

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

Isolation and quarantine procedures in sheep

Hereford market has been bustling over the past few weeks with high numbers of store lambs and breeding stock going through the doors.



With this in mind it is important to consider an effective isolation and quarantine protocol for any incoming sheep onto your farm, whether

these be direct from other farms, through the market or any of your own sheep that have been grazed away from home. Incoming sheep act as a potential source of resistant worms, fluke infection and other infectious diseases such as CODD, orf and CLA.

Selection of purchased animals

Ideally sheep should be purchased from flocks with a known health history, disease and vaccination. Limit purchases to ewe lambs and yearlings, not older sheep. Please speak to a member of the team if you would like more advice on fly control products.

Isolation

Quarantine new arrivals for a minimum period of 3 weeks, ideally 30 days. This means no shared or community grazing. Also ensure sheep cannot make contact with neighbours animals through fencing, double fence if necessary. If pregnant sheep have been purchased these should be kept isolated until after lambing, to limit the spread of abortion bugs.

Quarantine treatments

All purchased animals pose a risk of introducing multiple anthelmintic (wormer) resistance on to the farm and fluke infection into naïve flocks. As a result, introduced sheep of any age should be treated sequentially with a Group 3 – ML (clear drench and either a Group 4 – AD (Zolvix) and Group 5 – SI (Startect). Animals should be drenched and kept in a yard for 24 – 48 hours to ensure resistant eggs already in the faeces are not dropped onto the pasture. After this turn sheep onto contaminated pasture. A worm egg count performed 2 weeks after treatment can offer confidence that treatment has been

effective. Fluke treatment will depend on the time of year, at this time of year a Triclabendazole containing product is desirable. Dosing against fluke towards the end of quarantine is best to allow development of liver fluke and maximise product efficacy.

Sheep scab

Plunge dipping will kill sheep scab mites and lice within 24 hours and offers residual activity for 4 weeks. Alternatively Moxidectin or Doramectin (Group 3 – ML) injections offer an alternative but multiple injections may be required. Sheep scab has been an issue in markets in this part of the world so be diligent on this one. Speak to us for advice.

Lameness

Footrot & CODD – avoid purchasing older animals as there is a possibility of them being chronic carriers of footrot. Examine feet regularly whilst quarantined and treat affected animals promptly. Footbath 3 times within this period in either 4-5 % formalin or zinc sulphate to reduce chances of disease transmission.

Infectious diseases

Numerous other diseases can be brought in. Accreditation schemes exist to show flocks are disease free – e.g. enzootic abortion and maedi visna. Sheep coming from accredited flock can be assumed disease free due to regular blood testing. Where sheep are sold as vaccinated it is best to assume they have had no vaccines unless you know personally that a good job has been done! Other diseases to consider include Johnes disease, Ovine Pulmonary Adenomatosis and Caseous Lymphadenitis.

If you see something you don't recognise in your bought in sheep during the quarantine period then consult us for more advice.

A reminder about TB testing

With cattle now coming in for winter housing our TB testing diary is starting to fill up quickly.

Please remember to get your tests booked in good time so we can accommodate as many of your requirements as possible.

Our fantastic team of experienced TB testing vets are quick and efficient and if you need to have any clinical work done we can arrange for a clinical vet to attend on day one or day two.

Please contact the office to book in your upcoming TB test

HEREFORD: 01432 351471 • BROMYARD: 01885 488440 • LEDBURY: 01531 806129

Clinical Vets: Dominic Alexander • Will Allman • Mike Bellamy • Andrew Cooke • Nick Gibbon • James Hipperson • Louise Lafin
Hannah Mitchell • Matthew Pugh • Caroline Rank • Ally Reid • Harry Walby • Charlotte Watkins

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz • Petre Balanescu • Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean • Tudor Patcas • Diego Sainz Garcia • Javier Sisamon • Krasimir (Kris) Stefanov

Support staff: Sadie Davies • Michelle Harris • Lucy Hughes • Sybil Legge • Laura Langford • Alice Mainwaring • Ros O'Sullivan • Sophie Powell • Andrea Smith
Pam Strange • Victoria Tully • Millie Whitlock

Diseases found at the Abattoir

Diseases found in cattle and sheep at abattoir often lead to financial loss and condemnation of the meat. A lot of these problems are often avoidable with good management.

English cattle slaughterhouses in 2017	At English sheep slaughterhouses in 2017
247,500 livers were rejected because of liver fluke	751,500 livers were rejected because of <i>Cysticercus tenuicollis</i>
88,500 carcasses had abscesses	721,500 livers were rejected because of liver fluke
87,000 carcasses showed signs of pneumonia/pleurisy	333,000 carcasses showed signs of pneumonia/pleurisy
22,500 carcasses showed signs of bruising and trauma	176,000 sheep had abscesses
	28,000 carcasses were rejected because of <i>Cysticercus ovis</i>

Liver fluke

In 2017, 16.4% of cattle and 7.8% of sheep livers were eliminated from the human food chain due to liver damage due to fluke. Liver fluke will inhibit growth rates and often require longer periods of feeding to get to the correct weight/fitness. Treatments are available but often come with long meat withdrawal. Known wet areas can be fenced off to reduce infection rates.



A fluke damaged liver vs. a healthy liver

If you are having reports from the abattoir of liver fluke damage, speak to one of the vets to discuss a liver fluke program.

Sheep parasites

In 2017, *Cysticercus ovis* was found in 0.30 per cent of sheep (28,000), meaning more than £2.1 million was lost to the English sheep industry. In the same year, 8.1 per cent (751,500) of livers were rejected because of *C. tenuicollis*, costing the industry nearly £563,500.

C. ovis causes multiple cysts throughout the carcass and is caused by the dog/fox tapeworm. This parasite rarely causes disease within the sheep so is difficult to identify prior to slaughter but regular worming of your dogs is recommended.

C. tenuicollis or bladder worms are also caused by tapeworms with damage seen due to migrating worms through the liver. Large numbers can cause disease within the sheep such as liver problems and dropped immunity.

Abscesses

In England in 2017, over 1.9 per cent of sheep carcasses (176,500) and almost 5.9 per cent of cattle carcasses (88,500) contained abscesses. Injecting livestock is a common cause of abscesses, which can form at injection

sites. Using dirty needles, or not correctly administering the injection, can exacerbate the problem. Abscesses must be trimmed out of the carcass, which takes time and reduces meat yield, as well as potentially devaluing the prime cut or carcass. This is particularly common in lamb carcasses, where trimming often results in downgrading. Most abscesses are avoidable if injections are carried out with care, paying particular attention to good hygiene practice.

These figures were taken from AHDB and more can be found looking on the AHDB knowledge library and searching for 'Minimal carcass loses for better returns'.

Getting the most out of pneumonia vaccinations in winter housed cattle

Vaccination against pneumonia is now becoming a widespread practice. September is the best time to start preparing animals for winter housing with this cover. We have two major types of vaccine that we use to protect cattle from viral and bacterial pneumonia.

1. **intranasal vaccines**
2. **injectable vaccines**

The intranasal vaccines are a one-off and give the animal roughly 12 weeks of immunity against the major viruses. The vaccines that are injectable give longer and broader protection in terms of what they cover against. These are usually dependant upon two doses for protection. These doses will generally need 3-4 weeks between them and protection from disease is not properly achieved until at least 7 days after the second dose. Because of this timescale, dairy heifers or beef cattle that are going to be housed in October or later need their first vaccine in September to maximise their effectiveness.

If you have been struggling with housing related pneumonia or want to get more out of the vaccine you are using then please ask to speak to one of the vets.

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