

TARFF VALLEY LTD

Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

Newsletter

Congratulations to Julia Graham who has been at Tarff for 30 years! Julia joined in 1988 and is an integral part of the Tarff team. Since starting,

Julia has seen Tarff go from strength to strength with many changes in that time. She's also got an HGV Class 2 licence and worked as a lorry driver for a day doing deliveries! (This was a wee while ago!)

Julia is a hardworking, determined individual and we thank her for being such a valuable member of our team.



Follow us,
Join us,
#teamtarff
@tarffvalley

Making Tax Digital (MTD)

From 1st April 2019, businesses and landlords which have a taxable turnover above the VAT threshold will be required to submit updates to the HMRC each quarter, directly from accounting software. Paper accounting records will no longer meet the requirements of the tax law.

However, there are some exemptions, such as:

- Those who are not able to engage digitally due to factors such as age, disability or location (eg, no availability to broadband). These exemptions are the same as the current exemptions for VAT online filing.
- VAT registered businesses with turnover less than the VAT threshold.
- When the MTD for income tax becomes mandatory there will be an exemption for businesses and landlords with a very small turnover. The level of this exemption has not yet been set.

However, it is suggested that you speak to an accountant so you are ready for the MTD transition in April. You will have to consider the way in which you maintain these records, and the software you are using and whether this needs to be upgraded.

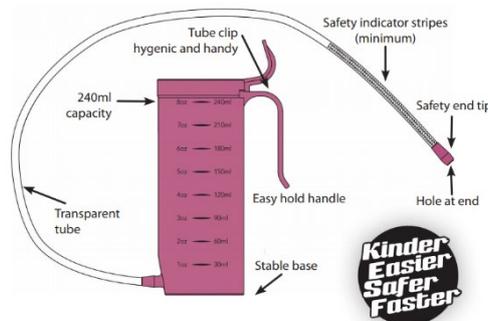
Trusti Tuber for Lambs

NEW in stores, the Trusti Tuber for lambs! A new way to tube lambs in a kind, easier, safer and faster manner.

Tips for safe use

Hold the vial with middle finger in the handle above the tube clip and two fingers in the handle below. This way you can simply hold and guide the tube with thumb and index finger. With a pre-filled vial, this makes it easy for one person to use.

To ensure the tube stays in position during fluid flow – secure the tube with the same hand holding the animal's head. Ensure the head and neck of the lamb or kid stays above stomach level. The tube safety marks indicate when you have passed the tube a safe distance past the airway entrance in a lamb or kid up to 6kg. To stop flow during feeding simply lower the vial.



Making The Most Of A Flock With A High Lambing Percentage

With a good grass growing autumn, it stands to reason that the scanning or lambing percentage results may be higher this year than last.

Ask about EweMax 19 nuts and rolls, a 19% protein ewe feed ideal for very prolific flocks and farms feeding lower energy forages or straw. Maize is the top ingredient, safe starch providing very high energy and a lower risk of acidosis. Very high DUP comes from Hipro Soya and Carrs Billington's unique AminoMax-L protected soya maximises milk yield and quality. Safmannan increases production of immunoglobulin (IgG) in ewe colostrum, aiding passive transfer of immunity from ewe to lamb.

When it comes to triplet lambs, the age-old question is, do we split them or leave them to run with the ewe? Many shepherds will wet-foster/adopt one of the triplets to a single ewe with plenty of milk but this is very time consuming at a busy time.

What are the options?

- Leave the triplets to run with the ewes. However, this increases the risk of udder problems. In order to combat these issues and maintain a healthy ewe, treatment becomes necessary, incurring costs, additional work necessitating the use of antibiotics (which as an industry we are all working to reduce) and often results in three poorer lambs to feed.

- Leaving the triplets to run with the ewes, but creep feeding the lambs which reduces the demand on the ewe, lessening the risk of udder problems. This tends to be a good option for farms with limited triplet numbers.

- Using a milk machine to 35 days with lamb milk replacer and then feeding Early Bite lamb pellets. Removing one lamb at a couple of days old and feeding it with a milk machine is an option taken by farms with high triplet numbers. The two lambs that have been left to run with the ewe then thrive naturally with appropriate milk supply from the ewe. The remaining lamb accesses the milk machine and grows rapidly.

Early Bite lamb pellets contain both Actisaf yeast, for rumen development and promoting the growth of rumen organisms, and Early Bite neonate package which stimulates feed intakes for higher growth rates. Removing the extra lamb to a milk machine and creep feed maximises flock income, health and viability. With two healthy lambs remaining, the ewe is able to maintain her body condition and go on to have another healthy pregnancy, and the ewe and her twin lambs can be turned away to grass (or the lambs creep fed to speed up growth rates for earlier sale at higher spring lamb prices) thus offsetting the price of one pet lamb.

At Tarff, we offer a comprehensive range of sheep feed & lamb milk replacers. Speak to your local Sales Representative for more information.

Research Suggests UK Sheep Producers Are Still Keen To Rear As Many Lambs As Possible

Laura Sutton has joined Tarff as Castle Douglas Store Manager. Laura has recently moved from Essex with her family to the D&G area. Laura previously worked for Dengie Horse Feeds within the lab and quality department and from this, her interest in agriculture has grown. In her spare time, Laura enjoys off-roading (4x4) and socialising. Laura is looking forward to meeting new people in the area and learning more about different aspects of farming.



Congratulations to Calum McCall who has passed his FACTS qualification!

As a FACTS Qualified Adviser, Calum can provide an informed analysis to farmers and growers on fertilisers and plant nutrition.



Congratulations to Jennifer Veitch (Dundonald) and Darren Paterson (Newtown St Boswells) for passing their AMTRA exam! This means they are now fully qualified SQPs and are able to sell animal health medicines over the counter.

With uncertainty still surrounding the future status of valuable European export markets, more than 90% of UK sheep producers still say it will be very important to rear as many lambs as possible in 2019.

That's according to the latest research carried out by Volac to examine surplus lamb rearing intentions and practices. 521 farms participated in the online survey. 51% of farms surveyed see an opportunity to rear more lambs artificially next year with 85% of units now saying they have a system in place to carry out this task.

Volac business manager, Alan Smith, says, "the survey findings give an interesting insight into UK surplus lamb rearing in both small (< 100 ewes) and larger (>250 ewes) flocks".

"Not surprisingly, the main lambs being reared artificially are those from triplet-bearing ewes, together with any orphans. On the whole, just under 80% of farmers say that if a ewe has had triplets, one lamb would be removed. Although, in larger flocks the figure is nearer 90%. Smaller flocks are less likely to remove a third lamb with only 75% of units saying they carry out this practice.

"What is particularly interesting though is the lamb selection choice criteria employed. In larger flocks, just under 50% of flocks remove the odd one out in a group of three – which is what Volac would recommend – whereas only 28% of smaller flocks do this.

"It is always best to leave a balanced pair of lambs on the mother. A mix of criteria are being employed to make the choice, with the most favoured approach being removal of the weakest lamb (19% of units). Other norms include always taking the strongest lamb (17%), or the smallest (15%). Just under 6% of farmers say they typically select the largest triplet, a similar proportion said they tend to remove a male lamb with just under 1% saying they generally take a female," he says.

Interestingly, across the whole sample more than 68% of farmers would also consider removing a lamb from a twin-bearing ewe lamb to take the pressure off and allow her to keep milking and growing. However, larger flocks (78%) are more likely to carry out this practice than smaller flocks (64%).

Labour saving benefits

Alan Smith goes on to say that surplus lambs can now be reared very efficiently artificially and without the problems associated with fostering onto an unwilling ewe.

"With good husbandry, organisation and the right performance-formulated milk replacer such as Volac Lamlac, there's no doubt you can produce good quality lambs, as well as save hours of effort and hassle".

Key pointers for rearing lambs on LAMLAC:

- Ensure lambs receive adequate colostrum within six hours of birth
- Choose your feeding system. There are three main options available – bottle feeding, ad lib by bucket or by machine feeding. The method will often depend on the number of lambs reared and the facilities available.
- Specially formulated ewe milk replacer is designed to be a complete diet providing the lamb with all the energy and nutrients it needs.



Speak to your local sales representative for more information on Lamlac milk powders.

Improving Lambing Returns Through Nutrition

With only 20% of breeding flocks proving profitable according to AHDB data, producers must analyse how they can adapt and change to ensure their systems remain sustainable for the long-term.

The top performing flocks in the UK can be characterised by achieving three common factors which should therefore form the focus for profitability within all UK flocks:

- 1. Strong control over costs**
Lower purchased feed use and lower veterinary and medicine costs.
- 2. High physical performance**
Fewer lamb losses within the first 48 hours and higher lamb weights at weaning.
- 3. Maximising returns from lambs sold**
Higher returns for lambs sold as stores or finished.

Which Forage Supplement Should I Use Pre-Lambing?

No matter the forage type being offered in the run up to lambing, Rumenco's LIFELINE Lamb & Ewe product range is specifically formulated for feeding during the final 6 weeks of pregnancy. All products help support colostrum quality, an easier lambing and improved lamb vigour, helping to form an integrated approach for a profitable lambing season. Available as a feed block, bucket or protein meal, it is suitable for all types of feeding systems. For more information regarding Lifeline Lamb & Ewe products, please speak to your allocated sales representative.

WHICH LIFELINE LAMB AND EWE PRODUCT SHOULD I FEED?

VERY GOOD SILAGE
LIFELINE Lamb & Ewe Protein Meal



GOOD HAY/GOOD SILAGE
LIFELINE Lamb & Ewe Bucket



POOR SILAGE/AVERAGE HAY/STRAW
LIFELINE Lamb & Ewe Block

