



# Tysul Vets Newsletter

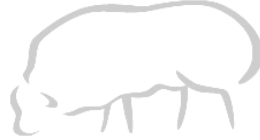
## January 2016

### January 2016 NADIS Parasite Forecast

#### CHRONIC LIVER FLUKE

##### Sheep

- This winter has been predicted to be a high risk year and farmers must ensure they implement control measures.
- The peak of chronic disease is seen in the late winter and early spring.
- Not all sheep will demonstrate the classic “bottle-jaw” appearance.
- Disease may have effects on fertility with lower lambing percentages and a higher barren rate.
- Care must be taken to reduce reliance on triclabendazole by use of other products where appropriate and putting husbandry measures in place.
- Closantel and nitroxynil are highly effective against immature flukes from 7 weeks of age and can be used for treatment of fascioliasis.
- If possible, move sheep to “clean pastures”



##### Beef Cattle

- Cattle with chronic fluke will typically show signs of chronic weight loss and diarrhoea.
- Un-dose beef cattle grazing possibly infected pastures should be checked now for presence of fluke eggs in faeces.
- Over 25% of livers in slaughterhouses are condemned due to fluke damage.

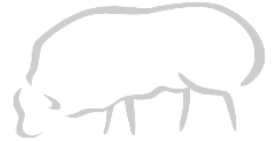


##### Parasitic Gastroenteritis

- Watch out for parasitic gastroenteritis (pge) in store lambs and ewe lambs.
- Monitor faecal egg counts to assess the need to treat out wintered lambs.

##### Lice in Sheep

- Populations of lice are highest during the winter.
- Spread from sheep to sheep occurs by close contact and infestations are commonplace in most flocks
- Topical cypermethrins and deltamethrins are commonly used. These are best applied to freshly shorn sheep, so if an outbreak occurs in housed flocks consider winter shearing.



### Hands on Lambing Evening – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 7.00pm Tysul Vets

**Would you like some experience or practice at the hands on jobs needed during lambing?**

We are holding a practical evening which will include tuition and guidance as you have a go at correcting problem lambings, stomach tubing lambs, giving intra-peritoneal glucose injections and harnessing vaginal prolapses.

There will also be a short talk on problems around lambing e.g. twin lamb disease, metritis, joint and naval ill, and neonatal diarrhoea. This is a great chance for you to chat to our vets about any problems which you may envision and for us to answer any questions which you may have. There will also be opportunity to stock up on any equipment or drugs which you may need.

Please phone us on **01559 363318** to book a place or email Shirley at [tysulvets@gmail.com](mailto:tysulvets@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you. Suitable for beginners and those who feel a refresher would be useful

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Alan Griffiths a former Partner at Tysul Vets, who passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Our condolences to his family. Another of Llandysul's great characters and a loss to the community.



## Lambing List

By Liz Harries, BVSc, MRCVS

Lambing can be stressful time for both sheep and farmer and being prepared is vital to ensure you have all the bits and pieces required. Below is a list of essential items that it is worth having together in a tray or box so that they are easily to hand.

### Equipment Box:

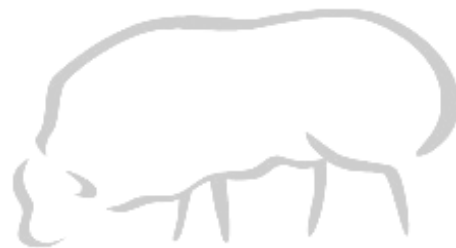
- Obstetrical Gel/Lube
- Long Sleeved Gloves,
- Iodine Spray
- Lambing Snare
- Selection of needles and syringes
- Heat Lamp with spare bulb
- Marker Spray
- Terramycin spray
- Lamb Stomach Tube
- Bottles with nipple teats and larger teats.
- Thermometer
- Rubber rings and elastrator
- Halter
- Disinfectant
- Hibiscrub
- Box For Warming/Holding Lambs
- Lamb Rain Covers

### Other Important Items to Have:

- Supply of frozen ewes colostrum/ commercial colostrum powder
- Powdered Milk Replacer
- Milton Sterilising Tablets

### Medicines Box (to be used after discussion/examination by vet):

- Long Acting Antibiotics
- Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories
- Scourhalt
- Calcium
- Glucose
- Electrolytes e.g. Effydryl tablets, lectade.
- Twin Lamb Drench/Propelyne Glycol



## “Silage eye” in cattle – Bovine Iritis

By Annwen Richards, BVSc, MRCVS

### Cause:

Commonly associated with bacterial infection caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*. There are some other less common causes e.g. trauma, septicaemia and malignant catarrhal fever.

*Listeria* is present in the soil. *Listeria* can grow and multiply in bales contaminated with soil and/or bales where the wrapping has been breached several days before feeding.

When silage is fed in troughs and ring feeders, cows often bury their heads into the bale. Silage can also fall into the eyes when fed from raised hayracks and when winds are blowing dust/silage around the sheds/fields.

**Clinical signs:** Typically seen in one eye, rarely both.

*Ocular Discharge* Excessive tear staining, runny eyes. Discharge from eye(s) starting as clear discharge and may progress to thick white/yellow discharge if the cornea is involved.

*Blinking and closure of eyelids* In response to pain and will appear more painful when exposed to direct light/sunlight

*Opacity of eye* The front chamber of the eye appears blue/white/yellow as pus develops

*Redness* Blood vessels appear on the surface of the eye and as deeper “hedges” around the eye

### Treatment:

Topical, subconjunctival and systemic antibiotics such as oxytetracyclines can be effective. As this is a painful condition systemic antiinflammatories can help to make the animal more comfortable and reduce swelling and inflammation. Left untreated the eye will take several weeks to heal and vision may be severely impaired during this time and in the long term.

Please seek veterinary advice regarding treatment.

### Control:

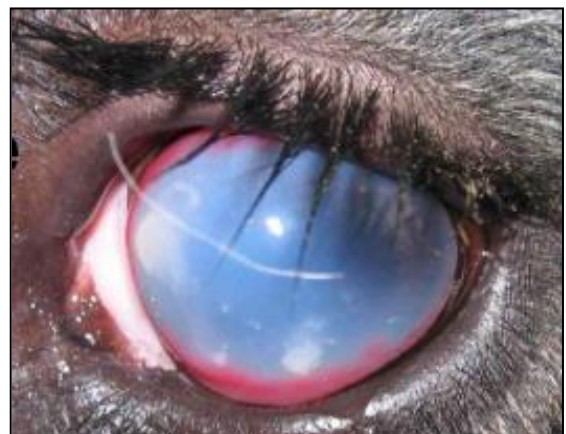
Feeding big bale silage is the biggest risk for “Silage eye” therefore where possible feed clamp silage.

If feeding big bale try to reduce contamination of silage during baling.

Inspect big bales regularly and repair any perforations to the wrap as soon as noticed.

Where possible, roll out baled silage rather than placing in ring feeders.

Install windbreakers to reduce draughts in sheds  
Place silage in troughs whilst cattle are closed away from the feed space



## Barren ewes ( by Helen Phillips, VetMB BA MRCVS)

With the poor lamb prices last year, we need to reduce lamb losses to try to get as many lambs to mart. A third of overall lamb losses occur between tupping and scanning.

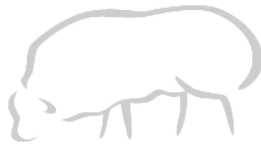
If you are looking at a barren rate of 2-3% or more, then you need to investigate to try to stop this loss next year.

### Causes of barren ewes

- Ewes can be barren at scanning for various reasons: they never conceived or they reabsorbed the lambs early in pregnancy

#### 1. Nutrition

- Very thin ewes can have difficulty conceiving as they do not cycle as well
- If there is poor food supply in early pregnancy this can lead to absorption of the lambs



#### 2. Trace elements

- Low levels of selenium is the most common deficiency associated with early loss of pregnancy

#### 3. Rams

- If you have very high barren levels: don't forget the boys
- It may be that one ram wasn't performing as well or that there was not enough rams power for your ewes (particularly important if you are synchronising)

#### 4. Infectious disease (Most common cause of increased barren rates)

- We often think of infectious disease causing abortions but certain infections can cause losses before scanning, resulting in a higher barren rates
- Toxoplasmosis
  - Can cause losses at any stage through the pregnancy
  - 70% of UK flocks have been exposed

- Most common cause of increased barren rates
- Oocyst shed by young cats: in straw, feed and on grazing
- "See barren ewe check at the end of this article"
- More information about control in next month's newsletter

#### b) Borders disease

- This is the disease that is better known for causing "Hairy Shaker" lambs
- If the ewe is exposed early in pregnancy to the virus then it can result in reabsorption of the pregnancy
- Disease often seen when replacement ewes bring disease in, in the autumn. Ideally buy in and mix ewes well before tupping to reduce the effect of this disease

### Barren ewe check: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

- 6-8 blood samples from barren/aborted ewes
- You pay for blood sampling
- Free test for toxoplasmosis: Know if your flock is exposed, so you can prevent these losses in the future
- You can pay for additional trace element tests as well
- To qualify for this scheme you must have:
  - More than 100 breeding ewes
  - A barren rate of 2% or higher
  - No recent history of vaccinating against toxoplasma

***If you would be interested in making the most of this scheme then please contact u on 01559 363318s.***

**Next month: Causes of abortion and abortion investigation**