



# Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

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This Newsletter is independently edited and readers should be aware that the views expressed within its pages do not necessarily reflect the views held by Council.



# **EDITORIAL**

**Mark Pettitt**

Well, it's been an interesting winter. The grass was still growing in November, the hawthorn trees started coming into leaf in January and blackthorn is now already in flower. Together with the quantity of rain that has been falling, these are ideal conditions for Liver Fluke Disease, so I have included an article with detailed information on this disease from the Scops.org.uk website with their kind permission.

With the imminent arrival of lambs on many farms, I have included an article, with the kind permission of XLVets, on how to prepare to avoid problems. I decided to lamb early again this year and have reported my experiences in 'The View From Here'

How long do you think the Cotswold Sheep Society has been running? ... You may be surprised to learn that it is in its 125<sup>th</sup> year. Seems like a good excuse for one of our fabulous bring-and-share do's.

And talking about food, there's a recipe for Mutton Hotpot included too.

If you see something that might be of interest to other members, or would like to contribute an article about your own experiences, please do let me know. We would love to hear from you.

# Endoparasites

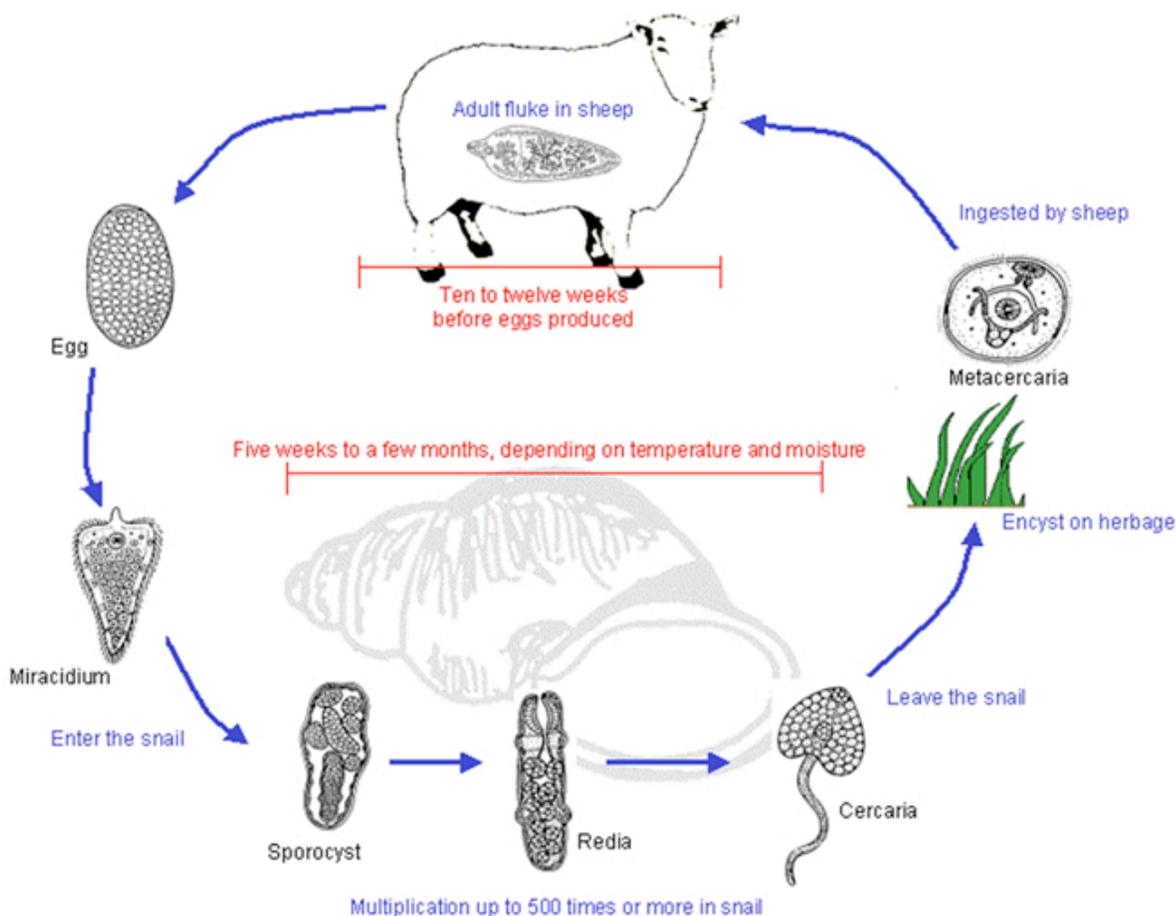
by kind permission of Scops.org.uk

## Liver Fluke

Liver fluke disease (fasciolosis) is caused by the trematode parasite *Fasciola hepatica*. Disease can result from the migration of large numbers of immature flukes through the liver, or from the presence of adult flukes in the bile ducts, or both. Liver fluke can infect all grazing animals (and man) but mainly affects sheep and cattle. It is most pathogenic in sheep.

## Life-Cycle

Compared to other helminths the life-cycle is complex, involving an intermediate host, the mud snail *Galba (Lymnaea) truncatula* and several free-living stages. The role of the snail, which prefers muddy, slightly acidic conditions, particularly areas associated with poor drainage, means that the incidence of liver fluke is far greater in the wetter areas of the country and in years when there is high summer rainfall. With the capacity of the snail to multiply rapidly (100,000 offspring in 3–4 months) along with the multiplication of the parasite within the snail, there is potential for very large numbers of parasites.



Life-cycle of the liver fluke, *Fasciola hepatica*.  
(Drawings courtesy of Drs Oldham, Jacobs and Fox)

Adult fluke lay eggs that are passed out onto pasture in the faeces. At suitable temperatures, a miracidium develops within the egg, hatches and migrates in thin films of moisture, actively seeking the snail host. Miracidia can only survive for a few hours outside the snail. Within the snail they undergo two further developmental stages, including multiplication, eventually becoming infective cercariae, which emerge from the snail when the temperature and moisture levels are suitable.

The cercariae migrate onto wet herbage, encysting as metacercariae, the highly resilient infective stage of the liver fluke. Following ingestion, the young flukes migrate to the liver, through which they tunnel, causing considerable tissue damage. The infection is patent about 10–12 weeks after the metacercariae are ingested. The whole cycle takes 18-20 weeks.

### **Epidemiology**

The hatching of fluke eggs and the multiplication of snails depend on adequate moisture and temperatures greater than 10°C. Such conditions usually occur from May–October in the UK although patterns have been changing in recent years. The incidence of fasciolosis is highest in years when rainfall is above average during May–July. The epidemiology of liver fluke is often viewed as the result of two distinct cycles of snail infection and pasture contamination.

#### **Summer infection of snails**

In wet summers, snail populations multiply rapidly and snails are invaded by hatching miracidia from May–July. If wet weather continues, the snails shed massive numbers of cercariae onto pasture during July–October. Conversely, if the climate in May–July is dry or cold, fewer snails appear, fewer fluke eggs hatch and levels of contamination in the autumn are much lower. Clinical fasciolosis resulting from summer infection of snails arises usually from ingestion of large numbers of metacercariae over a short period of time in July–October.

#### **Winter infection of snails**

Less commonly, snails can become infected in late summer or early autumn and development within infected snails is delayed as the snails become dormant and hibernate. The cercariae are then not shed onto the pasture until the following spring. This can produce an initial and significant infection in herds or flocks in the spring.

### **Fasciolosis**

Liver fluke disease in sheep occurs in three main clinical forms – acute, subacute and chronic fasciolosis. Which form occurs depends on the numbers of infective metacercariae ingested and the period of time over which they are ingested. Recent milder winters and wetter summers have seen changes patterns in parasite epidemiology and reported disease with earlier seasonal reports of acute disease. Table 7.1 outlines the clinical signs and treatment options for each form of the disease:

Disease Type	Peak Incidence	Clinical Signs	Fluke Numbers	FEC (epg)	Treatment
Acute	July to December	Sudden death or dullness, anaemia, dyspnoea, ascites and abdominal pain.	1000+ mainly immature	0	Triclabendazole. Treat all sheep and move to a lower risk (drier) pasture if possible OR re-treat after 3 weeks. Further deaths may occur post-treatment from liver damage incurred.
Subacute	October to January	Rapid weight loss, anaemia, submandibular oedema and ascites in some cases.	500-1000 adults and immatures.	<100	Treat with a fasciolicide active against mature and immature fluke. If sheep cannot be moved to lower risk pasture, re-treat after 5-8 weeks.
Chronic	January to April	Progressive weight loss, anaemia, submandibular oedema, diarrhoea and ascites.	200+ adults	100+	All fasciolicides are active against the mature fluke involved in chronic disease. Treat and move to lower risk pasture.

Table: Diagnosis and treatment of fasciolosis in sheep

## Treatment and control

Control programmes must take into account the farm history, topography, geographical location and the prevailing weather. Most programmes rely heavily on flukicidal treatments. The choice of product and frequency of use will depend on the level of fluke challenge, the time of year, and the management and husbandry systems on the farm.

It is important to use the appropriate drug for each situation and to base treatments on fluke forecasts. Most flukicidal drugs on the market are effective in treating chronic fasciolosis, because they kill adult fluke, but few are effective in treating acute fluke infections in sheep caused by the immatures migrating through the liver (Table 7.2.). Triclabendazole (TCBZ) is generally the drug of choice but as resistance to flukicides can occur with repeated and frequent use, alternatives should be used wherever possible, particularly in late winter and spring, in order to reduce the potential for the development of TCBZ-resistance.

Fluke burdens can be monitored in sheep flocks by post-mortem examinations when the opportunity arises, or with FECs. Flocks should be monitored before a fasciolicide is used unless there is a history of fluke infection on the farm. Continued monitoring can help determine the need for repeated treatments. For treatment in late summer and autumn, a fasciolicide that is active against immature fluke is recommended. Treatment may need to be repeated in winter (January). If a spring treatment is required (April - June), then a flukicide with adult activity only can be used reducing the selection pressure associated with TCBZ.

The use of combination fluke and worm products should be discouraged as it can lead to off-target selection for resistance to broad-spectrum anthelmintics in nematodes, or fasciolicide resistance in *F. hepatica*. However, there is evidence that closantel-BZ combinations have a synergistic activity that may enhance their activity against resistant *F. hepatica* (and *H. contortus*), and also help delay the emergence of resistance to either class of compound.

Where fluke infection is present, identification and exclusion of snail habitats from livestock offers some measure of control. Drainage eliminates the snail and offers an effective means of control, but the proliferation of environmental schemes to protect wetland areas has reduced the opportunities for this to be implemented. Simply keeping stock off the wettest fields in the autumn and the winter, when the incidence of disease is at its highest, can reduce the risk from fluke.

Age of fluke (weeks)															
Flukicide	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Albendazole											50 - 70%		80 - 99%		
Oxyclozanide											50 - 90%		91 - 99%		
Nitroxynil											50 - 90%		91 - 99%		
Closantel											50 - 90%		91 - 99%		
Triclabendazole (TCB)	90 - 99%			99 - 99.9%											

Table: Efficacy of flukicides available for use in sheep in the UK against susceptible fluke populations (adapted from Fairweather and Boray, 1999).

## Resistance to fasciolicides

### Resistance in the UK

TCBZ is the most widely used flukicide because of its activity against immature fluke. Unfortunately this has led to the development of resistance in several countries and reports of suspected resistance in the UK. Currently there are no validated field-based methods for the detection of fluke resistance and confirmation is extremely difficult. As a consequence, reported cases of TCB-resistance in the UK are very much anecdotal. An EU funded project DELIVER has evaluated an FECRT

for fluke resistance investigations and several other in vitro and immunological methods have been investigated and reported but have yet to be validated for field use. Resistance, where it appears or is suspected, usually manifests firstly as a failure to kill the youngest immatures with subsequent re-appearance of fluke eggs in the faeces earlier than would be expected if the drug retained full efficacy. As resistance develops eventually adult fluke are able to survive treatment as well. The possibility of other reasons for flukicide failure should always be considered, particularly if animals are in poor condition or may be suffering from liver damage.

Where resistance is suspected to a particular product, then an alternative flukicide listed in Table 7.2. should be considered, taking into account the variations in activity against immature fluke between products. However, it is also advisable to consider the other possible reasons for apparent failure because it is likely that although some cases are due to resistance, the situation is not as clear cut as resistance in roundworms. Firstly, there are no validated tests for resistance in liver fluke. A simple post treatment Faecal Egg count (FEC) is not conclusive and other methods are still under investigation. Secondly, there are a number of other reasons why treatment may not be fully effective and appear to fail. These include:

Pastures with very heavy infestations can mean that farmers are caught out by the speed which animals become re-infected following treatment.

Triclabendazole (TCBZ) is widely used because it kills early immature fluke and historically has been highly effective when used correctly. It does, however, have to be partly metabolised by the liver before it can work properly. If the liver is already damaged through a high fluke burden or other concurrent disease this has the potential to reduce efficacy.

Inaccurate dosing through underdosing and/or badly calibrated and maintained equipment – the same old story, but so often the root cause of an apparent failure.

Incorrect product choice – for example the use of an adulticide in the autumn leaving large numbers of immature flukes untouched to continue to cause disease.

Preventing the development of resistance

Rotational use of TCBZ, closantel or nitroxylnil should be considered where flukicides are used strategically, although additional treatments may be required in years when TCB is not used. Opportunities to avoid the use of TCBZ should be exploited whenever alternate drugs will give satisfactory levels of control. For example the use of closantel or nitroxylnil 3 weeks post-housing; treatment of chronic infections in the spring with an adulticide.

## **Quarantine**

The need for quarantine treatments

Quarantine treatment strategies for liver fluke in introduced sheep, cattle or goats should be considered ‘using a risk-based’ and developed for farms considered “at risk” in conjunction with a veterinarian or advisor.

The three principal reasons for treatment are:

Sheep may be introduced onto a farm with no known snail habitat and, therefore, no history of fluke infection. The risk of introduced fluke establishing on the farm is very small (or zero, if there is no snail habitat) and treatment in this case is intended to remove any fluke in the sheep for the sake of their health. Treatment with a flukicide active against immatures is advised, with FEC monitoring in subsequent months to detect any small residual burden. The consequences of introducing small numbers of fluke, or resistant fluke, are not serious in the long-term.

The farm may have areas considered to be a suitable habitat for snails but no history of fluke infection. The risk of introduced fluke establishing on the farm is considered to be significant so treatment is aimed at removing all fluke, including any resistant fluke.

Liver fluke may be endemic on the farm, so introducing small numbers of fluke will not be serious, particularly if wildlife reservoirs exist. However, if the endemic fluke are fully flukicide -susceptible, the consequences of introducing resistant fluke are potentially serious.

### **Choosing a treatment strategy**

The following factors should be considered when choosing a quarantine treatment strategy.

Resistance to TCBZ is still relatively uncommon in the UK and, in most cases treatment with TCBZ will remove a very high proportion of susceptible flukes of all stages.

Treatment of TCBZ alone will not remove TCBZ-resistant fluke.

Treatment with closantel or nitroxylinil is expected to prevent the output of fluke eggs for at least 8 weeks and probably more, provided the fluke are susceptible to the drug used. If the introduced sheep are infected with young immature fluke, treatment will have to be repeated after the immatures are old enough to be killed by these products (see Table 7.2.). In this context, it may be worth considering the use of two doses of closantel given 6 weeks apart (nitroxylinil a minimum of 7 weeks apart for sheep).

Resistance to closantel and to nitroxylinil has been reported in other countries.

Treatment with more than one product with activity against immature flukes (closantel, nitroxylinil, TCBZ) will reduce the risk of introducing fluke with resistance to any one product. It is not recommended, however, that two products are used at the same time, because of the potential risk to the health of the sheep.

Sheep can pass fluke eggs for up to 3 weeks after adult fluke are killed. It is advised that sheep be kept on quarantine pastures or pastures with no fluke habitat for at least 4 weeks after treatment.

FEC monitoring can be used to determine the need for treatments subsequent to the initial one.

## **Mutton Hotpot**

### **Ingredients**

1lb Potatoes,  $\frac{2}{3}$  sliced quite thick,  $\frac{1}{3}$  sliced about the thickness of a £1 coin  
olive oil  
2 large onions, roughly chopped  
4 mutton chump chops 4, trimmed  
2 Lamb kidneys  
4 bay leaves 4  
8 Sprigs thyme  
Butter

### **Method**

Preheat the oven to 200C/fan 180C.

Spread the thick slices of potato in a baking dish that's wide enough to hold the meat in a single layer and season.

Heat a little oil in a large frying pan and gently fry the onion, turning regularly, for at least 10 minutes until translucent. Use a slotted spoon to transfer to a plate. Add more oil to the pan and brown the chops on each side.

Put the chops, kidneys and bay leaves on top of the potatoes, scatter on the thyme and season. Spread the onion over the meat and season again. Pour 200ml water into the pan you cooked the chops in and stir over the heat to release the sticky debris from the bottom. Pour into the baking dish, add more water if needed, until the liquid comes halfway up the contents of the dish.

Overlap the thinly sliced potatoes in circles over everything. Brush with more oil or melted butter. Cover with a double layer of foil and cook for 30 minutes. Turn down the temperature to 150C/fan 130C and cook for a further 2 hours, then remove the foil to brown the potato slices lightly, turn the oven back up to 180C/fan 160C to help them along.

Serve with pickled red cabbage or steamed green veg on the side.

# The View from Here

Mark Pettitt

This is my fourth year of lambing and has been the most enjoyable. Probably due to being more prepared and learning from past mistakes but also because I don't have to rush off to work in the morning knowing that a lamb might be born. I now work at our squash club bar with the understanding that someone will cover me if a lamb is on its way. Together with having a webcam sending me pictures every 10 minutes, I felt that I was on top of things this year.

Daniel, last year's ram, did a fine job. I had the ewes scanned in November to find that they were all in lamb, eight with twins and six with singles. I was vigilant with noting when the ram marked the ewes and recorded the dates in a spread sheet. I made a mistake with the calculations of due dates and added 143 days as the gestation period to give me the expected birth dates. After getting the first ewes in the lambing shed a week beforehand and waiting patiently, I checked my calculations and Google kindly gave me the gestation period as 152 days. In fact the first two ewes delivered twins after 148 days, six days early. Of the 14 ewes, 8 were marked twice. Should I base the birth dates on the first or second marking? Actually, only one ewe lambbed on the date based on the second marking and all the lambs were delivered early, up to seven days.



About 4-6 weeks prior to lambing, I injected the ewes with Heptavac P+ and as soon as the lambs are born, I sprayed the navels with iodine and gave the lambs 1ml of Spectam. I also fed the ewes less on the lead up to lambing because, last year, we had to help deliver some very large lambs. I set up a make shift creep feeder to allow the lambs to come through to feed without the ewes.

When the lambs are three weeks old I will give them all an injection of Heptavac P+.

My wife, Wendy, reminds me not to wish for things to be different, but to be able to cope with things better. However, I would be happy to see the end to the rain (for a while).

# Prepare for lambing pitfalls to reduce number of losses

By Howard Kellock, Wensom Valley Vets

Article kindly supplied by XLVets

Lambing is inevitably a busy time, but slight changes can make a big difference to lamb survival and the profitability of the business.

Nearly 50% of lamb losses occur either at lambing or in the 48 hours following, so being well prepared and aware of the potential pitfalls is key to preventing avoidable losses and ensuring good early growth rates.

Prior to your expected start date make sure you get all your facilities ready. Check water and feed provision is suitable with outside pipes being lagged to prevent freezing. Inside facilities should be clean, dry, well ventilated and all hurdles and adopters disinfected. Stock up on equipment well in advance – see panel 1.

## Interventions

During lambing it is important to know when and how to help a ewe lamb. There are some situations when a ewe should be restrained and you should investigate, such as when the head appears on its own without the front feet, or when there is only one leg or a tail.

Also intervene if no clear progress has been made 30 minutes after the water bag has emerged, or if the time for lambing has been more than 90 minutes, or if the ewe is in clear distress. Regardless of why you have to interfere with a lambing, there are some important points to remember – see panel 2.

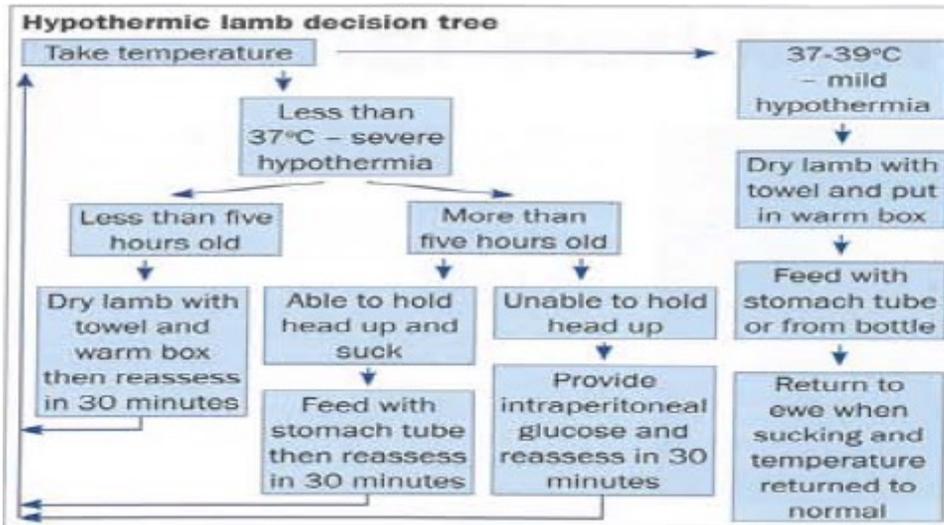
Sometimes everyone needs a bit of extra assistance. Knowing when to call the vet for backup can be important. Generally speaking, if you attempt to aid the ewe but are not getting any progress after five minutes then you should call for help. Vets can give an epidural or medication to give more space and allow more chance of a successful lambing with no damage to the ewe or lamb. In some cases a caesarean section may be required.

Other clear reasons to call the vet include: feeling a tight ring at the cervix so you can't feel the lamb (ringwomb); finding a lamb that is too big and you are unable to get a hand over the back of the shoulders; and when the ewe is torn or injured during lambing and requires attention.

After an assisted lambing it is common practice to give the ewe a dose of injectable antibiotic. This will help prevent her developing an infection within her uterus. Something less commonly thought of is to provide pain relief anti-inflammatory medication. Using a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) is important in these situations. The ewe will be bruised and in pain. Reducing the pain

and inflammation as soon as possible will mean she mothers the lamb and gets back to her food quicker to produce quality milk.

A newborn lamb should shake its head within two minutes of birth, begin standing within five minutes and have sucked within 40 minutes. The most important thing for the newborn lamb is to ensure that sufficient colostrum is taken within the first three hours of life. Colostrum is essential to healthy lamb development, as it transfers essential nutrients as well as maternal antibody to protect against diseases. This is where clostridial vaccination of the ewe is passed down to the lamb.



## Colostrum

If the lamb has not sucked within three hours, the ewe should be milked and this provided to the lamb by bottle or stomach tube. A lamb should take 50ml/kg of colostrum in this time period.

Lambs should have their navels dressed with iodine soon after birth. Ensure that all of the cord and surrounding area are covered. Where possible, check it has dried up sufficiently 24 hours later and retreat if needed.

Hypothermia is a common cause of loss in the newborn lamb and can be due to starvation, exposure or a combination of both. To assess for hypothermia use a thermometer at around 3cm into the rectum.

- More than 40°C – fever. Too hot
- 39-40°C – normal temperature
- 37-39°C – mild hypothermia
- Less than 37°C – severe hypothermia

What to do if the lamb is hypothermic can be decided by following the decision tree – see diagram. When you need to give intraperitoneal glucose to a cold lamb that is still unable to hold its head up five hours after birth, it is important to do this before putting the lamb in a warm box. A sterile 50ml syringe, one-inch 19g needle and

warm (but not hot) 20% glucose is required. If you have 40% glucose product, dilute it with an equal amount of water. Hold the lamb with front legs raised then inject half an inch to one side and one inch below the navel with the needle directed downwards towards the rump. Large lambs should receive 50ml and small lambs 25ml.

## Disease

Biosecurity at lambing time is important in minimising disease transmission and maintaining a healthy flock. It is also important to protect yourself, as diseases such as salmonella, orf and enzootic abortion are all transmissible to humans.

The wet, dirty and warm floor of a poorly kept lambing shed is a perfect breeding environment for pathogens that cause disease. Watery mouth can lead to death and is the result of excessive e.coli multiplication within the gut, while navel ill is the infection of a wet navel that can lead to joint ill.

In order to reduce the disease incidence it is important to reduce the pathogen build up through the key points listed – see panel 3.

An additional point to consider is removing older lambs from the lambing shed, as these will be acting as ‘pathogen multipliers’ in that they will be unaffected by a bacteria but will be shedding it out in large numbers. This means younger animals in the same environments with less immunity (i.e. newborns) will have to deal with a much greater degree of environment infection. Removing the older animals or preferably moving the ewes still to lamb to a clean, unused pen will greatly reduce this ‘pathogen multiplier’ effect.

<p>1: Lambing equipment Clean, arm length gloves Clean, waterproof clothing Lubricant Disinfected lambing ropes and snare Clean buckets with warm water and disinfectant Halter for ewe restraint Resuscitation drops Medicines –injectable antibiotic, oxytocin, painkiller, blue spay</p>	<p>2: Tips to remember for assisted lambings Repel the lamb sufficiently before attempting any corrections. Use plenty of lubrication. Know which limbs are which – fore lambs bend the same way at both joints, hind legs bend in opposite directions. Always return to the ewe once the lamb(s) is delivered to check for tears and other injuries and also for any further lambs left inside. If you are struggling for space to reposition the lamb, try repositioning the ewe. Having her laid down on the other side or even stood up can often free up that bit of extra space Don't cut the umbilical cord, gently pull it away until it breaks so that bleeding is minimised.</p>
<p>3: Key biosecurity points to be aware of Have a separate area for sick ewes and lambs to be cared for. Wear gloves and use antibiotic hand wash between assisted lambings. Keep bedding dry and fresh when lambing indoors. Use a disinfectant powder when wet/dirty areas have been cleaned out. Remove all bedding and disinfect individual pens after each use. Remove placentas and prevent access by dogs or wildlife. Insist visitors wear lean waterproof clothing and gloves around the stock.</p>	

# **THE COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

For years there has been confusion as to whether the Society was formed in 1891 as stated within our logo, or in 1892 as stated in the Flock Book and as recorded by the RBST. Thanks to the miracle of the internet, and the marvellous website [www.britishnewspaperarchive.com](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.com) it took very little time to find the following item in The Gloucester Citizen – Tuesday 08 September 1891:

## **CIRENCESTER**

Cotswold Sheep Society – An adjourned meeting to take steps for the formation of an association of Cotswold sheep breeders for the registration of sires and ewes of the Cotswold breed was held at the King's Head Hotel, Cirencester, on Monday afternoon, Mr R. Garne, of Aldsworth in the chair. The meeting adopted draft articles of association drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose and instructions were given to proceed with the registration of the Society. The entrance fee was fixed at £2 2s., and the annual subscriptions at 10s. 6d. Mr Robert Garne was unanimously elected the first president-elect. A council was also elected, consisting of 12 members and Mr James Tayler, of Cold Ashton, Cheltenham, was elected secretary.

While it may have taken some time for the registration of the Society to go through, there is little doubt that the meeting at the King's Head was the true birth of the Society. This would mean that 2016 is our 125th Anniversary. Council will be looking at ways of celebrating this important milestone and more information will be on the website in due course, and in the next newsletter.

## COUNCIL CORNER

- **125th Anniversary Year** – This is a real milestone in the Society’s history and something to be celebrated. Please do read the related article elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- **Email** - Please would all members check that the Secretary has your correct email address. While we will not bombard you with unnecessary emails there are times that it is the most efficient way of contacting you. It is also essential if you wish to use the online Flock Book, which we would urge you to do whenever possible.
- **Trademark** - Council would like to remind you that the Trademark schemes for Wool and Lamb are up and running. We would encourage you most wholeheartedly to sign up for either – or both! Using the Trademark stickers will promote the breed and give a professional touch to your product – be it boxes of lamb, skins, fleeces or finished garments! For more information please contact Richard Mumford on Tel: 01386 860373.
- **Trademark Lamb Scheme** - Remember if you have joined the Pedigree Cotswold Lamb Trademark scheme you will need to Birth Notify (free!) all the lambs that will enter the scheme - regardless of whether they meet the breed standard, or not! Lambs that will produce wool for the Wool Trademark Scheme must also be Birth Notified (also free!). Please use the online Flock Book for these notifications. If you require help, or more information, please contact Lynne Parkes.
- **Cotswold Shows** – The schedule of shows with Cotswold classes is included in this newsletter and we hope very much to see you at as many of these as you are able. Putting your sheep into a ring with other Cotswolds is the very best way to see how your flock is shaping up. It is also a marvellous shop window for the breed, an opportunity to ask for advice should you want to, and is great fun as well. The sad fact is if we do not have enough entries into any of ‘our’ shows, then we will lose the classes and once lost they will be hard to regain.
- **Other Shows** – We would also encourage you to consider entering your local shows if at all possible. While this may not enable you to compare your sheep to other Cotswolds, it will allow you to show off your sheep and will encourage other people to take an interest in our wonderful breed.
- **Merchandise** – We have added to our range of merchandise with hoodies and caps sporting the Society logo, beautiful hand thrown and painted Cotswold mugs, as well as tea towels sporting animal artist Nic Vickery’s stunning drawing of a Cotswold head. These will all shortly be on the website and

available to buy - so do keep an eye out for them if you are looking for that perfect 'Cotswold' gift!

- **Enclosures** – Included with the Newsletter are the Annual Flock Return & Topping Census Form and the Lamb Registration Form. The Annual Topping Census is particularly important as it will enable the Registrar to estimate your requirement for tags after lambing – if you don't return it, she will have to assume you are not lambing this year and will not order tags for your flock. Please return the form by 30th April so the bulk tag order can be placed in good time. The Lamb Registration form does not have to be back until 30th September, but the sooner you return it the better - alternatively you can register your lambs yourself via the Online Flock Book.

## **SHEEP FOR SALE**

This is a free service for buyers and sellers. The list is constantly being updated, so please do contact the Secretary, or check the website, if you wish to buy.

**RAMS FOR HIRE: Contact Mr Steve Parkes, 47 King George's Field, Stow On The Wold, Gloucestershire, Tel. 01451 830461 for further details.**