including a wet-lab practical session. If there is suitable demand we will arrange another course for this year.

Fly Treatment Seasonal Prices

Please seek Veterinary/SQP advice from Synergy Farm Health. Other products available to suit your needs.

Ectofly

Cypermethrin—
200 doses @ 40kg =
3.63p ewe per week

5 Litre
£58

*6-8 week protection. 8 day withdrawal. Excellent for treatment of strike (prevents blowfly only on areas covered by spray).

CLik

Dicyclanil—
142 doses @ 50kg
= 7.75p ewe
per week

5 Litre
£176

*16 week protection. 40 day withdrawal (full body protection)

CLik Extra

Dicyclanil—
138 doses @ 50kg = 7.25p ewe per
week

5 Litre
£190

*19 week protection. 40 day withdrawal (full body protection)

Top Tweets



Prices correct 01/06/2019, all subject to VAT @ 20%. EOE.

Next issue in September