

FARM News



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Vet Portfolio

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Pregnancy and Fertility for your Herd.

Fertility is one of the major factors affecting the profitability of any herd. Pregnancy diagnosis is an essential in fertility management. Early detection of pregnancy allows early recognition of problems when they arise. Detection of issues post insemination when problematic returning heats can be a cost effective method of detection of non-pregnancies. A regular frequent on farm heat detection routine can detect standing heats more successfully, a **Heat detection rate of at least 60% is required**. Accurate heat detection along with sufficient conception rates should provide a **target pregnancy rate of at least 20%**. Cows can be scanned 30 days after service. There are a vast number of reasons why cows are not in calf but our team of farm vets can **help investigate, diagnose and treat problems**.

We now have new veterinary software in practice that incorporates on farm data of routine fertility scanning, AI services & milk recordings, which enables us to assist you with increasing a herd's reproductive efficiency and long term herd profitability. Please contact the practice for more information.



Fly Control Reminder

Flies are a major problem during summer months. Flies can transmit disease that can cause mastitis in lactating and dry animals.

Blowfly risk is greatest during summer months for sheep with prevention key as they can disrupt grazing patterns and rapidly lose weight.

Both issues are of a major economic and welfare concerns between loss of production and treatment costs.

Sheep Pre-Breeding Checklist

With the breeding season fast approaching pre breeding checks on rams and ewes will identify any problems in the flock before breeding. It is important to find all problems now as these can lead to major problems at breeding and lambing.

Ram Check List

The main areas to check when accessing rams can be placed in 5 categories.

- TEETH – check teeth to ensure he can eat well and maintain condition while serving.
- TOES – sound feet and legs are essential for rams to be able to perform, lame rams can't jump ewes. Foot rot and other infections reduce fertility due to raised body temperature.
- TONE - rams BCS should be 3.5-4 at mating. Too thin they may not manage to serve all the ewes. Too fat and they may have less libido. Excess fat in the scrotum can decrease fertility
- TREATMENTS – rams should receive all treatments at least 10 weeks pre breeding. Some treatments can effect fertility.
- TESTICLES - Check for lumps or soft areas. Testicles should be even in size & firm like a tensed bicep. Check the sheath/penis to make sure it moves freely in the prepuce and there are no signs of trauma.



Ewe Check List

The main areas to check when accessing ewes can be placed in 5 categories.

- TEETH - check teeth to ensure she can eat well, maintain condition and produce enough milk for lambs
- TOES - good feet and legs are essential for ewe to be able to perform and rear lambs
- TONE – ewes should be in a body condition score of 3-3.5 at breeding. Over fat ewes can over ovulate causing multiple lambs. Thin ewes won't ovulate as well causing lower pregnancy rate and less lambs born.
- TEATS - Ewes with a lumpy or hard, low or slack udder shouldn't be bred. Breeding ewes should have 2 milk producing quarters and be able to rear 2 lambs.
- TEMPERMENT – only ewes with good mothering ability and good temperament should be bred, bad mothers will not rear good lambs.



BVC FARM VETS



11 Church Street, Ballygawley BT70 2HA - 028 85567150

Opened Mon - Fri 09:00-18:00 | Sat 09:00-16:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:30-14:00

19 The Diamond, Pomeroy BT70 2QU - 028 87759358

Opened Mon - Fri 09:00-18:00 | Wed & Sat 09:00-13:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:00-14:00

Unit 5, Hamilton Park, Tamnamore BT71 6HW - 028 87726805

Opened Mon - Fri 09:00-17:30 | Sat 09:00-13:00 | Closed for Lunch 13:30-14:00

Abortion Vaccine for your Flock

Please remember to contact any of our vets or staff if you wish to find out more information about different abortions in sheep and the vaccines available to protect your flock.