

## **Flocknews April 2023**

With joining coming to an end and lambing fast approaching/already here, this edition will cover aspects to maximise your success. Don't forget to let us know if you are interested in our upcoming information session on reproduction.

### **Lambing paddock preparation**

Have you planned your lambing paddocks? It is important to have chosen lambing paddocks that:

- ✓ are 'low risk' for worm contamination
- ✓ offer some shelter to your lambing ewes
- ✓ are assessed for feed on offer and have had supplementary feed calculated

These are just a few basic check points, make sure to get in touch if you have any questions.

### **Orphan lambs**

We aim for a minimal number of orphan lambs - but have you considered a set up that will work for your farm if they are to occur? Some enterprises have set up maternal wards under cover whereby ewes that have had difficulties lambing and require assistance are housed with their lambs for 24-48 hours. This allows them time to mother up/ have any treatments medicated before they return to their mob, hopefully reducing the incidence of orphan lambs. This set up can also work if lambs are to be fostered to a ewe to allow time to form a bond. Rearing orphan lambs from birth until weaning can be labour intensive, so considering a set up to encourage fostering of lambs may help reduce this.

### **Pain relief at marking time**

There are a few different forms of pain relief available for lamb marking time. Alone they help reduce some pain, but when used in combination they are most effective. The aim is to reduce the lambs' time off feed post lamb marking, have them mother up quickly and maximise welfare. An effective option is meloxicam injectable. It is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is delivered under the skin. It is effective within 15 - 30 minutes and can be effective for up to 9 - 24 hours. It is available in 100ml and 250ml bottles. This is a link to a MLA summary on some suitable combinations available at lamb marking time: [https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/program-areas/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/20mla-pain-mitigation-factsheet\\_sheep\\_v4.pdf](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/program-areas/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/20mla-pain-mitigation-factsheet_sheep_v4.pdf)



If you are wanting to implement pain relief at lamb marking time make sure to get in contact.

### **Teaser rams - don't forget about these!**

If your enterprise could benefit from teaser rams next breeding season, make sure to keep some ram lambs entire at marking time so that we can turn them into teaser rams for you later in the year. We recommend using teaser rams at a ratio of 1% of the ewes and always having a few extras in case of illness.

## Equipment options

With lamb marking around the corner - if you think that your enterprise could benefit from upgrading your equipment inventory make sure to give us a call to put an order in to make sure we have enough in stock.

### HSW Eco-Matic adjustable vaccine/drug administer

Perfect for injecting meloxicam under the skin at lamb marking time – can deliver accurately with ease and is durable. Bottle mount available as well. Available in 1 and 2ml.

Cost (including GST): \$45-\$48 depending on size



### 18G ¼ inch metal needles 12 pack

These are the preferred needle attachment for your vaccinator guns/meloxicam applicator as it safely delivers the vaccine under the skin – talk to us if you have questions!

Cost (including GST): \$12/pack



### Sheep cufflinks

Sheep cuff links are a snap lock metal device

Uses: When temporarily restraining sheep to reduce movement such as catching a sick ewe in the lambing paddock and administering treatment (rather than bailing twine!!)

Cost (including GST): \$36



## Upcoming information session on reproduction

We would like to organise a farmer information session in September in Rochester with the theme of maximising reproduction going into joining. We are asking for your expression of interest and whether you would prefer an afternoon or evening session. If this is something that you would like to attend, please make sure to reply to this email/give our clinic a call so we can start to gauge numbers for the session to go ahead. More information to follow ☺



**Please call the clinic to update our system with your email account for future newsletter editions (03) 5484 2255. Do not hesitate to get in touch with Rocky Vets today!**