

We would like to wish all our clients a happy new year and congratulations to our competition winners over the festive period.

The ewe pre-lambing

Ewe nutrition in late pregnancy is vital for a successful lambing season. The energy and protein requirements increase significantly in the last six weeks of pregnancy due to several factors.

70% of the lamb's birthweight is put on during this time, we see udder development, and colostrum is produced as a critical source of antibodies and energy for the newborn lambs. We can assess the nutrition of our ewes by looking at the body condition score (BCS) of different groups and performing a metabolic blood profile prior to lambing.

BCS gives a good reflection of your flock's nutrition and is linked to birthweights, survival rates, colostrum quality and quantity, and the mothering ability of the ewe. The table below shows the target BCS at lambing depending on your breed and farm set-up. For more information on how to perform body condition scoring and when to perform please get in touch with the practice.

Ewe type	Lowland ewe (60-80kg)	Hill ewe (40-60kg)	Ewe lambs
Target BCS at lambing	3.0 - 3.5	2.5	3.0

Looking at the metabolic blood profile of ewes is also a valuable tool in checking feeding levels. Ideally a blood sample is taken from 6 ewes from each management group in a range of body conditions. This should be done 3-4 weeks prior to lambing, giving us time to make any adjustments to the diet should something not be quite right. The metabolic profile allows us to assess whether energy requirements are being met and if there is adequate dietary protein. Lambs require 200ml/kg bodyweight of colostrum in the first 24 hours of life, protein is the building block of colostrum and those all-important antibodies.

Another consideration before lambing time is clostridial vaccine annual booster. Vaccines such as Heptavac P plus aid in the control of lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, tetanus and pasteurellosis in lambs provided that the lambs receive sufficient immune colostrum during the first 1-2 days of life, again highlighting the importance of colostrum. The booster should be given 4-6 weeks pre-lambing in order to allow enough time for the antibodies to build up in the colostrum. Funding is available from farming connect which could be used to perform metabolic blood profiles your flock. If this is something that would interest you or if you want to know more about pre-lambing nutrition please get in touch.



A helping hand

Lambing is undoubtedly the busiest time of the year on the sheep calendar, we have been contacted by Bristol Vet school offering up the help of their students.

The following dates would be available; 15th-26th February and 29th-16th April. If you would like an extra pair of hands during either of the available dates let us know and we will make this known to Bristol Vet school.



Team news

As some of you may know we have a new member in the farm team.

Graham Hines is an experienced vet who has worked in a variety of professions over the years. He currently works with the exports here at Daleside but will be giving us a hand with TB testing on Mondays and Thursday over the coming winter months.

Dairy client meeting

Do you ever wonder if nutrition is affecting your dairy herd's health, performance and profitability?

If so, join us on Tuesday the 5th of January at 19:30 for an online meeting on Metabolic profiling. The meeting will be led by Alastair Macrae from Edinburgh University and will outline the benefits of performing metabolic profiling and what it could mean on your farm. A zoom link has been to your email, if you cannot find the link and wish to join us then please contact the practice.



Change to Betamox LA Withdrawal Period

Species	Maximum injection site volume	Current withhold periods	New withhold periods
Cattle	15 ml	28 days	39 days
Sheep	4 ml	19 days	29 days
Pigs	4 ml	19 days	42 days
Milk - cattle	15 ml	84 hours	108 hours (4.5 days)

