

Lambing Time Management: Keys to Success

Daniel G. Hadacek, DVM

Ashby Herd Health Services, Inc.

Harrisonburg, VA

Pre-Lambing:

- Ewes vaccinated for clostridium C, D, & T
- Ewes crutched or sheared
- Feeding to prevent pregnancy toxemia {1/2 -3/4# corn or equiv./day}
- Feeding to prevent abortions {150mg OTC/ hd /day}

Lambing Area:

- Clean
- Dry
- Fresh air

Lambing:

- Sanitation is extremely important
- Provide gentle assistance if necessary {30 min w/no progress-check}
- Dip, Strip, Sip
 - dip navels -strip teats -lambs nurse
- Colostrum {2 oz [60cc] stomach tubed if not trying to nurse in 15min}
 - freeze extra colostrums (2 oz bags) for emergencies
- Cold weather: -lots of towels -heat pads, lamps, box -lamb covers
 - hypothermia: "comatose" temp<90 may need 10-20% dextrose I.P.
- Confine ewe and lambs: -single 1-2 days -twins 2-3days
 - community pen 4-5days

Lamb Processing:

- 1 mg selenium {1cc BoSE or 0.2cc MuSe}
- Clostridium C, D,&T *day 1 best for immune system response
- Tetanus antitoxin *****especially for banding -400 units {1.3cc for 1500 IU vial}
- Dock, castrate day 2-5 before moving to community pen
- Identify lambs {eartags, paint etc}

Pneumonia prevention:

- "Inforce" intranasal : BRSV is viral trigger for pneumonia
 - 1cc intranasal (1/2 bovine dose) use disposable Teat cannula
 - at birth or ASAP
- "One Shot" Mannheimia (pasteurella) Haemolytica vaccine
 - 1cc sub-Q (1/2 bovine dose)
 - 5 weeks of age Lambs
 - anytime rams, ewes *pre-lambing

Shepherd's Kit- you may want to have the following handy

- Clean towels or rags
- Disposable sleeves & lube (thawed cold packs)
- Dog chain collar or lamb snare
- Stomach tube and 60cc syringe
- Lamb covers, heat lamp, heat pad
- "Iodine" for navels
- Small rope halter