

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAXIMISING LAMB SURVIVAL

Maximising lamb survival rates is crucial for a successful lambing season. By focusing on colostrum management, navel care, and hygiene, farmers can **significantly reduce losses** and give their **lambs the best possible start in life**.



COLOSTRUM: THE FOUNDATION OF IMMUNITY

Colostrum is packed with essential antibodies that help protect newborn lambs from infection. To ensure lambs receive the best start, follow the **three Qs: Quickly, Quantity, Quality**:

Quickly: Lambs should receive high-quality colostrum within the first two hours of life, as their gut loses the ability to absorb antibodies soon after birth.

Quantity: Aim to provide 10-15% of the lamb's bodyweight in colostrum within the first six hours.

Quality: Ideally, lambs should receive colostrum from their own dam. However, if needed, powdered colostrum replacers or stored/frozen colostrum from another ewe can be effective. Use a Brix refractometer to assess stored colostrum quality.

Hygiene is critical! Ensure all feeding equipment, including buckets, bottles, and stomach tubes, is kept clean to prevent bacterial contamination.

NAVEL CARE: PREVENTING INFECTION

Wet navels are a major route for bacteria to enter a lamb's body, increasing the risk of infection. To prevent this:

- ✓ Dip navels promptly after birth using a 10% iodine solution or a 60:40 mix of 10% iodine and surgical spirit. This not only disinfects but also speeds up drying.
- ✓ Apply the solution thoroughly. Spraying works, but extra care is needed to ensure full coverage. Dip cups are also effective, but the solution should be replaced regularly to avoid contamination.

HYGIENE: A CLEAN START FOR EVERY LAMB

Newborn lambs have an underdeveloped immune system and are highly susceptible to environmental infections. Good hygiene practices include:

- Ensuring ewes are clean and dry before lambing, as lambs instinctively suckle on low-hanging wool.
- Keeping lambing pens well-bedded, dry, and disinfected between animals to reduce bacterial buildup.
- Regularly cleaning and refreshing bedding to maintain a clean, dry environment.

By following these key management strategies, you can help maximise lamb survival rates and set your flock up for a successful season.

For further advice on lambing management, speak to our vet team!



Kate Farman BVM&S MRCVS

NEW LEGISLATION IN SCOTLAND: NUMNUTS

*GREAT FOR LAMBS,
GREAT FOR FARMERS*



The Scottish Government has confirmed that farmers in Scotland can legally use Numnuts for castrating or tail docking lambs up to 12 weeks old, provided an anaesthetic is administered.

This clarification brings significant relief to Scottish farmers and veterinarians seeking reassurance on the legality of using Numnuts, which minimises the pain and distress

associated with traditional rubber ringing procedures. Numnuts adheres to animal welfare standards and provides a compassionate alternative to older methods.

Numnuts is a 2-in-1 device that administers an Elastrator ring along with a pre-calibrated dose of local anaesthetic. This device makes giving fast-acting targeted pain relief for castration and tail docking of lambs easy, fast, and safe. No other device exists that allows farmers and vets to provide targeted pain relief to lambs during tail docking and castration.

Contact one of our team if you are interested in purchasing a Numnuts applicator!

2-Stage Injector

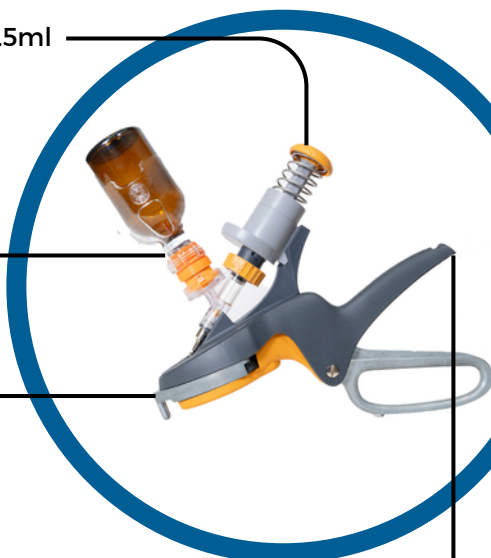
Delivers a pre-calibrated 1.5ml dose of local anaesthetic

Fluid Junction

Change every 2,000 lambs

Needle - high quality stainless steel

Replace after every second bottle



Local Anaesthetic

Source directly from your usual vet



Numnuts bottle mount

Allows you to use any 100ml bottle of local anaesthetic

Numnuts Device

Ergonomically designed