

Effect Of Calving Difficulty On Suckler Cow Performance



Ark Vet Centre
Your farm's health is in our hands.



Spring 23 Newsletter



Calving difficulties can affect the subsequent performance of the cow in four ways:

A reduction in milk yield

- An equivalent reduction in calf weaning weight
- A delay in the return to normal oestrus cycles due to endometritis
- A more severe delay which results in the cow being barren, particularly for late calving cows in seasonal block calving herds.

The magnitude of these losses would depend on the degree of calving difficulty as illustrated in the table below:

Calving difficulty (1-5 scale)	3	4	5
% drop in lactation yield	10	10	15
Equivalent reduction in calf weaning weight (kg)	15	15	25
Delays in re-breeding (days)	5	20	40
Increased risk of barrenness (%)	20	50	75
Total cows (£ / affected cow)	81	189	298

The AHDB Beef and Lamb calving difficulty scale is defined as follows:

- Score 2: Slight assistance, no equipment used
- Score 3: Mechanical assistance with a calving aid by the farmer
- Score 4: Veterinary assistance
- Score 5: Veterinary assistance for severe dystocia including surgical intervention

The key points to achieve fewer calving difficulties are nutrition of the cow in late pregnancy to ensure she is fit but not over fat and genetics.

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Spring is here!

If you have been lambing and calving or are still in the midst of it we hope it has gone well! In this issue we have a feature on the change in name of the orf vaccine, our new faecal egg and fluke testing service and the effect of calving difficulty on suckler performance.

What Has Been Happening?



We have strengthened our Veterinary Technician Team and now have Carley and Neil along with Davie. We have our Farm Services available such as mobility scoring, condition scoring, teat end scoring and rumen fill scoring. Please call us for more info.



We have welcomed back our vets John and Chloe who have returned from their travels to New Zealand and are happy to be back in Lockerbie!



Wednesday is Dung Day!

Farm Animal Same Day Faecal Egg Count Service

Submit samples on a Wednesday before 12pm
for same day results

12:00 PM



Get your samples into us before 12pm on a Wednesday and you will get the results back the same day.

We have also launched a new Fluke service too so please give us a shout if you need any information on this service.

Faecal Egg counts are a great way to;

- Help determine the need to treat
- Test the efficacy of a treatment
- Give information on the amount of contamination on the pasture



Remember to like our Ark Vet Centre – Farm Facebook page to keep updated on meetings,

Orf vaccine changes

You will notice that the orf vaccine which was Scabivax is changing over to Scabigard.

There is no difference to the vaccine that has been used for years. It is changing packaging and the company that supplies it .

Please remember:

- The vaccine should only be used in flocks where Orf virus infection has been confirmed
- Lambs can be vaccinated at any age from birth prior to the period of infection risk
- Do not vaccinate during wet weather conditions
- Only administer the vaccine with the approved applicator
- Always wear protective rubber gloves when handling the vaccine, recently vaccinated sheep and when cleaning applicators
- Immunity develops within 4-8 weeks of vaccination and is protective against severe signs of Orf for at least 12 months

Please ask us if you have any questions on the management of Orf on your farm

