

## Farm news

We are happy to welcome our Clinical Director Lucie back from her secondment in Scotland. Lucie has been working at a practice to enhance her knowledge and experience in the beef and sheep industry. The Calweton team are excited to utilise the innovative ideas and knowledge Lucie has gained.

Calweton Stock Club is up and running! Already we have had a meeting to discuss all things fluke and we were welcomed by Cowling at Trebelsue and Lucy Ballard for a walk around her lambing shed. We discussed challenges, changes and new products to increase success in the lambing period. Look out for emails from the Stock Club about our upcoming events. If you'd like to know more about our Stock Club and its benefits, don't hesitate to contact the practice.

At the end of February we say goodbye to Calweton Veterinary Group's longest serving Veterinary Surgeon. Stuart Gough, has been working at Calweton Vets since he graduated from Edinburgh University in 1993. Originally a mixed vet, Stuart rose through the ranks and became a partner in the business in 1997 and never left...

We wish him luck in his next ventures and thank him wholeheartedly for his enormous contribution to life at Calweton!

*Calweton farm team*



## Without Heptavac P, what can we do?

As you are likely aware Heptovac P is currently unavailable. Our supplier has suggested Heptavac P may become available in mid-February. However, previous years' experience suggests that this date is likely to be pushed back. It is therefore important to ensure that breeding stock is protected against clostridial disease using an alternative vaccine which also provides cover for newborn lambs through the colostrum.

Clostridial diseases are caused by bacteria present in soil and tend to cause sudden death, so vaccination is strongly advised. Bravoxin 10 protects against tetanus, pulpy kidney and struck. It is important to note this vaccination does not protect against Pasteurella unlike Heptavac-P.

In the absence of Heptavac P we advise vaccinating breeding stock with Bravoxin 10. This will require 2 doses given 4-6 weeks apart with the second dose

being administered 2-8 weeks prior to lambing. Lambs can then be vaccinated from 2-3 weeks old with either Bravoxin 10 or Ovivac P. Please discuss your individual requirements with a vet to assess which offers the best cover for your set up.

If your ewes were vaccinated with Bravoxin 10 less than 12 months ago they will only require one booster dose this season 2-8 weeks prior to lambing.

We will be opening a Bravoxin 10 bottle on Friday 25th February. The bottles will be opened at 9am and must be kept refrigerated and administered by 5pm on the same day.

Please contact the practice by phone or email if you would like to reserve any doses. If you do not receive acknowledgement of your order within 24 hours (Monday - Friday), please contact the Farm Office by phone to confirm receipt.

## In this edition...

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**Page 2:** Prepare for unpacking; Process plasma

**vetPartners**

## Prepare for Unpacking; Process Plasma

Crias are born without a functional immune system so are completely unprotected from disease in their first few weeks. They receive temporary immunity through their mother's colostrum, which protects them until their own immunity develops. Success depends on the quality, quantity and quickness of colostrum consumption.

If a cria receives insufficient colostrum within the first 6 hours of life it is extremely susceptible to disease – this is known as Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT). Further risk factors for FPT include:

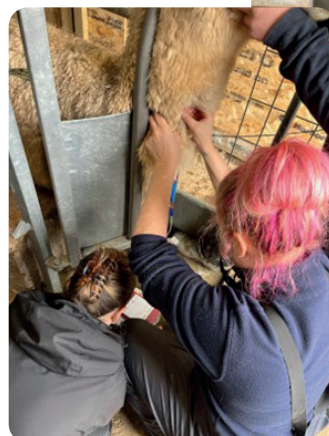
1. Low birth weight (<7kg)
2. Premature
3. First time mother
4. Difficult birth
5. Unobserved birth
6. Poor weather
7. Afternoon/ evening birth

If you have any concerns about female's milk production or if a cria cannot nurse, it is crucial to contact the practice promptly. The cria can be blood sampled as a priority from 24hrs old to determine whether FPT has occurred and if a plasma transfusion is necessary to protect the cria.

Due to the stringent time scale when FPT occurs it is advisable to have plasma on hand during unpacking season. There is now a centrifuge at Calweton Vets, which has the capacity to separate camelid blood to produce plasma for the treatment of FPT in crias for both our clients and clients of other practices.

Plasma for transfusion must be taken as whole blood from adult animals prior to unpacking season. The ideal donor animal is:

1. Male or non-breeding female >60kg, ideally >3yo.
2. Up to date with clostridial vaccination
3. Healthy with pink membranes
4. Not donated in the last 2 months
5. Cooperative



Blood collection is carried out on farm. Plasma will be processed and needs to be collected from the practice the following day. It can be stored for up to 5 years in deep freeze or 1 year in a standard freezer.

*NOTE - Disease risk on farm changes year to year so recently harvested plasma is likely to be more effective against the current disease situation.*

Legally plasma can only be given if it was collected from animals within your own herd. This is essential for biosecurity and prevention of disease spread through the national herd.

Processing must be booked in advance with the Farm Admin Team on 01579 386132. There are limited places available on pre-planned blood processing days, the first of which is on **18th February 2025**. Further dates will be added to meet demand. However, if these dates are not suitable, contact the practice to arrange an alternative date. Plasma can also be produced in an emergency situation, but under these circumstances you will be charged on time.

If you would like further information on camelid plasma collection and protecting your future crias against FPT, please contact the practice. We are here to help!



**In this edition...**

**Page 3:** Colostrum - Quality is KEY!



## Colostrum – Quality is KEY!

With lambing now underway, it is important to have emergency supplies of colostrum on hand and a back up plan in case things don't go to plan.

Lambs are born without a functioning immune system. They require high quality colostrum as soon as possible after birth, as absorption of essential antibodies decreases significantly after the first 6 hours. Colostrum is a high energy food, rich in nutrients and antibodies. It is essential to provide immunity and promote healthy development of the gut after birth. The best colostrum is contained in the first feed from a well vaccinated ewe – antibody concentration decreases with subsequent milkings.

If the ewe is not producing adequate colostrum or has given birth to triplets or quads then it is vital to feed a colostrum substitute. This can be given by bottle feeding or by stomach tube if the lamb is unwilling or unable to suck. It is essential that colostrum, whether natural or artificial, is given promptly after birth to allow full absorption of the antibodies across the gut. We advise keeping colostrum on hand when starting lambing, as problems may arise at any time during the day or night!

There are many colostrum substitutes available on the market of varying quality. When choosing a product, it is essential that the first ingredient listed is colostrum, not other constituents such as whey powder. You should also be aware that you get what you pay for with higher quality products usually being more expensive.

At Calweton Vets we stock Immucol Lamb Colostrum which is a high quality product that we believe to be head and shoulders above other products on the market. It is available in 1kg (20-40 feeds) and 500g (10-20 feeds). We also sell it as individual feeds as this is more convenient for clients who only have a few lambs due.



**In this edition...**

**Page 4:** A note on NoBacZ



## A Note on NoBACZ

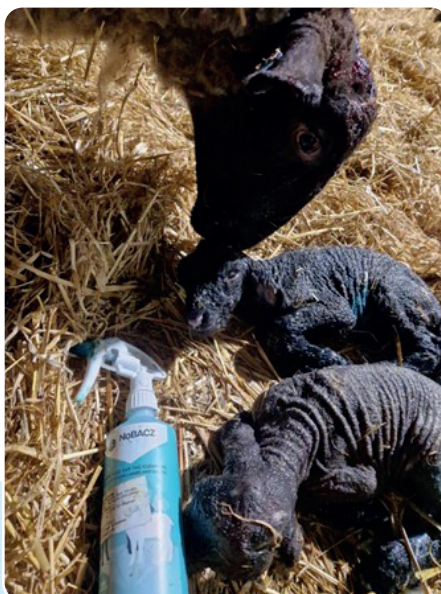
NoBACZ is a robust, rapid-setting flexible barrier dressing. It acts as a 'second skin' which repels mud, water, detritus and bacteria. The products are resistant to bacterial colonisation but also prevent the spread of bacteria from the wound to the environment. This is a particularly notable property when it comes to infectious foot lesions.

They can be used over pre-applied antiseptic, or over pre-applied veterinary medicinal products such as topical sprays. They do not require removing as they remove themselves over time.

NoBACZ comes as gel, sprays or liquid formulations, allowing application on many different sights. There have been studies done into the benefit of using NoBACZ to treat navels in calves and lambs as well as digital dermatitis in cattle. Although, there are also many claims to its benefits in other clinical scenarios, including treatment of udder cleft dermatitis, reducing ear tag and ring castration infections.

"NoBacZ Navel" is a genuinely new, and highly effective, navel treatment. It is composed of zinc and copper ions in a shellac base - a formulation which both inhibits bacterial growth, and dries. It is also intensely bitter

and hence lick resistant - meaning that a second application is rarely required. Nearly 7,000 lambs across 11 flocks were involved in the 2024 trial, seeking to demonstrate equivalency with iodine. As well as performing just as well as iodine, lamb performance was improved to a significant degree. Use of NoBacZ resulted in 17 more lambs alive per 1000 lambs and lambs were 230g heavier at 8 weeks. As well as navels, it is also recommended for use on eartags and elastrator bands. NoBacZ can also be used on calves' navels. We are pleased to stock this product and can provide dip cups or sprays, depending on your preference.



**If you would like more information on what we've discussed in this month's newsletter, please speak to any of our farm veterinary team.**

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