

Managing Weaner Health

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GLENRAC Producer Update

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Managing Weaner Health

Setting them up for life

Reasons to Wean

1. Manage body condition of the breeding female
2. Reduce nutritional requirements of the breeding female
3. Maximise females' milk production in the next lactation
4. Educate & train weaners
5. Establish specific lines of weaners

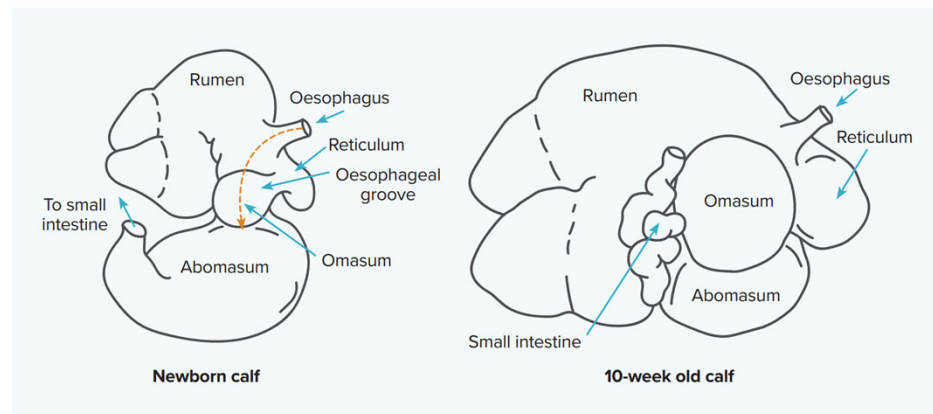


The Importance of Good Weaning - Calves

- Set up a healthy rumen
- Heavier liveweight more easily maintained
- Higher conception rates for females at next joining
- More stock weaned from following year's drop
- Optimum growth rates for heifers and steers

Timing

- 5-8 months of age
- Early weaning:
 - Can wean from 6 weeks
 - Ideally from 3 months

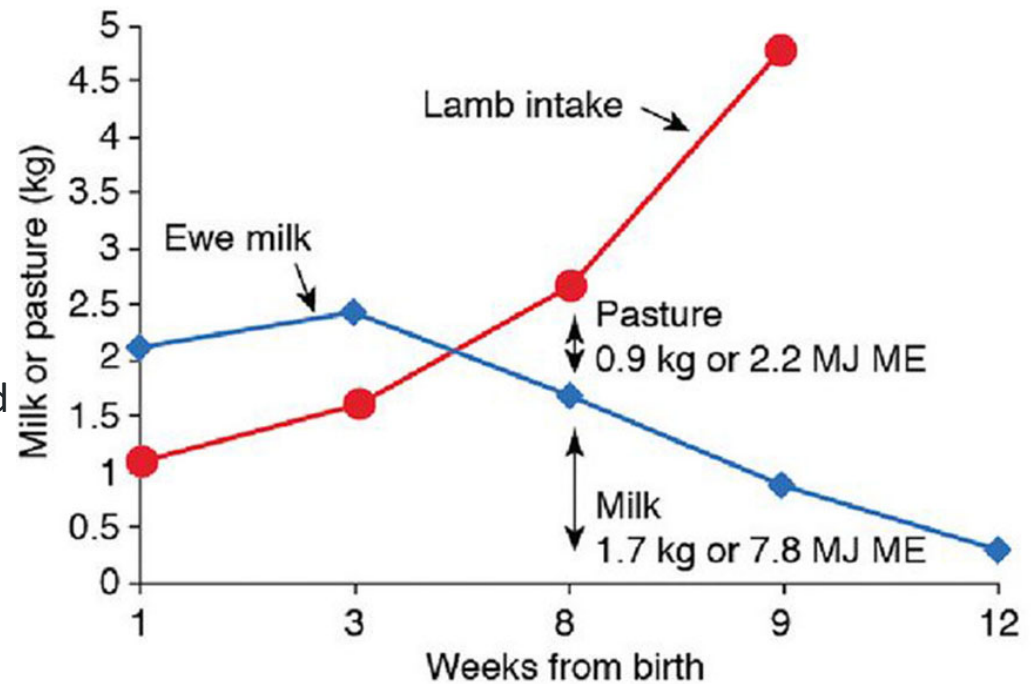


The Importance of Good Weaning - Lambs

- Same as for cattle
- Weaned lambs & breeding ewes grow more wool
- Association between weaning weight and weaner survival

Timing

- 12-14 weeks after lambing start date
- 12 weeks old = milk provides only 10% of total food requirements



Method of Weaning

- Paddock weaning
- Batch weaning
- Gradual separation
- Creep weaning
- Yard weaning
- Drafting into separate management groups
- Imprint feeding lambs



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Weaner Nutrition

What to Feed

- Age of weaning determines diet
- High protein, with moderate to high energy density
- Good quality pasture
 - Cereal, forage, brassicas
- Supplements
- Mineral licks



Preparation of Weaner Paddocks

- High feed quality
- Low grass seed infestation
- Low worm risk
- Good quality stock water



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Preventative Disease Program

Vaccination

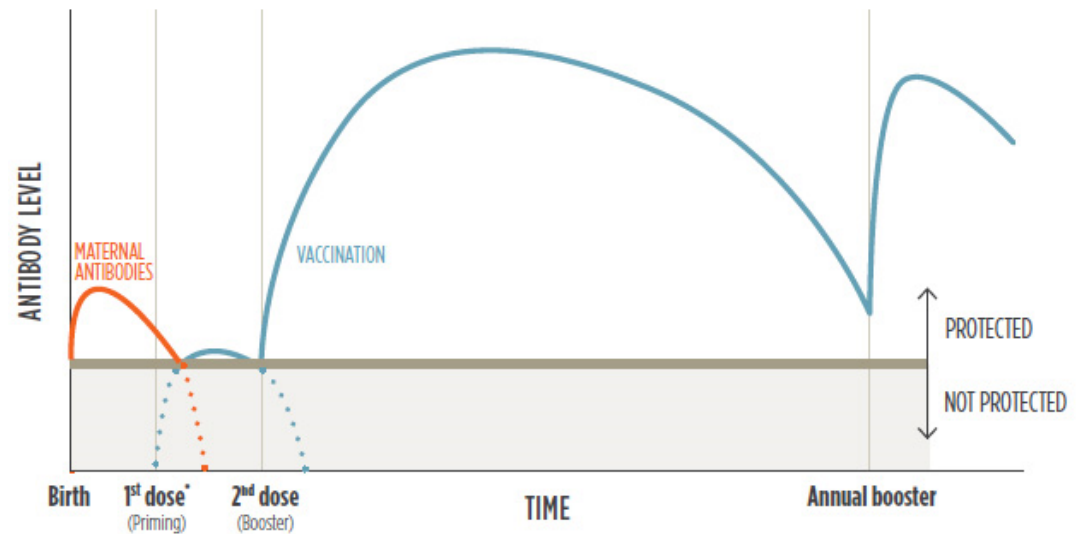
- Clostridial disease: 5-in-1
 - 1st dose: marking
 - 2nd dose: weaning

Sheep:

- Gudair® - Johne's
- Cheesy Gland – 6-in-1

Cattle:

- BRD for feedlots
- Leptospirosis – 7-in-1



Internal Parasites

- Drench for fluke
- Drench for strongyle worms
- Weaning into a low risk paddock
- Continued monitoring with faecal egg counts



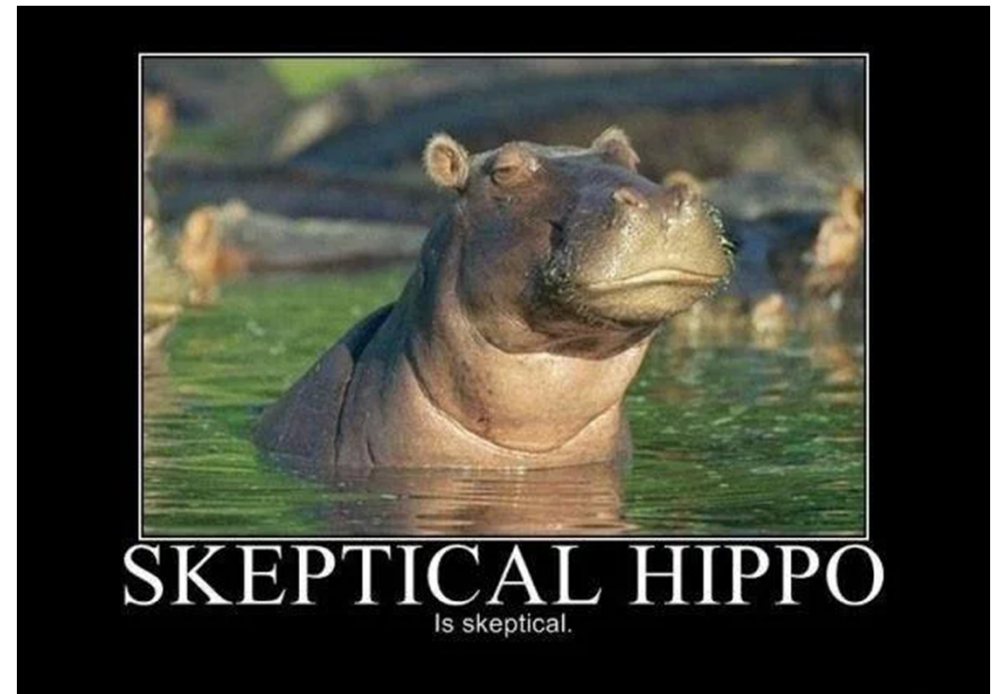
External Parasites

- Flystrike prevention
- Tick prevention
- Buffalo fly prevention



Additional Treatments

- Multimin?
- Vitamins?
- Selenium



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Other Considerations

Welfare Considerations

- Provision of feed, water, shade & wind shelter
- Confinement
- If trucking, ensure well nourished prior to release – newly weaned calves are very prone to plant poisoning



Additional Considerations

- Plan your weaning time
- Weigh & condition score stock
- Don't mark and wean at the same time

**Proper, Prior,
Preparation
Prevents
Poor
Performance**

Mangaing Weaner Health

Questions?

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Local Land Services