

Chagford Show Thursday 20th August

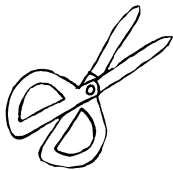
We will be the duty vets again this year for Chagford Show, with Ulli Arnold in attendance all day.

Come and visit our promotional stand near the main ring for a drink & piece of cake.

Bring along your FREE farm client prize draw ticket from the bottom of this newsletter to be entered in our show draw.

You could win.....

- 1st Prize - £50 Moorgate Voucher
- 2nd Prize - Microchip & Engraved ID Tag
- 3rd Prize - 15kg Bag Working Dog Food



Moorgate Veterinary Group at Chagford Show FARM CLIENT FREE PRIZE DRAW

NAME.....
FARM NAME.....
CONTACT NUMBER:.....

Place your ticket in the draw box on the Moorgate Promotional Stand at Chagford Show

*Draw will take place at Chagford Show at 4.30pm
Draw is only open to existing farm clients
Draw is not open to staff or their immediate family members*

Planning ahead: Synchronised breeding of sheep

Very poor lamb prices this year mean that it is more important than ever for farmers to be

as efficient as possible in terms of labour and input to their sheep business.

Early lambing traditionally has benefits for pedigree flocks ensuring this years crop of lambs are as old and well grown as possible and to catch the early lamb market, though bear in mind that in order to do this you must also be prepared to invest in feeding for early finishing.

Having a tight lambing period can also have big benefits in reducing labour costs and feeding costs whilst ewes are housed for a shorter period, and also meaning that lambs are all of a similar age to be managed together.

There are two ways farmers can do this, by using progesterone sponges, and by the use of teaser rams. Sponges are usually used to advance the breeding season (breed ewes early) whereas teaser rams will help to tighten up the lambing period.

Sponges and PMSG injections

- A sponge impregnated with progesterone can be inserted intravaginally for 12-14 days, and this mimics the activity of a corpus luteum, when this is removed the sudden drop in progesterone leads to ovulation and heat within 36-48 hours.
- Outside of the normal season there is sometimes not enough residual hormonal activity for the ewe to ovulate, so an injection of PMSG is given when the sponges are removed to encourage ovulation.
- During the normal breeding season ewes will cycle normally after sponge removal, but when sponges are used outside of the breeding season any ewes which do not conceive to the induced ovulation will not cycle again until the normal breeding season.
- Following removal of sponges rams should be introduced about 36 hours later, and a ratio of no more than 10 ewes to 1 ram should be used as all ewes will be ovulating at the same time.

Teaser Rams

- This technique makes use of the “Ram Effect” where pheromones from sexually mature rams cause a rapid increase in hormonal activity in ewes.
- Ewes must be kept away from the sight and smell of rams for at least 3 weeks before the teaser ram is introduced, at a ration of about 1 ram to 50 ewes. Teasers are left with the ewes for up to 14 days (no longer).
- When the teasers are taken out the stock rams can go in at a ratio of about 1 ram to 30 ewes, there will be 2 peaks of oestrus activity 18-26 days after teaser introduction.
- Teaser rams are rams which have normal testosterone levels and are sexually mature, but are infertile because they have been vasectomised. We can perform vasectomies on farm or at the surgery under local anaesthetic.

When selecting rams to be used for teasers it is important to choose well-grown ram lambs who will have a strong ram effect.

If you would like to discuss planned breeding of sheep, arrange a ram vasectomy, or any other matters regarding your flock, please contact the surgery



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Abbot, TQ13 9AL
TELEPHONE ; 01626
833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
Moretonhampstead,
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
TELEPHONE ; 01647
440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
Exeter, EX6 7NS
For appointments/repeat
prescriptions etc.
telephone; 01626 833023

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