

January 2015

Question and Answer session with Peter Stockdale regarding vaccinations and worms. Peter stressed the importance of keeping the flock healthy and doing everything possible to *prevent* disease.

-Vaccinations: 1 month before lambing – no later as it is hard on the ewes. Clean needles and clean injection site can help prevent abscesses.

Tasvax is commonly used with a 1 inch, 20 gauge needle.

-diarrhea in the first week after birth happens, but if not too serious let the ewe mother and things should be ok.

- Intestinal diseases: worms are most important. Worms do cause diarrhea and can be picked up from feces. Be proactive by having rotational grazing and using electric fencing if possible. In this way eggs hatch, are exposed to dryness and sunlight and die before the flock returns. This usually takes 3 weeks to be infective, then 3 weeks to lose impact. If the pasture stays wet and does not get sun, larvae remain infective for up to 6 weeks. –

cold winters and dry summers usually kill parasites.

-after lambing, if ewes condition goes down, check for worms. If there is no sign of worms, boost the ewe's feed.