



Basics on rearing orphan lambs

- If possible make sure the lambs have a feed of colostrum from a ewe before rearing. This enables them to have an immune system – lambs only absorb special immune cells through their mother's colostrum ideally within the first 12 hours of life.
- Feed the lambs 10-15% of their body weight of good quality lamb milk replacer divided into 4-6 feeds during the day.
For example, if a lamb weighs 9kg, they required 900ml of milk replacer in TOTAL for the day. You may give this as 180ml feeds given 5 times during the day.
- It is important that the milk is cold and not warm. This helps to slow down the lambs' drinking so they do not guzzle. Warm milk also can be risky and cause bloat as it favours the bacteria in the stomach to ferment more quickly producing gas that leads to bloat.
- Make sure to have pasture and hay on offer from day one to help the lambs' with their rumen development.
- Lambs can start to be weaned from milk once they start to weight 15-20kg as long as you have adequate protein available (you might have started the lambs on balanced lamb pellets, lucerne hay etc). Otherwise, lambs get 'pot belly' whereby they eat a lot of grass to help fill them up but as a result is not nutritious.

Yoghurtised milk:

To help prevent bloat in orphan lambs we recommend to yoghurtise the milk:

1. Mix your lamb milk replacer up as normal (200-240g/L depending on brand), make it warm
2. To one litre of this mixture add an EasiYo sachet (natural plain yoghurt powder)
3. Mix well and keep this mixture at a temperature of 37 degrees for 24 hours (helps the yoghurt culture grow), after this, it can be placed in the fridge.
4. You can add this yoghurt mixture to your milk replacer at a ratio of 1:7 (for example 180ml total feed = 23ml yoghurtised milk + 157 ml normal milk replacer milk) and make sure to feed this cold!

