

## CATTLE AI TRAINING COURSE

We are going to be running another AI training course for those wanting to inseminate their own cattle. It will be running the week beginning Monday 24th February. Anyone interested should contact the practice.



## FLOCK CLUB HEALTH PACKAGE

**Yearly Package £250 ex VAT - Included in the package:**

**Annual free visit** - Can be used at any time of the year. This can be used to assess general health of the flock and we can carry out Body condition scoring and combine with any blood sampling

- ◆ **Written flock health plan** and antibiotic review
- ◆ **Two post mortems**
- ◆ **Six faecal egg counts**
- ◆ **25% discount** on Tup semen analysis and vasectomies
- ◆ **Free meetings/discussion groups** and practical sessions which will be arranged throughout the year

**LOCAL and INDEPENDENT since 1919**

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# BELLE VUE VETS FEBRUARY 2020



## LAMBING TIME

It's that time of year again! There have already been a few early lambs with the main lambing season just around the corner.

We're here to help with all of the lambing-related issues and can see sheep either on farm or at the practice where we have facilities ready for caesareans.

**Please call the practice before you set off with a lambing ewe so that we can be sure there is a vet on hand to deal with it when you get here.**



Also, it would be helpful if you could bring a box to put any newborn lambs in to keep them warm while at the practice and for the journey home. We do have some cardboard boxes but a plastic tub lined with dry straw would be much better.

Don't forget that we can supply all of your lambing essentials—gloves, lube, lambing snares, iodine, lambmacs, marker sprays, colostrum, etc

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[www.wigtonvets.co.uk](http://www.wigtonvets.co.uk)

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## WATERY MOUTH DISEASE IN LAMBS

- ◆ Very common problem in housed flocks, worse at the end of lambing.
- ◆ Caused by E.coli in gut releasing toxins: from the ENVIRONMENT
- ⇒ Worse in DIRTY, WET CONDITIONS or with INADEQUATE OR DELAYED COLOSTRUM
- ⇒ Especially in TRIPLETS, or lambs from THIN EWES, in the first 12-36 hours of life
- ⇒ Common signs: salivation, lethargy, poor sucking, distended abdomen
- ⇒ **TREATMENT: FLUIDS, FLUIDS, FLUIDS!**
- ◆ Oral fluids 4x/day: 50ml/kg (250ml per lamb)
- ◆ Soapy water enemas in the early stages
- ◆ Oral antibiotics (Spectam, Orojet) may help early on: **DISCUSS WITH VET**
- ⇒ **PREVENTION: HYGIENE, COLOSTRUM**
- ◆ Builds up in the environment: can you move remaining ewes?
- ◆ Clean, dry, disinfect
- ◆ **ROUTINE ANTIBIOTICS CAN'T BE RECOMMENDED** due to the risk of resistant infections.

**Focus on hygiene and colostrum**



## FARM DISCOUNT SCHEME

Bills that are paid **before** the end of the month attract excellent discounts on a range of drugs and vaccines

## WHEN TO USE ORAL ANTIBIOTIC

Spectam and Orojet are treatments used to treat E.Coli infections in young lambs AKA 'watery mouth'/'rattle belly'. **Routine use of these products in lambs should be avoided.** Before using Spectam/Orojet you should ideally diagnose that E.Coli is present by sending a faecal sample or a dead lamb to the lab. This is to make sure that we are treating the correct bacteria and to make sure it is sensitive to that particular product and another antibiotic doesn't need to be used to successfully treat the lambs.

<u>SPECTAM AND OROJET SHOULD ONLY BE USED BASED ON LAB CULTURE AND SENSITIVITY TESTING</u>	
<p><b><u>RED</u></b></p> <p>Lambs should be given prophylactic Spectam/Orojet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ewes that have no colostrum/are very sick and/or unable to look after lambs</li> <li>◆ Triplets that are born towards the end of the lambing period if watery mouth has been a problem during the lambing period</li> <li>◆ Weaker lambs born towards the end of lambing (e.g. not stood up and drinking by themselves in the first few hours after birth)</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Yellow</u></b></p> <p>Lambs MAY require prophylactic Spectam/Orojet, decision whether to give should be based on general health of lambs during the lambing period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Lambs that may not have received colostrum due to ewe not having enough/not letting lambs suck or a lamb in poor health</li> <li>◆ Triplets born in the middle of the lambing period if lambing hygiene is good and they have received adequate colostrum these lambs should not need treatment.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>GREEN</u></b></p> <p>Lambs should NOT receive prophylactic Spectam/Orojet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Lambs born in the first 2 weeks of lambing</li> <li>◆ Fit healthy singles born at any stage of the lambing period</li> <li>◆ Healthy twin lambs that are born in clean pens and the ewe has plenty of colostrum.</li> </ul>