

Rosedean Group Ltd

## **Health and Welfare Plan October 2018 – September 2019: Sheep**

Written by: Rosemary Champion (Director)

Review complete: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Next review date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

The purpose of the health plan is to ensure the best possible health and welfare status of our sheep through careful management and the effective and timely administration of medicines. While we aim to minimise the use of chemicals, we will not compromise animal health and welfare to do so.

Because of the small numbers of stock, we aim to improve the efficiency of use of medicines, reduce wastage and reduce the risk from the storage of medicines by using medicines suitable for both cattle and sheep, where it is practicable to do so.

The plan is reviewed annually.

Key dates: See timetable

### Biosecurity

Persons coming on to the property who may have been in contact with other sheep will be required to disinfect boots, wash hands and wear cleanable clothes.

### Introducing new sheep

Since Autumn 2010, the flock has been closed with regard to female stock. A replacement ram is purchased every two years.

All new stock is quarantined for 21 days and treated in accordance with veterinary advice, based on individual circumstances. Heptavac P Plus programme started if required.

### Isolation area and handling facilities

Facilities are available (byre, barn or field shelter) should any animal require to be isolated and handled for veterinary treatment or for quarantine purposes.

Sheep are trained to follow a bucket to aid handling and transportation.

### Welfare

Sheep are inspected once daily; more frequently at lambing time.

Lambs are tail docked using rubber rings at less than 7 days old. Male lambs are not routinely castrated; male lambs of low birthweight may be castrated by rubber ring at less than 7 days old with a view to running them on to over 12

months of age prior to slaughter as hogget / mutton. (Soil Association Standards)

Trough / rack space of 50cm is available for ewes (Soil Association Standards) when feeding is taking place.

Ewes are housed over the lambing period to facilitate inspection. Individual lambing pens of not less than 2.35m<sup>2</sup> are available; each housed ewe has a minimum of 1.5m<sup>2</sup> lying area available. (Soil Association Standards).

In the event of any animal displaying signs of ill health, veterinary advice will be sought immediately.

### Feeding

Sheep are fed a forage diet of grass and / or hay, except for in-lamb ewes in the run up to tupping and lambing.

All sheep have access to fresh water and a mineralised salt lick at all times.

An 18% protein concentrate is fed from 6 weeks before lambing until four – six weeks after the end of lambing (roughly 12 - 14 weeks), depending on grass growth.

Ewes are scanned in January and split into two groups, based on number of lambs carried, six weeks prior to lambing.

Feed plan for in-lamb ewes (kg per ewe per day)

Weeks before lambing	Singles	Twins / Triplets
7	0	0.2
6	0	0.2
5	0	0.5
4	0	0.7
3	0	0.9
2	0	1.0
1	0.2	1.0
Lambing period	0.5	1.5
1/2 week after lambing	1.0	1.0
3/4 weeks after lambing	0.5	0.5
5/6 weeks after lambing	0.5	0.5

Amounts may be adjusted to take account of ewe condition and grass growth.

## Key health issues:

Parasite reports from NADIS are consulted at the start of each month; any concerns are raised with our veterinary surgeon. Advice from SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) is also referenced.

### 1. Clostridial diseases, including tetanus, and Pasteurella (pneumonia)

All sheep are on the Heptavac P Plus programme.

All breeding stock (in-lamb ewes, non-breeding females and tups) receive annual booster of 2ml, subcutaneously, 4-6 weeks before the start of the lambing period.

Lambs (or other sheep not already vaccinated) receive two doses of 2ml, subcutaneously, 4 - 6 weeks apart. The first dose is not given until the lamb is a minimum of three weeks old.

### 2. Internal parasites (Gastrointestinal worms, liver fluke)

We aim to monitor worm infestation using faecal worm egg counts and observation of ewe / lamb condition and to control worms by

- rotating grazing,
- using mixed species grazing
- appropriate use of chemicals

The grazing at Dalmore is divided into six paddocks plus Laing's Field; stock is moved regularly throughout the year with the aim of each paddock having at least a 21-day break between each period of sheep grazing. Cattle, and to a lesser extent, ponies and poultry, are also grazing the paddocks.

#### Breeding sheep

All breeding sheep, including retained ewe hoggs, and tups, are routinely treated for worms and fluke (closantel) at lambing time, with ewes being dosed after lambing and prior to turnout. FEC may be done following worming to check for wormer resistance / effectiveness.

Timing of testing depends on class of wormer and is as follows:

White wormer	10-14 days after worming
Yellow wormer	7 days after worming
Clear wormer	14-17 days after worming
Orange wormer	No known resistance

All breeding sheep, including ewes, gimmers, tups and retained ewe lambs, are routinely treated for fluke pre-tupping in October (triclabendazole) and at scanning in late January (closantel).

In October, retained ewe lambs are wormed if required.

#### Lambs

Any lambs displaying signs of a worm burden ie dirty back end are wormed at shearing / second Heptavac dose (end of May / early June)

and at weaning (end of August) and are fluked as advised by vet on basis of weather conditions.

When lambs are slaughtered, the level of liver damage is assessed to determine the level of liver fluke infection. Parasite reports from NADIS are reviewed monthly and veterinary advice is sought on fluke control.

At any time, any individual animal displaying symptoms of a heavy worm burden will be subjected to a faecal worm count and / or appropriate treatment administered.

c) Nematodirus

Should routine FEC, or any sheep, show evidence of Nematodirus infection or there is a Nematodirus alert for this area, then a dose of white wormer will be administered to all lambs and veterinary advice will be sought.

d) Coccidiosis

Should any sheep show evidence of Coccidiosis infection or there is a Coccidiosis alert for this area, veterinary advice will be sought. Baycox was used in 2018.

3. External parasites

a) Headfly, blowfly, ticks, keds and lice

Prior to shearing in late May, we rely on dagging to reduce risk of blowfly strike and close observation to identify any infestation. At shearing, or shortly thereafter, all sheep are treated with Clik, which has an effective period of 16. There is an 40 day withdrawal period for meat.

b) Sheep scab

Sheep scab is a notifiable disease. The flock does not currently have sheep scab; any sheep bought in are observed for scab. Should any sheep show the symptoms of this parasitic infestation, veterinary advice will be sought and Animal Health notified.

4. Blue Tongue Virus / Schmallenburg Virus

Veterinary advice will be sought regarding BTV / SBV and vaccination.

5. Enzootic Abortion (Chlamydia) / Toxoplasmosis / Brucellosis

We vaccinate ewe lambs and gimmers every second year (even years) to reduce wastage of vaccine. Gimmers are vaccinated four weeks before first tupping. One vaccination is deemed to give lifetime cover.

6. Orf

The flock does not currently have orf; should any sheep show the symptoms of this infection, veterinary advice will be sought.

7. Footrot

The Ryeland breed shows high resistance to footrot. Any new stock will be foot-dipped or sprayed to prevent introduction. However, should any sheep show the symptoms of footrot, veterinary advice will be sought.

#### 8. Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

The land in this area is known to be deficient in copper, cobalt and selenium / vitamin E. Soil testing on the property in 2011 confirmed low levels of several minerals and trace elements (cobalt and selenium not tested for).

All sheep have access to a mineralised salt lick at all times.

Stock is monitored for symptoms of vitamin and mineral deficiencies and veterinary advice will be sought if a problem is identified.

#### 2019 Medicines

- Albex 10% oral drench (Albendazole / white). Withdrawal period 5 days for meat (Nematodirus)
- Zolvix for adult sheep at lambing and for lambs over the summer, reverting to Levamisole (yellow) in 2020
- Flukiver 5% (Closantel) Withdrawal period 42 days for meat
- Fasinex 100 10% (Triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Clik: Withdrawal period 40 days for meat

#### 2018 Medicines

- Albex 10% oral drench (Albendazole / white). Withdrawal period 5 days for meat (Nematodirus)
- Animec Sheep
- Flukiver 5% (Closantel) Withdrawal period 42 days for meat
- Fasinex 100 10% (Triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Crovect: Withdrawal period 8 days for meat

#### 2017 Medicines

- Albex 10% oral drench (Albendazole / white). Withdrawal period 5 days for meat (Nematodirus)
- Flukiver 5% (Closantel) Withdrawal period 42 days for meat
- Fasinex 100 10% (Triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Crovect: Withdrawal period 8 days for meat

We are using white wormer in 2017 and will test for resistance 10 -14 days after administration. If we have white wormer resistance then after two further cycles of clear / yellow, we will use one of the new generations to reduce resistance development in the two remaining groups available to us.

#### 2016 Medicines

- Animec oral drench (Ivermectin / clear) Withdrawal period 10 days for meat
- Flukiver 5% (Closantel) Withdrawal period 42 days for meat
- Fasinex 100 10% (Triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Crovect: Withdrawal period 8 days for meat

#### 2015 Medicines

- Levacur SC 3% (Levamisole / yellow) Withdrawal period 20 days for meat
- Flukiver 5% (closantel) Withdrawal period 42 days for meat
- Fasinex 100 10% (triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Pfizer Spot-on: Withdrawal period 17 days for meat
- Crovect: Withdrawal period 8 days for meat

#### 2014 Medicines

- Albex (Albendazole / white) combined fluke / wormer at lambing
- Fasinex 100 10% (triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Pfizer Spot-on: Withdrawal period 17 days for meat
- Crovect: Withdrawal period 8 days for meat

#### 2013 Medicines

- Combinex (Triclabendazole and levamisole)
- Fasinex 100 10% (triclabendazole) Withdrawal period 35 days for meat.
- Pfizer Spot-on
- Crovect

#### Ewe replacement / retention policy

The collection of management information will need to be improved e.g. lamb birth weights, 30-day weight (as a measure of maternal quality).

#### *Draft ewe replacement / retention policy*

*We are looking to retain ewes that*

- *Meet the breed characteristics of the Ryeland breed – breed standard*
- *Are easy lambing – assisted births and outcomes*
- *Are prolific – produce twins*
- *Have good maternal instincts – lamb survival rates*
- *Are milky – lamb growth rates*
- *Are healthy – veterinary records*
- *Have good quality fleece*