

January 2026

## Happy New Year !

### **Beef Bench Marking**

The beef bench marking meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th January 6:30pm at Thame Chinnor Rugby Club. During this meeting we will discuss all the data from the questionnaire and highlight any updates for spring calving.

Please ensure that you have completed the questionnaire and sent it back via email or dropped it into the office by the **18th of January**.

### **Pre - Lambing Checklist**

As lambing is fast approaching it is vital that you have all the necessary equipment and drugs ready. The following list highlights essentials items used to reduce disease and help make lambing more efficient:

- Full length gloves
- Lube
- Lambing ropes
- 1:1 solution of iodine and surgical spirit for navels or NoBACZ Navel
- Artificial colostrum (Immunocol) + stomach tube
- Tagging equipment and tags
- Rings for tails and castration
- Heat lamps
- Disinfectant
- Trymox LA
- Pain relief - Emdocam
- Calcibel
- Propylene Glycol or Glycerol drench
- Sensiblex

Please contact us to get your lambing orders in and discuss with the vets when antibiotics may need to be used.

## **Ringwomb**

Ringwomb is a failure of the cervix to dilate. It can be caused by low calcium, malpresentation of the lambs or hormonal imbalance. When the cervix is not open enough to lamb naturally you should administer calcium subcutaneously and sensiblex intramuscularly and wait. After 30-60mins you should manually palpate the cervix to encourage opening. However if it is a true ringwomb it cannot be manually opened and a c-section will be required.

## **Cow Nutrition**

Due to the poor summer we had last year, forage is extremely poor leaving cows in poor body condition. Cows should ideally have a body condition score of  $\frac{3}{5}$  pre calving, however care should be taken that cows don't swing the other way and become too fat as this can cause difficulties at calving.

Cows with a poor body condition should be separated and fed up. Stocking density should be reduced to ensure there is enough space at feed lots for every cow to make sure no cows are getting pushed out.

Bolusing is extremely important this year due to the poor forage quality we have seen on a lot of farms, boluses should be given 4-8 weeks pre calving but is very dependent on the brand used, be sure to check onset and duration of the bolus when administering. If your calving period is spread over the year make sure to check the duration of your boluses and time them with scanning to ensure that the bolus will cover the cows over the calving period and post calving.

## **Vaccine Supply**

As in previous years the supply of Heptavac P is limited, please ensure you get your orders in time ready for pre-lambing vaccinations. Alternatives such as Bravoxin can be used to cover against clostridial diseases however this will not protect against Pasteurella.

## Fluke

As we go into the new year the risk of chronic fluke infections is high due to the mild wet weather we had back in the summer/autumn. Immature fluke thrive in warm moist environments and migrate onto wet herbage where they are ingested. After ingestion the immature fluke migrates to the liver and begin to tunnel through it causing considerable tissue damage. All the time the immature fluke are in the liver the infection is patent, this lasts for 10-12 weeks before the fluke mature and move into the bile ducts. Once they have matured this is when animals start to show signs of chronic fluke infections.

Signs of chronic fluke infections include:

Reduced Growth rates

Diarrhoea

Poor Milk Yield

Bottled jaw

Lethargy

Reduced Appetite

If you suspect fluke a faecal sample should be taken for testing and animals should be treated according to results. Regular sampling should be implemented depending on each individual farm's risk. If you suspect fluke on your farm, please speak to one of us to come up with a management plan.

NorCal Vets

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