



## NEW ARRIVALS ON THE FARM EDITION

### PROLAPSES

Prolapses in both ewes and cows can be a true emergency and knowing what type of prolapse is present and how to prevent and treat them is key.

There are two types of prolapses:

**Uterine prolapse - EMERGENCY!:**

Usually occurs either immediately after birth or after an interval of 12 to 48 hours.

Usually happens as a consequence of prolonged second stage labour culminating with the delivery of a large foetus or straining caused by pain arising from infection and swelling of the birth canal.

Ideally epidural anaesthesia and replacement by a veterinarian is required.



**Vaginal prolapse:**

A vaginal prolapse is when the cervix is still closed, and only the vagina prolapses. This normally occurs in animals that are still pregnant. Most of the time this is in older animals or animals that are over conditioned. Although these animals can appear comfortable, we would still advise calling a vet to treat them as soon as possible. These prolapses normally present as pink fleshy football sized balls of tissue.



Written By Lizzie





## NEONATAL DISEASE

Reduction and prevention of neonatal disease should focus on colostrum management, hygiene and navel preparation. The dams body condition and nutritional status are factors in lamb/calf ill thrift and colostrum production.

### Hypothermia

If a lamb/calf looks lethargic, check the rectal temperature. Below are guidelines of action to take for low temperatures:

- 37 - 39°C and holding head up: warm up and stomach tube with warm milk.
- Below 37°C or not able to hold head up:
  - If less than 5 hours old, warm up and feed when able to hold head up.
  - If over 5 hours old, warm up and administer intraperitoneal injection of glucose.

### Watery mouth

Affects lambs up to 3 days old. It is caused by the ingestion of certain strains of *E.coli* bacteria. The disease is caused by toxin released from the bacteria as they die. The risk factors for lambs succumbing to this disease are as follows:

1. Delayed colostrum intake
2. Low volume (triplets/quads are high risk)/poor quality colostrum
3. Bacterial ingestion - dirty environment/teats

Lambs are initially dull with a poor sucking reflex before developing a wet chin. Lambs may then become reluctant to stand and develop severe abdominal bloating. Diarrhoea or more often constipation can occur. It is usually fatal.

### Joint ill/Navel ill

Joint ill occurs when bacteria travel from the navel and then cause infection within the joints. This happens in young animals within the first week of life. Offspring can present as lame with hot, swollen joints and/or navel. Infection is normally due to poor hygiene in their immediate environment or insufficient navel dipping.

All pens should be cleaned and treated between lambings/calvings to reduce the bacterial load for newly born offspring. All navels should be dipped twice - the first within 15 minutes of birth. Dipping solution should be 50:50 10% iodine and 50% surgical spirit.

### Treatment

Only effective if started early:

- Provide oral fluids, such as Rehydion solution.
- Administer glucose orally or intraperitoneally
- Call to discuss the use of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories with a vet





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## NEMATODIRUS

### Nematodirus:

#### Nematodirus battus

The 'Nematodirus' wormer dose in lambs is the only dose that should be given without faecal egg counting. This is because the disease caused by *Nematodirus battus* is due to the mass hatching of immature larvae causing damage to the abomasum (the fourth stomach). The larvae that cause damage are immature so do not yet produce eggs. By the time *Nematodirus* eggs appear in the faeces, the damage is already done and there are likely to have already been losses on the farm.

Before the larvae can hatch, the eggs must undergo a period of cold weather followed by warmer temperatures of 10°C or more. If these conditions occur over a short period of time, there is a mass hatch of infective larvae. If this is at a time where lambs graze significant amounts of grass (over about six weeks old), the disease may be very severe with a high mortality and severe dark scour. Coccidiosis affects lambs at this time too and can cause similar clinical signs.

#### When to treat?

Follow the SCOPS forecast online to judge the time to treat.

Ring Howells Vets for assistance in interpreting this.

[www.scops.org.uk/forecasts](http://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts)

#### Main risk factors

If the SCOPS forecast indicates that there is a high risk for *Nematodirus* outbreaks, these are the most at-risk animals:

- Lambs at least 6 weeks old on pasture grazed by lamb the previous season
- Mixed age groups of lambs, especially if there is also risk of concurrent coccidiosis?
- Any other stresses (e.g. triplets, fostered on young or older ewes.)



#### Treatment of choice

A 'white drench' benzimidazole e.g. Albacert is usually recommended as resistance to *Nematodirus* is rare and we need to spare the other groups.

Written By Rachael







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Martin is a true asset to our foot health team. After 12 years of honing his skills in cow health and farming practices across the country, Martin has returned to North Yorkshire with invaluable knowledge on improving herd mobility for peak performance.

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