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Don't buy in more than you bargained for!

Lots of people will be sourcing new sheep for the flock at this time of year and we're here again with our words of warning about what else your lovely new animals could bring with them! It is essential that you quarantine these new animals for the health of the rest of your flock. While in quarantine they should be fully checked over, monitored for any signs of ill health and any vaccinations completed before they mix with everyone else!

Pay particular attention to the following:

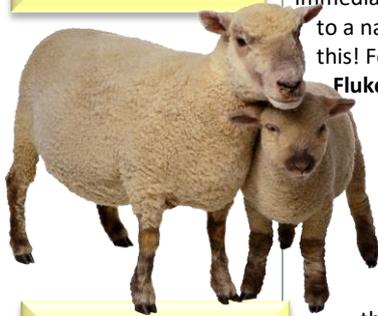
Lameness: New sheep can bring in footrot or CODD. ALL new sheep should have all feet checked and lame sheep immediately treated. Ideally don't accept lame sheep or sheep with deformed feet onto the farm. Farms that buy in CODD to a naïve flock can have up to 40% of the flock affected in the the first year - well worth being strict about feet to stop this! Footbathing regularly during quarantine will stop any problems before they start.

Fluke: Be aware that bought in sheep can bring in fluke and if you don't have fluke, it could arrive! Treat all sheep in quarantine and turn out onto dry pasture

Scab: It is MUCH more cost effective to treat a small number in quarantine than the whole flock and your neighbours later down the line! Lots of sheep now come dipped but if not then treat in quarantine to prevent a whole flock problem!

Worms: This is the time to get the Zolvix or Startect out and use them as a quarantine drench. Sheep should be treated with one of these products BEFORE being turned out and then yarded for a further 24-48hrs after treatment. This ensures that any worm eggs do not make it onto your pasture. After this turn these sheep into their quarantine paddock which should have been grazed by your sheep this year.

Other infectious diseases: Be aware that bought in sheep can bring in a whole host of infectious disease including abortion problems. The health status of your flock is only as good as the worst farm you buy off so be fussy in your choices!



BLAKESLEY SHOW 2017

We're looking forward to a (fingers crossed) beautifully sunny day at Blakesley Show on 5th August and hope you can join us at our stand for some refreshments and of course this year's exciting Towcester Farm Vets Game! After the success of 'Spot Gareth's Ball' and 'Spot Becca's dog Oscar' we're working hard to make sure this year's game is the best yet!

Abortion Vaccine Reminder

Now is the time to start thinking about organising your abortion vaccinations for the flock whether you are regular users or are considering vaccinating for the first time. If you had a problem with abortions at lambing this year, please get in touch to discuss using abortion vaccines for the next breeding season.

The manufacturers of Toxovax are keen to spread out their sales over the summer in order to meet demand later in the year so are offering a 5% discount during July and August. Scheduling this task earlier this year will pay off! Sheep can be vaccinated with Toxovax in the 4 months to three weeks prior to tupping and ewe lambs need to be over 5 months of age.



Ram Vasectomies

Vasectomised "teaser" rams are a good way to kick start cycling activity in a group of ewes to make sure they are raring to go when the tupps enter the field. The aim is to achieve a more compact lambing period and better use of labour and resources come lambing time. Select a young ram, from 4-5 months of age, as they are generally more energetic, with good teeth and less health concerns (what more could any ewe want..!) 1 teaser can be expected to work with 100 ewes. We can perform the short operation on farm or at the surgery and as long as you can provide a pen, some warm water and someone to help hold the ram we carry everything else with us. Given the time of year good fly cover needs to be in place to prevent flystrike of the op site. Timings are important – the ram will remain fertile for up to 4 weeks post-op and it is then recommended he is with the ewes for 3 weeks before the tupps are introduced, so a minimum 7 weeks lead time to the start of the service period. The ewes will respond better if kept away from the sight, sound and smell of a male for at least a month before the teaser goes in with them. As the aim is to get the ewe's served in a shorter time frame you will need to ensure the tupps are in peak condition to serve and maybe also increase ram numbers to meet demand.



