

Wednesday 25th February at 7pm

Location: Ddole Road Veterinary Clinic
5a, Ddole Enterprise Park, Ddole Rd
Enterprise Park, Llandrindod Wells LD1
6DF

Buffet will be provided

TOPICS FOR THE EVENING:

- Lambing 5 Point Plan
- Importance of protecting neonatal gut microbiome
- New product introduction, Forte Healthcare, ArkGuard Lamb
- Results of ArkGuard 2025 Field Study

Register Now – 01597 822044



All welcome:

**Lambing Meeting-
Wednesday 25th
February
@ Ddole Road Vets
7 pm for food, meeting
starting 7:30 pm.
Kindly sponsored by
Forte Healthcare.**

**We will be discussing:
5 point plan for lambing
and preventing lamb
losses.**

**Responsible use of
antibiotics.**

Update on Bluetongue

Update on Animal

Health Improvement Cycle

And Arkguard, a new immunoglobulin treatment to prevent Watery mouth/diarrhoea in lambs.

Please phone the office, 01597-822044 to RSVP by Monday 23rd.



Sustainable farming scheme-Animal Health Improvement Cycle.

We are ready in the practice, with 3 vets trained to delivery Universal action 12. There are 2 main parts to UA12. The first is the Animal Health Improvement Cycle(AHIC) and the second is a biosecurity actions for incoming stock and animal welfare.

The basis of the AHIC, is to measure, plan, act and review. You will choose 2 actions(production health metrics) and what you want to improve on farm.

Examples of Production Health Metrics(PHM) that can be used include: reducing sheep lameness, increasing scanning rate in the flock, increased lambs sold off farm, Calving %, calving intervals, increase in weaning weight in suckler calves, reduction % pneumonia treatments in bucket calves.

In order to be able to complete the AHIC, it is important before you schedule a meeting, that you decide on a health metrics-PHM, and have some figures that we can work through.

Once these actions have been set, a plan will be set for the year, and further meeting arranged before of the end of the 12 month cycle to review progress on farm. The AHIC is not assessed by the Welsh Government, so there is no penalty if you do not improve you health metrics-PHM, but will review and then reassess for a further year.

There is also a Biosecurity assessment for cattle and sheep that needs to be completed-YES separate form again!

We are hoping there will be some integration with FAWL-Farm Assured Welsh livestock, but this has not happened as of yet. We are also hoping for a central cloud based platform that all these documents can be uploaded for you. Hopefully there will be updates in the next few months with improvements to UA-12. Please phone and talk to a vet, and we can answer any questions you have.



Scabigard :

We will have plenty of stock and applicators for this season and are hoping for a further delivery next week. Please phone the office, and place your orders early.

Scabigard is live vaccine that protects against Orf virus infection in ewes and lambs.

Orf is a highly contagious condition caused by a parapox virus which leads to painful pustules and scabs around the mouth and nostrils of lambs (and the udder and teats of ewes). Lambs usually pick up the virus from their mothers or from other lambs. Pain from the pustules, especially those that have infected the inside of the mouth, can prevent a lamb from feeding and young lambs can die from dehydration and starvation if not picked up quickly.

Orf is transmissible to humans and can be extremely painful, so it is important to take care when managing affected sheep and lambs.

Vaccination programmes are available for flocks that have had experience of orf, although isolation of affected animals and eradication of the disease is likely to be the best long-term approach.

Cevac Chlamydia-Special Offer.



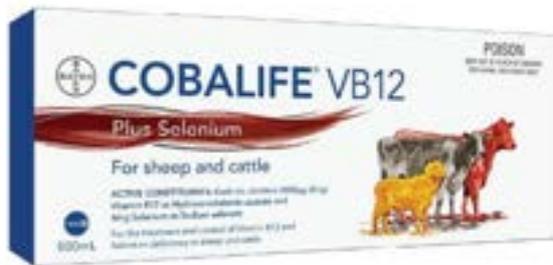
We are running a special offer for abortion vaccine-Cevac Chlamydia 20 and 50 dose packs, all packs have an Expiry date of 01/04/2026. And there is limited availability.

Please note Cevac Chlamydia is a live vaccine, that can only be used in non-pregnant ewe lambs.

Price: Cevac Chlamydia-20 dose- £35+VAT

Cevac Chlamydia 50 dose-£87.50+VAT

Cobalife B12 and Selenium



We are now stocking Cobalife B12 as a replacement for Troy B12.

But for this spring have Vitamin B12 plus selenium for lambs at marking/weaning, providing B12 and selenium as a long acting injection. It is important to know your selenium status, before using B12 plus selenium, because too much selenium can be toxic. Selenium status can be check through blood

testing lambs or ewes.

Dose Rates as follows:

Lambs: 0.5mL at marking or weaning

Sheep: 1 - 1.5mL pre-lambing

Calves: 2 - 3mL from 2 months of age

Cattle: 4 - 6mL pre-calving

Dose by subcutaneous injection only.

Dose frequency should relate to the severity of the deficiency.

E.g. in extremely deficient areas, repeat dose every 2 - 3 months. In less deficient areas, repeat dose every 5 - 6 months or as necessary.

Please contact the office if you are interested in this product.

With lambing drawing closer- we look at few sheep issues-including testing available for barren ewes, diagnosing abortion in your flock, preventing listeriosis and controlling lameness and infectious eye issues.

Barren ewes – what causes barren ewes?

Nutritional- selenium deficiency and poor nutrition, limited grass, leads to low body condition score when turn to the ram.

Fluke- fluke damage-either acute or chronic fluke- ewes will not cycle or if get pregnant will not sustain pregnancy. **We are seeing increased cases of acute fluke in the last few weeks, with ewes suddenly losing condition and dieing.**

Toxoplasma- will result in higher level of barren ewes

Border disease virus

Infertility in rams



Diagnosis of the cause of barren ewes is through:

Fluke and worm egg counts, testing for triclabendazole resistance and worm drench resistance

Blood tests: Protein levels, GGT (liver enzymes), selenium and copper levels, toxoplasma and border disease antibodies

Trace element blood testing the following year, 1-2 months pre-tupping

Fertility testing rams

MSD/CEVA are sponsoring a Barren Ewe Check in 2026, blood samples can be taken from up to 8 unvaccinated ewes that are barren or aborted. Ewes can be blood tested for up to 4 months post abortion, so if you don't have time in the middle of lambing, mark the ewes and remember to blood test before going to market.

Abortion can be caused a both viral and bacterial infection- rates above 2% are significant.



Enzootic abortion-caused by bacterial infection, Chlamydia Abortus, causes abortion in last 4 weeks of pregnancy, dead stinky lambs, sometimes ewes will die if don't abort foetuses, also a cause of weak lambs at birth.

Toxoplasma abortion- protozoal infection that can affect any stage of pregnancy- so causes barren ewes, but also abortion in late pregnancy, lambs often look normal, can get white granular thickening on placenta.

Campylobacter- bacterial infection spread by carrier sheep and wildlife, abortion occurs in the last 2 months of pregnancy.



Salmonella- bacterial infection often spread by carrier sheep or wildlife, abortion in last 2 months of pregnancy.

Listeriosis- is a bacterial infection from poorly preserved silage, causes abortion often seen alongside ewes with clinical listeriosis (head tilt, etc)

Border Disease- is a virus that causes barren ewes, abortion and hairy shakers

Schmallenberg Virus/SBV- is a virus that will cause abortions in later pregnancy often associated with foetal deformities.

Bluetongue Virus- exposure to unvaccinated pregnant ewes, may cause abortion and deformed lambs

Diagnosis of abortion

1. Collect placenta with cotyledons and aborted lambs- bring both to your vet and we will collect samples we need.

2. Blood testing: enzootic/toxoplasma/SBV and border disease, timing critical depending on problem- barren ewes should be blood tested January/February, aborted ewes April/May



In 2026 CEVA are offering free testing for enzootic abortion on placentas. If you do not vaccinate and are having an abortion issue, please contact the office about samples.

Treatment and Prevention:

1. Must isolate all aborted ewes, dispose of aborted lambs and placenta and disinfect the area.

2. **Long acting oxytetracycline (Alamycin LA) only works to treat enzootic abortion, use of long acting antibiotics actually prolongs the time that ewes excrete Chlamydia, meaning more ewes abort next year.**

3. Abortion vaccinate for enzootic abortion/toxoplasma

abortion.

4. Prevent wild birds, starlings getting into feed troughs and clean feeding areas regularly.

5. **Enzootic abortion, toxoplasma abortion, salmonella, campylobacter are ZONOTIC (passes to humans) and are all very dangerous to pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems**

Listeriosis:



Bacterial infection that picked up from poorly preserved silage and soil contamination of feeding areas. We are seeing an increased number of cases of listeriosis this year, because of the muddy conditions.

Causes- sudden death, septicaemia, neurological signs-head tilt, facial paralysis progressing to meningitis

Scour and death-typhlocolitis and abortion.

Treatment: high doses of Penicillin at 2-4 times recommended dose rates-8-10 mls of Ultrapen LA for 60 kg ewe every 48 hours

Avoid feeding poor silage, but remember 3-week incubation period.

Keep feed troughs clean and try to avoid soil contamination.

Foot problems associated with housing ewes:

Housing sheep is the perfect environment for rapid spread of both scald/footrot and CODD in your flock. But also provides the perfect opportunity to treat and control footrot/CODD.

Ways to control:



1. **Use of Footvax vaccine, 1 month pre-housing to boost immunity against the bacteria that cause footrot and scald.**
2. **Quarantine lame sheep into pens.** These sheep can then be treated with antibiotics- Alamyacin LA, Betamox LA, Zactran/ Tulaven, mark and isolate treated sheep to lame pens.
3. Footbath rest of sheep on entry to the shed
4. Keep bedding dry, plenty of straw and lime to increase pH and kill bacteria, make sure water troughs are not leaking.

Eye Problems in ewes: there are 3 main causes of eye problems



Periorbital Eczema-Caused by bacteria Staph Aureus, causes hair loss and infection around eyes.

Pink eye- caused by a bacteria, Mycoplasma, causes red and watery eyes.

Uveitis- caused by a bacteria Listeriosis, causes cloudy, red eyes and leads to blindness.

Increased eye conditions in pregnant ewes for several reasons:

Suppressed immune systems

Close head-to-head contact of sheep during feeding from troughs/ring feeders both outside and in sheds.

Poor weather, high winds, snow and rain.

Listeriosis from poorly preserved silage.

Treatment and prevention of eye issues:

Try to isolate affected ewes- mycoplasma highly infectious and spreads rapidly.

Spread out feeding areas, limit head to head contact.



Looking forward to next month, keeping ewes in good body condition score for strong lambs and adequate colostrum is vital.

Blood testing sheep in late pregnancy helps to prevent metabolic problems in sheep and to help access adequate protein and energy, magnesium and calcium in diet.

A Pre-lambing profile blood test, which allows for adjusting the nutrient content of sheep rations based on blood results.

The bloods will be analysed for: Energy: BHB, Protein: Albumin,

Urea N, Minerals: Magnesium and calcium.

Timing:

Ideally blood sampling should be done 2-3 weeks before lambing is due to start.

Earlier than this, sheep are not yet in the high-risk period and so there is the potential that some energy problems could be missed. If the ewes are sampled later than this the opportunity to make nutritional adjustments for the benefit of the flock are limited.

Which sheep to sample: Groups of no less than five sheep in each category (triplet, twin and single carriers) should always be sampled.

The standard test encourages submission of samples from 20 sheep. Blood testing is still of benefit in flocks that do not scan as the same principles apply.

If you are interested in blood sampling your sheep pre-lambing, please phone the office.

As little as possible, but only as much as necessary

With the continuing requirement across the UK livestock industry to reduce the use of antibiotics, the blanket use of long-acting antibiotics to control abortion in ewes and the use of oral antibiotics in young lambs is an area we have been working hard to move away from as a practice.



We realise that antibiotic use is essential for the treatment and prevention of certain infectious bacterial diseases in both animals and humans alike. But with every use of an antibiotic on farm we are increasing the risk of selection of resistant bacteria.

We therefore need to be aware of the risks of unnecessary antibiotic use, leading to untreatable bacterial disease (multi-resistant bacteria) in both animals and humans.

We will ask you with every dispense, what you are using the antibiotics for. You will also get advice about how to limit the use of antibiotics.

#ColostrumIsGold