

Ewe Colostrum in organic systems

The ewe must have adequate colostrum for the lambs to survive; the lambs need this colostrum within the first few hours of life, supplying antibodies against infectious diseases. If the lambs are healthy they will get on their feet and feed themselves.

If there is not adequate colostrum or there are too many lambs to feed or there is a disease problem, it is crucial that the lambs receive colostrum if they cannot get it themselves. Have a supply ready for emergencies where possible.

PERMITTED COLOSTRUM SOURCES, in order of preference

Another ewe with plenty of colostrum

Frozen colostrum saved from last year's lambing

Frozen colostrum from cows (but does not contain the essential antibodies essential against sheep diseases).

Powdered milk replacer may be used the first 72 hours as an emergency

*If the lambs are weak and unable to feed themselves they should be stomach tubed with colostrum to ensure they receive their supply of antibodies. If the lamb does not receive this colostrum it runs the risk of developing **hypothermia**. Other causes of hypothermia are; too much heat loss, this could be due to the ewe not licking the lamb, and the lamb being born in an exposed place. The only way to determine whether a lamb is suffering from hypothermia is to take its temperature.*

	Degree Centi- grade	Farinheight	Treatment
Normal	39 - 40	102 -104	
At Risk	37.5 - 39	99 - 102	Dry the lamb, feed it Provide heat (shelter or heat lamp)
Hypothermic	Below 37.5	Below 99	If conscious & under 5 hrs old treat as above, If above 5 hrs give glu- cose injection (intraperitoneal)

If you discover a disease outbreak please seek advice from your veterinary surgeon and administer treatment as soon as possible.

Remember, the use of **prophylactic antibiotics is not permitted**.

However, if animal welfare is at risk, please liaise with SOPA and your veterinary surgeon to remedy the problem as efficiently as possible.

Your Livestock Management Plan should be a useful tool in looking at dealing with known diseases over a period of time.

The SOPA Office Number is 0131 335 6606 (enter this in your mobile phone)