

## TEASER RAMS

By Becca Price BVSc MRCVS

As we look towards autumn, our thoughts start to shift towards preparing for next Spring's lambs. The summer is the perfect time to start planning how we are going to manage the tugging of the flock, and the following lambing period.

One of the ways we can manage a tight lambing period would be to synchronise the ewes. One of the more common ways of doing this would be to vasectomise rams for use as a teaser. Vasectomising rams prevents them from being fertile, but unlike castrating, enables hormonal control of the reproductive tract. The procedure involves removing a portion of the vas deferens (the tubing that transports the sperm) but keeps the testicles intact allowing the production of testosterone.



Teaser rams are used predominantly for the tightening of a lambing period. Putting teasers in with a flock will bring them all into heat, and once removed, and rams put in, most ewes will be served within the first fertility cycle, preventing a long drawn out lambing period.

When selecting a ram to use, there are a few things to consider. Ideally a shearling, not a ram lamb, would be best to use as they are likely to have a higher libido. Being fit and healthy, with good feet and teeth is also important, as they are going to have to work hard!



For the best results, the ewes should be kept out of sight and range of smell, for about a month prior to putting the teaser in. They should be put in with the ewes at a rough ratio of 50:1 (although it is worth bearing in mind that because the ewes are synchronised, when fertile ram is put in a more appropriate ratio would be 20/30:1). The teaser should be left in for 14 days, followed immediately by the fertile ram(s). There will be two peaks of oestrus activity at 18 and 26 days.

We can vasectomise on farm, or at the surgery. The procedure involves a sedation, and taking a small portion of the vas deferens out, to prevent passage of sperm. The process only takes 30-45 minutes. A clean environment is important for the procedure and afterwards, to enable good wound management.

Please get in contact with us at the surgery if this is something that would benefit your flock.

## OUR CURRENT STURMINSTER NEWTON BRANCH

Our current Sturminster Newton branch will remain as an important point of contact for our clients in the south of our area. When our building work has been completed at West Stour the facilities in Sturminster will be rearranged with our large animal pharmacy returning to the front of the building as it was previously. We look forward to welcoming you inside, face to face once more!





# Friars Moor

## Livestock Health



**GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW**  
16 & 17 AUG 2023

### COME AND VISIT US AT THIS YEARS G&S SHOW!

We will be in our normal spot opposite the main ring. Our BBQ will be running over lunchtime. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Please note we have received lots of phone calls requesting BBQ tickets, please do not worry if you don't have enough tickets. It is not one ticket per person and you will still be able to get your burger or hot dog as long as you are a Livestock Health farm client.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

19  
AUG

### PRACTICAL WEC

Practical worm egg counting & management. **Saturday 19th August 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm.** Friars Moor Sturminster Manston Road, Sturminster Newton, DT101BH. **Cost is £85 inc VAT.**

25  
SEPT

### PRACTICAL AI

This is a three-day training course, which consists of one theory training day followed by two practical training days. **Monday 25th September, time TBC.** DAY 1: Theory day @ Friars Moor Sturminster Newton branch DAY 2: Practical (Location TBC) DAY 3: Practical (Location TBC). **Cost is £500 + VAT.**

TBC

### CALF REARING LEVEL 2

To register your interest for our Level 2 Calf rearing course please contact the farm office and we will add you to our list! **Will be held in the Winter, exact date and time to be confirmed.** This course is for those with experience of rearing calves who are looking to advance their knowledge to improve their rearing success.

**TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN ANY OTHER COURSES OR TO BOOK ON TO ONE LISTED ABOVE PLEASE CALL THE FARM OFFICE ON 01258472314.**



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