

CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP
FARM NEWSLETTER JANUARY
2015

Sheep Notes

Excitingly, we have already had our first ewe caesarean of the lambing period. This has got us thinking about the cost of caesareans and when it is economically worthwhile.

On average our ewe caesareans cost £100 ex vat and with an average fat lamb killing out at £80 per carcass it can be apparent that with one live lamb and a live ewe to breed again you can cover the cost of the caesarean. The ideal candidate for a caesarean would be a young ewe with healthy live lambs. However this is not always the case with the ewes which are presented to us; if the ewe has rotten lambs then we would advise against a caesarean as it presents a higher risk of post-operative peritonitis. Ewes have longer to recover from the operation than cows and therefore it does not tend to impact on their fertility. Each lambing case is individual and we would be happy to discuss the best options available.

Even though lambing season is in full swing for some of you it is worth noting that pre-lambing blood sampling of ewes may be worthwhile. The metabolic screening would look at energy and protein levels of your ewes and would cost around £57.75 for half a dozen ewes plus the time to take the bloods. We would recommend testing typical ewes bearing doubles or triples to get a good representation of your farm. We would advise blood sampling around 4 weeks before lambing as this is when the correct nutrition is vital and can improve lamb birth weights and ewe colostrum production which will subsequently improve their viability and growth rates. Please phone us to discuss the options for your flock.

Beef Notes

We are carrying out lots of pregnancy checks on the suckler cows. Luckily due

to the good weather we are finding a very low barren rate in our beef herds and some farms have been fortunate to find out all their cows are in calf!

In fact herds may be able to tighten their calving pattern by selling their late calving cows, if they have heifers coming in to the herd. This is a year when the bull's fertility is often the limiting factor.

We would recommend fertility testing bulls approximately eight weeks before you are putting them in as this will provide enough time to re-test or source another bull. By doing this we can find out if there is a problem before getting a lot of barren cows at the PD session and help to shorten your calving period. We still have some herds to check and the sooner we do this, the sooner we can pull out the barren cows so it will prevent feeding and housing costs over the winter period.

Dairy Notes

As cows are now housed it is worth remembering the risks of mastitis. The 5 point plan was first formulated in the 1960s, which several of you will probably be able to recite off memory.



1. Early detection and treatment
2. Teat disinfection as soon as possible after cluster removal.
3. Maintain a properly functioning milking machine
4. Dry cow therapy all cows all quarters
5. Cull chronic cases

The average cost of treating a case of mastitis is around £250-300 with mild cases costing £80. This time of year many cases are environmental in origin. It must be noted that pre-dipping can be very effective at controlling environmental pathogens and removing calves soon after birth will reduce the risk of mastitis.

Special Offers

The following products can be ordered in on request:

Dairy Farmers

Eprizero pour on (contains Eprinomectin) will treat worms and lungworm

ZERO MILK WITHDRAWAL

May increase milk yield by up to 2 litres per cow, per day



SPECIAL CASH PRICES:

250ml = £21.00 Ex Vat

1 litre = £80.00 Ex Vat

2.5 litres = £175.00 Ex Vat

5 litres = £310.00 Ex Vat

Endospec 10% oral drench (contains Albendazole) will treat gutworm, lungworm, tapeworm and ADULT liver fluke with the added bonus of Cobalt and Selenium

Cattle fluke & worm dose: 1ml/10kg

SHORT WITHDRAWALS

Cattle - Milk 60hrs Meat 14 days



SPECIAL CASH PRICES:

2.5 litres = £46.63 Ex Vat

5 litres = £79.34 Ex Vat

10 litres = £109.27 Ex Vat

Beef Farmers

Closamectin pour on (contains Closantel + Ivermectin) will treat immature and adult fluke (7 wks+), worms and external parasites

ONLY 28 DAY MEAT WITHHOLD

SPECIAL CASH PRICE:

4 litres = £323.60 Ex Vat

PLUS receive a voucher for £40 back



Beef & Sheep Farmers

Endofluke oral drench (contains Triclabendazole) will treat early immature, immature and adult liver fluke

Cattle dose: 6ml/50kg

Sheep dose: 1ml/10kg

Withdrawals: Meat - Cattle & Sheep 56 days

SPECIAL CASH PRICE:

2.5 litres = £66.00 Ex Vat



Lambing Live

Join us on Wednesday 28th

January 6pm-8pm at Dunns

Farm, Boyton, by courtesy

of Penny Coulter-Smith.

Lambing Live is a course

which aims to give beginners a

confidence boost as lambing

approaches. The highlight of the

evening is learning how to assist with a

difficult lambing using our lambing

simulator. Other practical skills include

how to castrate, tag and tail dock lambs.

The sheep at the farm will be lambing

all around us in the shed so we often

have a chance to intervene in a real

lambing.

Please phone the practice on 01566

772371 and speak to Sami or Jo to book

your place. The cost is £20 per person

(£15pp for Smallholder's Club

members)



Send a Cow

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