

# HOW TO...

## COPE AT LAMBING TIME

### Why...

Lambing can be a stressful time for both the Ewe and You. By being prepared for all eventualities and having the essential equipment you need to hand, you can reduce the stress for yourself and make the lambing run smoother.

### How...

#### Nutrition

You need to prepare for lambing 6 weeks in advance of the due date as this is the time when there is most demand on the ewe. Skeletal development of the growing lambs and the need for future colostrum and milk production all use up energy at this time. In addition muscle toning along the reproductive tract adds further to the ewes energy needs. Help is provided by offering her mineralised energy supplements such as field buckets to maintain energy levels.

After the birth she may need a tonic to help revive her quickly such as Ewe drink. Glucose is also recommended in powder or liquid form to help give her a boost. Specialist nutrient drenches such as Ovithrift are also very effective. This is also useful to give lambs a boost in their early weeks if necessary. When lambs are born it is advisable to have a few of lotions and potions on hand to prevent or treat problems that could occur. Multi lamb supplements help boost the vitamin and mineral intake that may have been restricted due to lambs "sharing" in the womb. The ewe may not be able to produce enough milk, particularly if triplets are born, so keep some replacement milk made up and some non-vac feed bottles handy. If the lamb becomes orphaned or abandoned by the ewe then you may need to feed the first colostrum. This is important for the lambs immunity and well being and must be fed as soon as possible after birth.

#### Equipment

There may come a time during lambing when you will need to be more "hands on". This could be if the lamb has breached or if the ewe tires and struggles to push. Disposable gloves are useful and hygienic, obstetric gel and lambing ropes are all basics you should have in your lambing kit. A restraining instrument such as a gambrel may be useful if the ewe becomes stressed during lambing and needs to be restrained.

#### First Aid

Various items will be needed in your first aid kit for both mother and lamb. Iodine or violet septiclease are most used around the navel in conjunction with navel clamps. Suture needles and thread or suture tape may be required if damage is caused to the ewe. A sharp pair of scissors and a thermometer are also essentials for your kit. You may need to keep some castration and tail docking rings and an applicator for any ram lambs you don't wish to keep entire.

### Tips for Lambing

- Have your vets number to hand in case of a medical Emergency
- Take a Torch
- Keep yourself charged, take a thermos and chocolate

### Call Free!

For more help or advice about any of the products mentioned on this sheet, please call our friendly staff FREE on 0800 056 0002 or you can email us at [enquiries@farmandcountrysupplies.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@farmandcountrysupplies.co.uk).

### Hygiene

As with all new life lambs suffer from infections and illness if subjected to poor hygiene. Coccidiosis is particularly nasty but you can help to prevent it and other risks by lambing in a clean hygienic environment. Products such as Kilcox Xtra and Stalosan are ideal for sanitising areas such as sheep pens and sheds.

#### Here's some more hygiene tips:

- Only use disposable needles once then dispose in a sharps container
- Sterilise your equipment before use and store in a clean box
- Use gloves
- Use an antibacterial gel such as Dupont Hand Sanatiser to keep hands clean without the need for water.
- Try and ensure the lambing is in a clean safe place
- Use a powder disinfect such as stalosan around the bedding to reduce transfer of bacteria.



### You Will Need

- Colostrum
- Milk replacer
- Latex gloves
- Lambing rope
- Appropriate needles and syringes
- Septiclease or Iodine
- Lubricant such as obstetric gel
- Scissors
- Thermometer
- Multi lamb supplement
- Ewe drink
- Bucket
- Warm water
- Lamb reviver
- Spare teats/Bottles

For a more comprehensive list call for a copy of our lambing essentials order form

### Other Guides in the Series relevant to this article

Choose the Right Mineral, Subcutaneously Inject, Restrain and Handle Sheep