

# Flock News



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## Feeling the Chill?

As the evenings start to draw in, some of you will have finished tuppung, whilst others prepare to start on bonfire night (in with a bang and all that...). Typically, this is the quarter where we see less of our sheep clients but that doesn't mean we're not here should you need us either in hours pre-booked, or with our two vets on call anytime out of hours (yes, even on Christmas Day!)

### Pasteurella pneumonia prays on the poorly protected!

For most people pasteurella vaccination is something thought about in the early months of the year, either as a pre-lambing booster for breeding ewes or as a primary course for lambs when the maternally derived immunity gained from the colostrum wears off. However, as we enter the Autumn those of you who keep store lambs may want to think about pasteurella prevention once more. A study over the late 2010's was carried out and found there to be a repeatable seasonal spike as we enter the Autumn months due to the increase in risk factors and environmental pressures.

Typically, pasteurella manifests itself through pneumonia outbreaks with as high as 25% mortality within the flock, although we do also see it present as septicaemia with common signs being sudden death in the flock or lots of moribund animals with a high percentage affected.

Pasteurella pneumonia isn't just a problem due to the clinical cases or deaths that occur; sub clinical cases will also occur in flocks that aren't protected causing reduction in growth rates of both ewes, store lambs and lambs yet to be born. It also has high financial implications for all the reasons mentioned as well as the increased treatment and personnel costs.

With many of these pressures relating to the weather, most of them are outside of our control, and therefore the best way to minimise losses or reduction in performance due to pasteurellosis in October/November/December is to give store lambs, bought in or home reared, a third dose of pasteurella vaccine in early

Autumn as the pasteurella component of *HeptavacP* doesn't give a full twelve months of protection; whereas it does give a full twelve months protection against the clostridial bacteria. Therefore, it is okay to give a booster vaccine of *Ovipast* or *HeptavacP* to store lambs that have had a primary course earlier in the year.

### Results of the APHA Thin Ewe Project

You may remember towards the end of 2020 we offered free euthanasia and post mortem examination of three thin ewes from your flock as part of a project run by the APHA to screen for the common 'iceberg' / 'thin ewe' diseases and their prevalence.

The major 'iceberg' diseases tested for were:

- Johne's disease
- Maedi Visna (MV)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)
- Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA)
- Border Disease

In August<sup>1</sup> the results were published from the 75 flocks enrolled in the scheme. 31 of these flocks tested positive for at least one of the iceberg diseases, although no border disease was found. 7% of flocks had more than one iceberg disease detected on post mortem examination.

The most common condition found through the scheme was chronic endoparasitism (worms) as the cause of ill thrift, followed by Johne's disease and lungworm.



The prevalence of maedi visna was relatively low (3%), fitting with the fact that there are two control schemes in the form of MV monitored and MV accredited.

If you suffer from a higher than usual amount of thin ewes or are culling out a lot of ewes based on poor condition, it could well be worth having us perform a post mortem examination on one of the cull ewes to screen your flock for disease and inform any control or prevention strategies.

(1. <https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/vetr.800>)

## Midlands Advanced Breeding Services (MABS)

Providing bespoke advice and services tailored to your flock.

MABS arose from conversations with several of our sheep clients about improving the genetic diversity within their flocks, and discussions about having an earlier or more compact lambing period. Have a look at our new website for more information:

[scarsdalevets.com/service/midlands-advanced-breeding-services](https://scarsdalevets.com/service/midlands-advanced-breeding-services)

Since launching MABS at our July sheep client evening, it's been great to discuss with so many of you how we can work together to benefit your flock's reproductive health, performance and productivity. We've had two successful Vasectomy Wednesdays, worked on bespoke synchronisation protocols and are now into the swing of it with laparoscopic artificial insemination as part of tupping 2021. If you're keen to know more about laparoscopic AI, teasers or synchronisation then why not start the discussion at your flock health planning visit or pre/post lambing '22 review.

## A note about Footvax use at this time of year

Following on from our June article about reducing and controlling lameness within your flock, if you're using *footvax* within your flock then it's well worth considering giving a dose approximately 4 weeks before a notable risk period (e.g housing).

**However, we would recommend NOT to administer *footvax* within 6 weeks of tupping.**

### Contact us

Contact our dedicated farm practice on

**01332 294929**

For more information [scarsdalevets.com/farm](https://scarsdalevets.com/farm)

## Flock Health Club



### Pre-Tupping visit

- Ram MOT
- Ewe BCS
- Trace element testing
- Barren ewe bloods

### Pre-Lambing visit

- Nutrition advice
- Ewe mineral testing
- Lambing kit prep
- Protocol review

#### Plus

- 60 minutes FREE vet time
- 10% off vasectomies & ram fertility testing
- Development of your flock management plan



- 2 FREE Fecal egg counts
- FREE FEC reduction test
- Discount parasite treatment
- Dedicated vet for you and your flock
- 4 FREE Client evening meetings
- Quarterly newsletters



= savings of over **£100**

The cost of Flock Health Club is the equivalent of three fat lambs at slaughter\* However if you take advantage of all of the above you will **save over £100**

\*SQQ DEFRA 2020 average of 485.3p/kg and 40kg = £97/lamb

Only  
**£25**  
a month

## Upcoming Events

We hope you enjoyed our July **Midlands Advanced Breeding Services** launch, talk on ram selection with Innovis and our September post mortem talk with Farm Post Mortems Ltd.

Keep an eye out for the calendar of sheep talks for '22 coming soon.

## Lambing Kits

We listened to the feedback you gave us at the end of lambing 2021, and this year we'll be offering our lambing kits earlier - becoming available towards the end of this quarter - allowing you to get all your essentials and supplies organised nice and early before the lambing mayhem sets in! Watch this space...

Keep up to date with us via our website:  
[scarsdalevets.com/farm](https://scarsdalevets.com/farm)