

# West Lakeland Veterinary Group

## Farm Newsletter February 2020

### Lambing Course

Thank you to all who attended last month's lambing talk, with topics ranging from preparation for lambing time to minimizing losses. The 'students' also had chance to don gloves and try out various techniques – stomach tubing, intra-peritoneal glucose injections and even delivery of multiple births.

Prevention is better than cure, and to this end we stressed the importance of ensuring adequate colostrum intake in lambs in the first few hours of life. The ewe's stuff is always best (from the dam, or from another recently lambed milky ewe) – 50ml/kg in the first two hours of life preferable – but if the ewe is short (e.g. through poor condition, difficult lambing, because she's a ewe lamb) or the lamb is particularly vulnerable (e.g. a triplet), a top-up may be required. The powdered colostrums available should be used with ewe's colostrum, rather than instead of. Adequate, good quality colostrum intake quickly after birth is THE best prevention for watery mouth. Antibiotic resistance in E. coli, the offending bug, is high and rising – over 50% of isolates are resistant to oxytetracycline, nearly a third to spectinomycin (SPECTAM), and 25% to four or more antibiotics (SRUC). It is no longer acceptable or advisable to use blanket treatment of newborn lambs with antibiotics – there is another way! Antibiotics should be reserved for treatment of bacterial conditions, NOT prevention.

One of the reasons for holding the meeting is to try and encourage discussion of flock health and welfare amongst us all – vets and farmers – and to share good practice to improve it. We do intend to hold some more talks – the consensus for next time would be to discuss worms and fluke. Date TBA – most likely May. Please let us know if you are interested in joining in – phone up and add you name to the e-mail list for further details.

### Drug changes

Due to manufacturing problems, at Norbrook pharmaceuticals, we have been unable to stock a lot of our usual injectable drugs. We have sourced some alternatives with the same or similar active ingredient and the table below outlines these for comparison:

Old drug	Licensed for	Dose rate/ route	Active ingredient	New drug	License d for	Dose rate	Milk withhold
Betamox LA	Sheep and cattle	1ml/10kg i/m	Amoxicillin	Clamoxyl LA	Sheep	1ml/10kg i/m	N/A
				Vetrimoxin LA	Cattle	1ml/10kg i/m	72 hours
Tylan	Cattle	2-5ml/100kg i/m	Tylosin	Pharmasin	Cattle	2.5-5ml/100kg i/m	108 hours
Norodine	Cattle	1ml/16kg i/m	TMPS	Diatrim	Cattle	1ml/16kg i/m	48 hours
Resflor	Cattle	2ml/15kg s/c	Florfenicol and flunixin	Zeleris	Cattle	1ml/10kg s/c	Not for dairy use
Draxxin 20ml	Cattle and sheep	1ml/40kg s/c	Tulathromycin	Zuprevo	Cattle	1ml/45kg s/c	Not for dairy use
Loxicom	Cattle	2.5ml/100kg s/c	Meloxicam	Meloxidyl	Cattle	2.5ml/100kg s/c	120 hours
Adrenacaine	Cattle		Procaine and adrenaline	Pronestestic	Cattle and sheep		0 hours

A number of lactating cow tubes have also been affected. The available stock is listed in the table below:

Product	Active ingredient	Dose	Milk withhold
Ubrolexin	Cefalexin, kanamycin	2 tubes 24 hours apart	120 hours
Ubro Yellow	Dihydrostreptomycin sulfate, framycetin sulfate, penicillinate hydriodide, prednisolone	Once daily for 3 days	132 hours
Mastiplan	Cephapirin, prednisolone	Every 12 hours for 4 consecutive milkings	132 hours