

THE UPDATE

We would like to welcome Jo Card back from maternity leave.

She will be joining Jono and the team at Wantage on a Monday & Thursday.

Good to have you back Jo!

SMALLHOLDERS CORNER

Spring Lambing

It's been nice to have a few sunny days this month, but it means for some of you that lambing is just around the corner. Make sure you're all prepared with iodine for navels, tags and taggers, colostrum powder and rings for tails and castration. Keep a close eye on your ewes if you're lambing indoors for any signs of twin lamb disease such as blindness or collapse. This needs to be treated promptly to save the ewe and there is still a risk she might abort her lambs. Once you start lambing, check your ewes as frequently as possible – if the lambs don't come out very quickly put a clean, lubricated hand in to see what you can feel. You need to have both legs and a head if it's coming forwards or both back legs if it's coming backwards – make sure the legs belong to the same lamb! If you're concerned that it's stuck give us a call as lambs can die very quickly during labour and prolonging labour will also increase the risk to the ewe.

Hopefully everyone will have a productive season without too much trouble!

MEETING

Wednesday 17th April, 7pm Start, @ Wynnstay

Topics:

'**Beefing up fertility**' - CEVA animal health will be talking about how synchronisation programmes can be used to improve breeding efficiency in beef cattle

'**Beef Benchmarking**' - Charlotte will present 2018 calving data collected from some of our beef clients and compare with national averages

'**CHECS TB Information**' - An update on changes to TB testing rules for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and how the new CHECS TB Scheme works.

Refreshments provided, Open to all!

Nematodirus forecast

There is currently a moderate risk of Nematodirus in this area. This means that if similar weather continues, the eggs will be hatching on the pasture in the next 1-2 weeks.

If you're grazing your lambs on the same pasture you used last year there could be a risk.

Nematodirus causes sudden onset watery diarrhoea in lambs and deaths can occur from dehydration.

During this stage of the disease, it is the larvae in the intestine causing the problem so there won't necessarily be any eggs seen in a worm egg count. This is similar to cocci where we won't always see oocysts even if there is a problem.

The eggs can survive on the pasture over winter so even though we've had some snow and cold weather, the eggs are likely to be alive and will begin to hatch as it starts to warm up, causing a moderate risk to your lambs.

Once the lambs reach about 3 months, they are generally more resistant to Nematodirus.

If you're grazing 6-12 week old lambs on pasture you had lambs on last year we would recommend moving them onto clean pasture that hasn't had lambs on it for a couple of years. If this isn't an option then they should be wormed with a white drench.



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NorCal Vets Thame

Pearces Yard, Aylesbury Road, Thame, OX9 3AS
Tel: 01844 260 616
Mob: 07725 039 093 (Evan)
thame@norcalvets.co.uk

NorCal Vets Wantage

Unit 8a Elms Farm Business Park, Grove Road ,
Wantage, OX12 7PD
Tel: 01235 429 767
Mob: 07711 923 909 (Jono)
wantage@norcalvets.co.uk