



Watery Mouth



Watery Mouth is caused by the absorption of toxins from bacteria multiplying in the gut of lambs of 1—2 days of age. The bacteria are acquired from the environment (bedding, dirty fleeces, etc), but if the lamb drinks colostrum **before** ingesting the bacteria, the antibodies in the colostrum will kill the bacteria and so prevent the disease.

Watery Mouth is therefore seen in those lambs that fail to take adequate colostrum, (disadvantaged lambs such as triplets) and also towards the end of lambing when bacterial levels have built up in the lambing sheds.

There are only 2 licenced products for the oral treatment of watery mouth and other associated lamb conditions. These are **OROJET LAMB** and **SPECTAM SCOUR HOLT**. However, we would advise that these treatments are only used routinely when a watery mouth problem has become evident on the farm. As this is usually towards the end of lambing, a significant saving on medicine costs can be made by this delay.



Avian Influenza

The government position is that vaccination of birds against avian influenza is not part of the UK control strategy. Consequently there is no vaccine available at the moment, although this situation may change if and when infection is confirmed in this country. In the meantime, the following steps are advised:

- Keep bird feed and any standing drinking water free from contamination by wild birds and other animals. This might mean feeding and watering undercover.
- Make sure your premises are tidy and clean. Spilled feed, litter and standing water attract wild birds and vermin.
- Keep your birds separate from wild birds, waterfowl, pets and other animals. Control vermin.
- Keep visitors and their vehicles away from your birds as far as possible. If they must have access, make sure vehicles and equipment are clean.



For more information and advice

Visit the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk or phone the Helpline on 08459 33 55 77

TB UPDATE

TB pre-movement testing has been postponed by DEFRA until 27th March 2006 due to concerns by vets and farmers about the viability of the proposed scheme.

FARM ANIMAL VETS

Most of you will have seen last weeks "Farmers Weekly" extended article on the demise of the farm animal vet. We would just like to reassure you that the vets at Larkmead are

here to stay in the farm animal sector and are continuing to grow in size and strength through this difficult economic climate.

We strive to provide a first class, cutting-edge service at an affordable rate and to dispense highly competitively priced drugs. We would invite you to discuss any issues you may have regarding drug pricing or how to improve our service with any of our vets, or with Chris Trower who is the Clinical Director at Cholsey Surgery.