

BEFORE LAMBING

1. BODY CONDITION SCORE

2. FEEDING

3. HEALTH

- ABORTION
- PROLAPSES
- TWIN LAMB

4. EQUIPMENT

- LAMBING PENS
- VET/ MED
- FOSTER CRATES & OTHER EQUIPMENT

DURING LAMBING

LEAVE EWE ALONE TO GET ON WITH IT



**IS SHE HASN'T LAMBED WITHIN ONE HOUR,
DEAL WITH HER**

AFTER LAMBING

THE FOLLOWING TASKS NEED DOING IN ANY LAMBING SHED

LAMBS' NAVELS TO TREAT

EWES' TEATS TO CHECK FOR MILK

PROVIDE WATER TO EWE IN PEN

DOCK LAMBS' TAILS

CASTRATE (optional)

STOMACH TUBE

MISMOTHERING & FOSTERING

BEFORE LAMBING

1. PREPARATION OF EWE FOR LAMBING

BODY CONDITION SCORE

Remember that the score to aim for at lambing is 3 - 3.5

Be observant with those ewes expecting triplets. They are most likely to suffer from TWIN LAMB & may need extra feeding pre- & post lambing.

CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINE BOOSTER

- The Clostridial vaccine is given simply to pass on in the colostrum to the lamb.
 - It needs to be given as a **booster injection** to the ewes about 2 weeks before lambing.
 - It will be passed on to the lambs in the colostrum and last for up to 8 weeks, enough for the lambs to become stronger and able to resist disease.
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- Crutch the ewes if time allows as it makes it easier for lambs to find a teat, especially with ewe lambs. You'd be surprised how much wool a lamb may suck at and fool you into thinking it's sucking the teat.

HOUSING

- Check the ewes have enough space

About 2 m² for a big Mule is best.

- Ensure there are enough individual lambing pens, about 1 for every 10 ewes though this will also depend on how quickly they went to the tup.
- The individual pens must be lamb proof , **especially in the corners**. Lambs will have a habit of escaping and you may finish up with more cases of mismothering than you had bargained for !!

PROLAPSE

There are 3 sorts:

**INTESTINAL
CERVIX**

These 2 always happen BEFORE LAMBING

WOMB

This always happens AFTER lambing

INTESTINAL

Have the ewe put down, if she's not already dead! She pushes out her guts & there's no way you'll get these back..

CERVIX

- Can use string, a plastic "spoon", or a bought belt-type harness, which is probably the most effective. It doesn't enter the ewe (if you fix it right!!!!) & so there's no risk of infection.
- Always colour mark the ewe on her back so she can easily be spotted and be dealt with when she starts lambing.

WOMB

Will happen within 1-2 days after lambing. A bit more serious, but not a vet job if you've seen it done, & know what to do.

You'll need assistance to hold the ewe while one of you gently pushes the womb back in.

The ewe will sometimes die a few days later after you think you've treated her successfully. Usually it's because of delayed aftershock.

ABORTION

- The current advice at present is to cull all ewes that abort because there may be a small amount of residual infection that is passed on.
- There is no way it can be tested for in sheep as it can be in a latent stage and hidden in the sheeps' tonsils.

THERE ARE 3 MAIN TYPES, THOUGH YOU CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE WITHOUT A VETERINARY DIAGNOSIS:

ENZOOTIC

- Passes from sheep to sheep.
- May be advisable to vaccinate all replacements if you don't have a closed flock.
- Vaccinate in the autumn, before tupping.

TOXOPLASMOSIS

- Spread by cats, in particular kittens. They can excrete up to 1 million toxoplasma eggs / day and these can live for up to 500 days! It only takes 100 to cause infection to sheep.

CAMPYLOBACTER

- Spread by bird droppings, so sheep may have got infection from the field, such as where bird droppings have landed on feed troughs.
- Always turn your feed troughs upside down in the field.

TWIN LAMB

SYMPTOMS AND CAUSES

- The main signs to look for are when a ewe does not eat at the food trough. You must act at once or she'll get worse quickly. **At once means the same day!**
- The main cause is a lack of energy.

TREATMENT

- Drench with one of the many propriety brands of "propylene glycol" solution; about 100ml per day, plus all of the following (since they are cheap) :

100ml warmed Calcium / Magnesium Borogluconate solution

Multi- vitamin injection

Vitamin E

Something to stimulate rumen function (can be bought, such as Leocud)

If you do this over several days you may be lucky to save her.

2. LAMBING

- Make sure your finger nails are short for when you have your hand in her womb; if you bite your nails you are forgiven this time!!
- Most ewes will lamb perfectly alright on their own.
- Signs of a ewe lambing include:

Head pointed upwards, straining

Making a noise

Pawing the ground

Lambing Information

Question: How many water bags appear for each lamb and what colour are they?

Answer: 2 bags. 1st = dark red; 2nd = colourless / straw coloured

Question: How long should you leave a ewe whose 2nd water bag has appeared, before you decide to interfere ?

Answer: $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour

PROCEDURE ONCE A EWE HAS FINISHED LAMBING

SEE LAMBING PROTOCOL AT THE END

COLOSTRUM

It cannot be overemphasised how important *colostrum* is to the new born lamb, and especially in the 1ST 6 HOURS OF LIFE.

THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE ANTIBODIES (which came from the Heptavac injection you gave the ewe 2-3 weeks before lambing) WILL PASS FROM THE ABOMASUM INTO THE BLOOD STREAM.

Lambing Information

A LAMB MAY NEED UP TO THIS AMOUNT OF COLOSTRUM IN THE 1st 6 HOURS



$\frac{1}{4}$ PINT

3 kg lamb



$\frac{1}{2}$ PINT

4kg lamb



$\frac{3}{4}$ PINT

5kg lamb

***Rule of thumb for colostrum is 50ml per kg bodyweight
1 pint = 600ml; 150ml = $\frac{1}{4}$ pint***

HOW MUCH COLOSTRUM DOES THE EWE PRODUCE

This depends on the body condition of the ewe which in turn depends on how well she is fed.

The table below shows the approximate quantities produced:

BREED	NUTRITION	NO. LAMBS	COLOSTRUM PRODUCTION			TOTAL
			1 hour	10 hours	18 hours	
Scottish Blackface	Well fed	1	500 ml	500ml	500ml	1500ml
		2	600	600	600	1800
	Under fed	2	150	300	400	850
Suffolk	Well fed	1	600	700	700	2000
		2	800	800	800	2400

Lambing Information

- Remember when thawing colostrum, do it slowly, for example in a container which is surrounded by hot water.
- *Never thaw it in the microwave as the antibodies are destroyed.*

COMPOSITION OF COLOSTRUM (g / litre)

	Fats	Carbohydrate	Protein	Gammaglobulins (Antibodies)
Ewe colostrum	100	35	139	46
Cow's colostrum	53	40	56	27
Lamb Milk powder	77	81	46	0

Conclusion :

Ewe's colostrum is higher in FAT, PROTEIN & ANTIBODIES

EQUIPMENT FOR LAMBING

EQUIPMENT	DRUGS
Baby feeding bottles (for the lambs !!)	Antibiotics LA & SA (see your vet)
Buckets (one per pen)	Antiseptic (Dettol) & disinfectant
Colour aerosols	Calcium borogluconate 20% & 40%
Cotton wool	Curved needle & medicated thread for stitching
Disposable gloves	Dextrose / glucose solution 20% & 40%
Harnesses for prolapses	Glycerine

Lambing Information

Infra red / heat lamps	Iodine (for navels)
Lubricating gel	Liquid paraffin (eg for inverted eyelids eye injection)
Milk powder for lambs	Magnesium sulphate 25%
Needles 18g $\frac{1}{2}$ " & $\frac{3}{4}$ " 21g $\frac{1}{2}$ " & 25g if possible for eye injection	Multi- vitamin bottle
Paper & ordinary towels	Pessaries (antibiotic) eg "Utocyl"
Rubber rings for tail docking	Propylene glycol solution for "twin lamb"
Rubber teats & tubes (for orphan lambs)	Terramycin spray
Soap	Vit E
Stomach tube	Worm drench
Syringes: 2ml 5ml 10ml 20ml 50ml	
Thermometer	
Warming box	

LAMBING PROTOCOL

1. Every ewe lambing must be seen to ensure lambs do not drown in birth fluids.
2. Check time when water bags first appear. If she hasn't lambed within 45 minutes do something / seek assistance.

Once ewe has finished lambing do the following in this order straightaway:

- MOVE EWE & LAMB(S) TO MOTHERING PEN
- SWAB LAMBS' NAVELS WITH IODINE
- CHECK EWE HAS MILK (SQUEEZE TEATS; helps to break seal) IF TEATS ARE TOO BIG FOR LAMBS , MILK OUT FOR 2-3 DAYS & THEY'LL GRADUALLY GO DOWN TO NORMAL SIZE.
- INJECT $\frac{1}{2}$ ML ENGIMYCIN SUB- CUTANEOUS IN LAMB (TO PREVENT WATERY MOUTH , & DEATH !!)

Lambing Information

BE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MIS-MOTHERING WHERE 2 EWES (OR MORE !!) ARE LAMBING CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. WITH ALL THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN THE LAMBING SHED, THERE SHOULD BE NO MIS-MOTHERING AT ALL.

3. Observe lambs are suckling within an hour of birth.
4. If in doubt, stomach tube the lambs with colostrum.
5. Monitor ewe & lambs over the next 12 hours regularly.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- CHECK EWES & LAMBS REGULARLY TO ENSURE LAMBS ARE SUCKLING & EWE HAS MILK.
- CHECK THAT NO MIS-MOTHERING HAPPENS