South Moor Farm Vets

NOV 2026

NEWSLETTER

The latest from the South Moor Farm team

SPOTTING SIGNS OF PASTEURELLA IN YOUR FLOCK OR HERD

Recent investigations into the sudden deaths of multiple clients' weaned growing lambs have repeatedly resulted in a common cause - Pasteurellosis.

While many farmers typically expect this to cause visible signs of pneumonia (pneumonic pasteurellosis), there is in fact a second form of infection known as systemic Pasteurellosis which results in rapid septicemia and sudden death often before visible signs of illness become apparent.

Systemic Pasteurellosis generally occurs following periods of stress, including weaning, handling, transport, mixing, movement to good grazing, and change to cold, wet weather. Suspicion of disease occurs following a history of recent stress, lethargic lambs with high temperatures and dehydration, possibly some signs of pneumonia and or reports of sudden deaths. Confirmation is best achieved from post mortem examination and bacterial culture of the infectious agents involved in Pasteurellosis. Often treatment of individuals with systemic pasteurellosis is unrewarding due to the rapid nature of disease progression but any individuals identified with early signs should be given oxytetracycline type antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories.

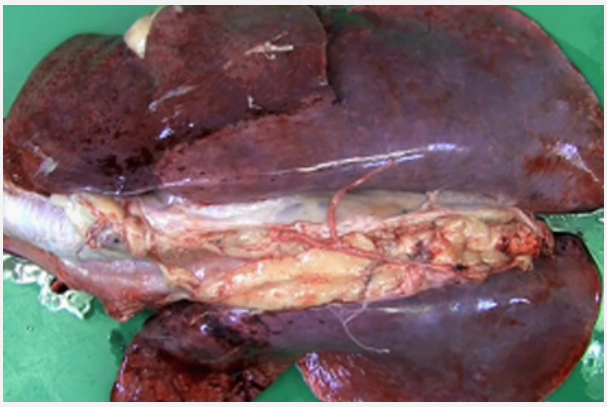


Sheep with acute pasteurellosis - lethargic and drooling with increased breathing rate

Photo credits to: https://www.nadis.org.uk

Instead the cornerstone of prevention relies on vaccination against Pasteurella, either as part of multivalent clostridial vaccines or as a standalone Pasteurella vaccine, completed prior to the risk period. However, it should be noted that even so vaccines are unlikely to be completely protective in the face of significant stress. Therefore, prevention of systemic Pasteurellosis also relies on reducing the stresses on weaned lambs whenever possible.

Systemic pasteurellosis appears to be worse in some seasons with other health issues that influence immunity including significant worm burdens, tick activity and trace element deficiencies likely contributing to bad seasons, and this when combined with routine husbandry procedures and/or changeable weather, can increase disease outbreaks. Talk to one of the farm team now for more information and a control strategy tailored to your flock.



Heavy, swollen and purple-red lungs from a sudden death case caused by pasteurellosis.

Photo credits to: https://www.nadis.org.uk

NEW PRODUCT ALERT! CATTLEZEN

Animals naturally respond to fear and stress as a survival mechanism. However, in farmed animals, these responses can negatively affect health, welfare and safety.

What causes stress in cattle?
Routine farming practices such as weaning, transportation, handling and disease can cause unavoidable stress. Reducing its impact is important, and synthetic calming pheromones offer an additional way to help manage this.

What are pheromones?
Pheromones are natural chemical signals used by animals to communicate. Detected by the vomeronasal organ in the nasal cavity, they convey information about identity, reproduction, territory and safety. Calming pheromones focus on these safety signals, helping animals feel more secure during stressful situations.

Calming pheromones, also known as appeasing pheromones, are naturally released by mothers during feeding, helping young animals feel safe and secure. Synthetic versions are now available to help reduce stress associated with routine farming practices.

Introducing CattleZen
CattleZen is a second-generation calming pheromone technology combining two synthetic pheromones in a convenient, low-volume, single-site application. Designed for cattle of all ages, it helps promote calm behaviour and reduce the effects of stress during handling, transport, mixing and other management practices.

For more information, visit CattleZen.co.uk or give us a call on 01803 900181

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL WINTER SHOWS

We are excited to be attending several of the local winter fatstock shows over the coming weeks!

These shows are always a fantastic opportunity to catch up with familiar faces, support our local farming community and admire the hard work that goes into producing such high-quality livestock.

We had a brilliant time at the Plympton Primestock Show, where there was a fantastic display of quality animals. It was great to see so many people coming together to celebrate local farming!

We are looking forward to attending the following shows:

- Wednesday 4th November - Agrifest
- Monday 9th November - Churston Fatstock Show
- Monday 16th November - Totnes Christmas Show
- Monday 23rd November - Newton Abbot Christmas Show
- Tuesday 1st December - Kingsbridge Fatstock Show
- Tuesday 8th December - Dartmouth Fatstock Show

We look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces over the coming weeks and wish everyone exhibiting the very best of luck!

If you spot us at any of the shows, please do come over and say hello!

VITAMIN D DAY!



As the summer sun fades, we start thinking about providing vitamin D to alpacas and llamas for the winter. Without the south american sun they're designed to get, they need vitamin D supplementation. Otherwise they're at risk of developing rickets.

There are 2 options to supplement Vitamin D.
1. Use oral paste. Unfortunately there are a couple of issues with this; firstly, it's very unreliably absorbed from the guts and needs to be given very frequently, but secondly, it's not currently available.



2. Give a vitamin injection every 2 months, (eg November, January, March.)



3. Move to South America!

The injection is the best choice (at least if you don't include the moving-to-Patagonia option.) However, it's more expensive and once opened, the 100ml bottle has to be used within the day, so we have to sell it in whole bottles -both factors which make it less attractive.

We'd like to help by trying to arrange Vitamin D Days through the winter, where we can come out and inject your a
lpacas in November, January and March. That way, our alpaca owners can share 1 bottle and split the cost of getting their alpacas protected through the winter.

If you'd like to join with other like-minded alpaca owners and sign up for our split-bottle day, give us a call!

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