**WHEN DO YOU VACCINATE AGAINST ENZOOTIC ABORTION OF EWES (EAE)?**

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Description automatically generated**DID YOU KNOW THAT IT CAN BE DONE WHEN IT’S MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU?**

* **Cevac Chlamydia can be given from 4 months to 4 weeks before the rams go in**
* **It can be given from 5 months of age** to allow ewe lambs to be vaccinated and protected.
* **DO NOT use in pregnant sheep**

**The disease:**

* Enzootic abortion of ewes remains one of the most common causes of abortion diagnosed in sheep, despite the availability of cost-effective vaccines.
* The bacterium (*Chlamydophila abortus*) is spread from sheep to sheep, predominantly at lambing, when affected ewes will shed large numbers of bacteria in their foetal fluids and placenta
* Infection in a flock can result in the birth of dead and/or weak lambs from about 3 weeks before lambing is due to start.
* If sheep are infected after about 100 days of pregnancy they will not abort at this lambing, the bacteria become **latent** but then reactivate causing abortion at the subsequent lambing.
* The highly infectious nature of Chlamydia, as well as this latent infection means that levels of abortion can be relatively low one year, before resulting in a storm and significant losses in the next year.
* Some ewes may not abort but can still shed the bacteria, meaning neonatal ewe lambs could be infected.
* In a previously uninfected flock the infection is generally bought in.

**Diagnosis:**

* **If you see an abortion rate over 2% of your ewes lambs then an infectious cause is likely.**
* **Don’t leave it until after lambing – the best diagnostic results are with fresh samples.**
* **Take advice from your vet about the best method.**

**Control:**

* Biosecurity and hygiene are important.
* Ensure ewes that abort are isolated and the placenta and bedding is disposed of, so as to minimise transmission to other sheep.
* Consider the history of where you are buying sheep from and ideally, keep bought-in separate from home-bred replacements until they have lambed for the first time.
* The best way to prevent disease is through robust biosecurity and a robust vaccination policy.
* There are 2 types of vaccine available on the market, live or dead. Dead vaccines need a primary course of 2 injections and then a booster. Live vaccines require just a single shot that provides long-lasting protection (3-4 lambings, depending on the disease risk).