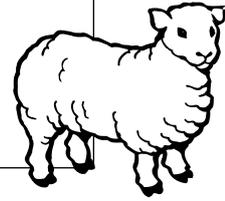




PUKEKAWA SCHOOL

Preparing Your Lamb for Calf Club Day



- Lambs can be found via local contacts or the school office usually has a source. They should be born between 1st July and 13th September of the current year.
- The lamb should be chosen no earlier than 3 days after birth but preferably 5 days after birth, this allows the lamb to have its mother's colostrum, which gives protection against diseases and is high in both vitamins and minerals.
- On occasion lambs have been rejected by their mother, orphaned or are one of triplets, in which case one is removed from the mother as she is not able to adequately feed 3 of them. In these cases the lamb may not have received colostrum.
- Choose a strong healthy lamb with a dry small navel, lively movements, and clear bright eyes.
- Your lamb will need to have its tail docked (a rubber ring placed around the tail). This can be done from a week old, the sooner the better, before the tail gets too big.
If a ram (male) is chosen, he should be wethered with a rubber ring from 1 week old. Ensure both testicles are down before releasing the ring.
- Basic rearing needs-
 - 2 x 10kg bags of milk powder Lamb or multifeed pellets
 - 2 x lamb teats (it pays to have a spare in case they get chewed) Or complete bottle and teat + spare teat
 - Collar and lead Drench
 - Vaccine Cover (optional)
- Vaccination and Drenching
 - If the mother of your lamb was not vaccinated with a 5 in 1 one month prior to lambing or if you do not know if it was vaccinated, the lamb should be vaccinated with a lamb vaccine (PK/Antitet) from 1 week old.
 - Your lamb should also be vaccinated with a 6 in 1 vaccine at 2 weeks old and then given a booster shot 1 month later. This vaccine prevents pulpy kidney disease, tetanus, black disease, malignant oedema and blackleg. These diseases can kill the healthiest and largest of lambs.
 - Drench at about 4 - 6 weeks old and again at 10 weeks.
- Feeding
 - Lamb milk powders are specially formulated to meet the needs of your lamb. Lamb teats that can screw onto a coke or water bottle or complete lamb feeding bottles are available from rural supply stores.
 - Mixing and feeding instructions are clearly written on the bag. Avoid sudden changes in the type (brand), quantity or temperature of milk or milk powder.
 - For best results milk feed your lamb until Calf Club day. When feeding your lamb in the first 5 days, watch that its tummy doesn't get over distended. As a guide, feed 20% of body weight daily split into 5 small feeds. For example, a 3kg lamb needs 600mls per day fed at 120 ml per feed.
 - After 5 days the feeding can be dropped to 4 feeds per day but the volume needs to be maintained. By 3 weeks of age they can be on 3 feeds per day drinking the volume according to the instructions on the milk powder packet.
 - Ensure your lamb is of good body condition by feeling over its spine and ribs for a good cover of fat. A skinny lamb is not acceptable at Calf Club day.
 - Thoroughly clean bottles and teats after each feed.
 - Supplement the milk with a lamb or multi-feed pellet.
 - Lambs require access to good quality longish grass every day. A lawn is inadequate nutrition for a lamb.
 - Fresh water should be provided at all times.

- Housing Requirements
 - A clean, dry, warm and draught free house or kennel is required.
 - Lamb covers are available from your local farm outlet.
 - Sudden changes in temperature when it is small can cause pneumonia and it will grow better if it is not using energy to keep warm.
- Daily Care
 - Regular feeding
 - Wash its face to remove any milk residue
 - Walk it on a lead and play with it
 - Practice calling your lamb before each feed
- Points to remember
 - Lambs should NOT be brushed – this is an instant disqualification
 - Hooves should be trimmed and clean
 - Trim any dags to tidy up around the lamb's rear end
 - Make sure your pet's face and ears are clean
- Scours - If your lamb scours,
 - Alternate between 120 ml milk and 120ml of good quality electrolyte such as Diarrest® or Revive®. This should be done over 6 feeds a day leaving 30 minutes at least between feeds. As the scouring improves, electrolyte feeds can be slowly replaced with milk feeds over a period of 2-3 days.
 - If the lamb will not suckle tube feeding will be necessary.
 - Keep it in a clean, dry drought free environment and keep warm (hot water bottles are great) or a lamb cover
- Poisonous Plants
 - Lambs have a love of garden plants, however they are unfortunately not able to determine which ones are poisonous. Many plants that are potentially poisonous or have poisonous parts are found in our gardens at home. Here are some examples:
 - Box (Buxus) and its relations such as the Allegheny spurge used for ground cover.
 - Many plants in the forget-me-not family which have harsh bristly leaves, and bracken or raruhe.
 - Members of the erica or rhododendron family eg. calico bush and its close relations.
 - Camelia, dahpne, azalea, daffodil, delphinium, ferns, snowflake and snowdrop, hyacinths, hemlock, cress, red maple, oak, oleander, arums, ivy and five finger, swan plant, heathers and rhododendrons, lilies, poppies, clematis, cyclamen, poinsettia, hemlock, titoki, fox-gloves and snapdragons and rhubarb leaves.
 - Many species in the large legume or pea family, the rose, peach, apple family are poisonous to some extent.
- Other Health Issues- Contact your vet if you notice any of the following
 - Eyelids turned inwards or a discharge coming from the eyes
 - A swollen navel or joints/lameness
 - Nasal discharge/pneumonia
 - Bloating-**this is an emergency** as the lamb can die very quickly from abomasal bloat
 - Lethargy, lack of drinking, scouring or off-colour.
- Calling Section
 - Now you have begun feeding your lamb, it has become used to this and will now respond to your call. It will start to follow you anywhere coming when called whether or not you have a bottle of milk. On the day the judge will hold your lamb while you walk away. When you have stopped and start to call the lamb, the judge will let it go to you. Keep up the calling and it will come to you.
- Rearing Section
 - This is based on general appearance, condition, size with the age of the lamb taken into consideration. It is hard to see the body condition of a lamb under it's wool. You need to regularly check by feeling your lamb that is has adequate cover over -it should **not** feel boney.

- Leading Section

- Collar and lead is all that is necessary. Set up the course below to practice leading your lamb around. It is important to be patient and spend time talking to and patting your lamb so it will become used to you.
- Hold the lead approximately 200-300mm away from the head with right hand fingers upwards. Allow for a loop between the hands and with the left hand hold the rope, knuckles upwards

