



GALEDIN
VETERINARY

Farm Newsletter February 2025



NoBACZ NAVEL | SCHMALLENBERG | CHcCS UPDATE | FARM DOG HEALTH | PSF DEADLINE

NoBACZ Navel in Lambs and Calves Colin McGillivray BVMS MRCVS

For many years, strong (10%) iodine has been advocated as the best navel protective treatment for newborn lambs and calves - applied as a dip or spray. It's well known that bacteria can enter a newborn's navel causing localised infections like navel and joint ill, and more generalised infections and deaths. The majority of joint ill infections are caused by a bacteria called *Strep. dysgalactiae*, which is carried by dams and widespread in the environment - this bug needs an entry point which can be the navel, eartagging site, tail docking site, castration site etc..

Even on very well run units with great emphasis placed on hygiene and colostrum management, infections like navel and joint ill can still be seen at too high a level. Economic losses include deaths, treatment/labour costs and ongoing problems with reduced growth rates.

This year, NoBACZ Healthcare have launched NoBACZ Navel, a new navel protective treatment.



What makes this product particularly promising is the fact that **it has been backed by the largest ever navel protection study in lambs, carried out in the UK by Fiona Lovatt from Flock Health Ltd. during last year's lambing season (2023-24).** In a randomised control trial comparing iodine with NoBACZ Navel on almost **7000 lambs on 11 farms**, NoBACZ Navel demonstrated superior protection to iodine, with a 21% reduction in mortality. Furthermore, lambs that had NoBACZ Navel applied to the navel and eartag sites were on average **230g heavier at 8 weeks of age** than lambs in the iodine treated group. These results more than justified the 16p per dose cost (calculated from 2.5ml dose from 500ml bottle NoBACZ Navel at approx. £32 ex. VAT - only marginally more than the equivalent per dose cost of iodine).

NoBACZ Navel, applied as dip or spray as soon as possible after birth, rapidly dries and disinfects the navel in as little as 2 hours (it contains a high % of ethanol as active ingredient). It also seals the navel with a bright blue-coloured natural resin that forms a long-lasting waterproof barrier to protect against environmental bacteria. It's a good idea to also apply at eartagging sites, and castration/tail docking sites, as these are potential bacterial entry points too. **The drying action of NoBACZ Navel is superior to iodine, and it contains a bitter-tasting agent that deters cows or ewes from licking it off.**



Dipping navels probably achieves better coverage than spraying. As shown in the picture, the whole length of umbilical cord and the area of skin around the navel should be covered. This can be achieved by immersing the cord using a wide-necked bottle or similar, and holding it up firmly to the lamb's body. A single treatment as soon as possible after birth should be sufficient, but repeat treatments after 2 or 3 hours can be given if desired.

If spraying, it's very important to spray from all directions around the cord and navel.

If using at eartagging, castration and tailing sites, spray or immerse the ear/scrotum/tail and also the actual tag or ring.

Despite oral antibiotic preventatives for lambs not being available for a few years now, it's thought that as many as 20% of farms still use antibiotics preventatively in lambs. This does not represent best practice or good antimicrobial stewardship, so a product like NoBACZ Navel should offer such farms an effective alternative.

Ask your farm vet about NoBACZ Navel - or add it to your lambing list instead of strong iodine.

Refs.: Lovatt, F. (2024) A randomised controlled trial to compare the use of a novel product (NoBACZ Navel) with strong iodine to protect navel and eartag sites of neonatal lambs (with some additional data on neonatal calves). BCVA Congress, Oct. 2024.

Schmallenberg Awareness

Schmallenberg virus has been detected in sheep tested between September and December 2024 in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England (VetRecord, January 2025). This is further north than it has been detected in previous years. There has also been virus detected in lambs born in South West Scotland.

Whilst we don't yet have a vaccine against this disease it is important to know where it is so that we can take appropriate action when vaccination becomes available. Cows may be seen unwell when initially infected with the virus. Sheep are unlikely to show signs when initially infected though they will still produce foetal deformities. If you have any concerns please discuss them with your farm vet.

Schmallenberg may present as:

Abortions	Foetal abnormalities	Fever	Loss of body condition
Stillbirths	Loss of appetite	Reduced milk yield	Diarrhoea

Update to Johnes Risk Levels

Johnes risk levels are important for selecting breeding heifers, breeding bulls and reducing the risk of seeing clinical disease in the adult cow or bull.

A new risk level **RL1*** will be introduced on sale cards from October 2025. This will represent RL1 herds that have had no blood positive animals at the previous test. The number of years for which the herd has had no blood positives will also be stated. For herds in the CHeCS schemes (PCHS, HiHealth), test results from October 2024 onwards will count towards the new risk level.

Risk Level 1* will represent the lowest risk of a herd being infected with Johnes disease.

Risk Level 1: There have been three clear annual herd tests. This is the lowest level of risk.

Risk Level 2: There has been a current clear herd test, but has not yet gained level 1 status.

Risk Level 3: At the most recent herd test there are reactors in the herd at the level of three percent or fewer.

Risk Level 4: There has been more than three percent reactors at its most recent herd test.

Risk Level 5: Those herds without a health plan for Johnes disease and that do not adhere to the mandatory elements of the health plan are Risk Level 5. This is the highest level of risk and additionally applies to herds that carry out no testing.



Caring for Your Farm Dogs Meghan Butler, BVM&S MRCVS

Working dogs are important members of many farms (and farming families). To ensure they are performing their best, ask your vet to give them a full physical exam at least once per year. This can be done at the time of their annual booster, for example.

Dog Vaccinations:

It is recommended that all dogs in the UK are vaccinated against Distemper, infectious Hepatitis, and Parvovirus (e.g. Nobivac DHP) and leptospirosis (e.g. Nobivac L4). All of these diseases have high morbidity and, sadly, high mortality rates once contracted.

Prevention is the best cure!

Leptospirosis is particularly important for dogs in our region, and we do actually see cases (generally from unvaccinated dogs)! It spreads through contaminated water sources.

Puppies should have their first vaccines at around 6-8 weeks old. Following a primary course, they should receive annual booster vaccines. Most of the time we are able to vaccinate the farm dogs while on farm for other calls- just ask!

Minor Dog Injuries?

No doubt minor injuries are common, especially in working dogs. While there are licenced pain relief products for dogs, such as Metacam/Loxicom, please note that the doses and concentrations are VERY DIFFERENT for dogs compared to cattle and sheep.

Do NOT use cattle Loxicom/ Metacam/ Meloxidyl in dogs.

It can be tempting to use cattle Loxicom or equivalent for your farm dog with an injury. **Please do NOT do this.** Loxicom/ Metacam given to cattle and sheep is much more concentrated than Loxicom used in dogs and cats. Very tiny doses of the farm animal product can cause irreversible kidney failure in dogs and cats. If you have an injured dog or cat please always ring the surgery, including when out of hours, for advice before giving any medication.

If you think your dog could use some pain relief, please phone one of our branches and a vet will be happy to discuss options.

Worming

How often should we really be de-worming our dogs? We recommend worming adult farm dogs at least every 3 months. However, the advice will vary depending on the dog's lifestyle and level of risk.

Dogs can get livestock parasites, such as tapeworms and neospora, from eating contaminated material from carcasses, cow/sheep cleansing or raw sheep meat.

Wormers are not preventative, but rather work by killing and susceptible parasites and preventing issues caused by multiplying adult parasites.

Monthly deworming can be beneficial for certain species with shorter lifecycles that mature faster, such as lungworm.

- Some anti-parasite medications can be toxic to some dogs and collies can be particularly sensitive.
- PLEASE DO NOT give large animal wormers to your dogs. If you are worried the dog may have accidentally ingested a large animal wormer, please contact your vet immediately.

To reduce the risk of diseases in dogs and livestock:

1. Discourage Scavenging: Do not allow dogs to eat carcasses, after-birth material (placenta and birthing fluids), or raw sheep meat.

2. Always clean up dog faeces

3. Regular Worming: We recommend worming adult farm dogs at least every 3 months with a suitable treatment. However, the advice will vary depending on the dog's lifestyle and level of risk.

Monthly deworming can be beneficial for certain species with shorter lifecycles that mature faster, such as lungworm.

4. Farm Hygiene: We encourage prompt disposal of any birthing materials and fallen stock. Store animal feeds appropriately to prevent contamination by pests, wildlife, and other pets.

The **Preparing for Sustainable Farming Scheme** has come to a close for new interventions. Claims for interventions in 2024 must be submitted by the **end of February**. If you still need an Expert Advisor Form completed, contact your surgery as soon as possible.

Rules governing our use of antibiotics have been tightened to limit the development of resistance.

The updates now state that when prescribing antibiotics:

- They should only be prescribed for the shortest time that is appropriate
- They should not be used routinely, or to compensate for poor hygiene/ husbandry/ management or to promote growth/ increase yield.
- They should not be used prophylactically unless there are exceptional circumstances

CONTACT US

Berwick 01289 330066

Coldstream

01890882322

Duns 01361 883742

Galashiels 01896753759

Kelso 01573 224496

www.galedinvet.com

info@galedinvet.com

If you would like more information on this month's newsletter topics, please speak to any of our farm vet team.