

BLOAT IN LAMBS



NZAGBIZ

WHAT IS BLOAT?

Abomasal bloat is a major cause of discomfort and can lead to death in bottle fed lambs. Bloat is caused by sarcina bacteria which feed on the lactose in milk and convert lactose to lactic acid. This creates an environment where good bacteria can't survive and bad bacteria flourish. As a result gas is released into the abomasum which expands the stomach, either compressing other organs, causing them to fail or rupture the stomach wall, causing death.

Bottle fed lambs are fed a higher volume of milk in fewer feeds, than when feeding from the mother. This means there is a larger amount of lactose in the stomach of bottle fed lambs and in-turn more lactose for bacteria to feed on, allowing the bacteria to multiply and rapidly produce large amounts of gas.



Recommendations

- All lambs should receive colostrum within 6 hours of birth. This ensures correct immune development and protection against bad bacteria (sarcina). JumpStart™* can be used as a substitute if there is no fresh colostrum available
- Lambs raised on lamb milk replacer (LMR) should be fed little and often. Do not increase volumes to cut down on the amount of feeds given, as lambs have a small stomach. Feeding larger volumes of warm LMR can cause bloat. We recommend 4-6 feeds per day depending on the lambs age
- Lambs showing signs of bloat (swollen stomach and panting) should be fed smaller quantities, more often
- Decreasing milk temperature to around 4°C (average tap water is 6°C) helps prevent bloat. Always mix warm as per package instructions then allow the milk to cool
- The yoghurt method (overleaf and available at www.nzagbiz.com) has been used successfully by lamb rearer's to reduce bloat
- Check the size of the hole in the teat. Milk should only trickle out when the bottle is tipped upside down, not flow freely. Free flowing milk means the hole is too large and can lead to overfeeding - a cause of bloat
- Some lambs can have a tendency to over feed even when not hungry. Do not be fooled by their hungry bleating - always follow our feeding recommendations.

*JUMPSTART

Jumpstart Full Cream Colostrum is a replacement colostrum powder designed as a natural supplement for new-born animals that have received little or no colostrum at birth. It provides essential immunoglobulins for new-born animals.

Immunoglobulins (IgG's) are the initial building blocks of health and immunity in ruminants. IgG's are antibodies that are essential to form the immune system of young animals.

Mixing rate is 150g/litre warm water - approx. 38°C. Refer to the tables on pages 52-58 of the NZAgbiz Feed Guide for specific infant animal feeding guidelines.



CULTURED ANLAMB™ FEEDING METHOD

Controls Abomasal Bloat in hand reared lambs

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- 5L jug
- Large waterproof chilly bin
- Acidophilus yoghurt
- Anlamb
- Clean warm water

METHOD

- Mix 800g of Anlamb with 2L of warm water (approx. 40°C) in the 5L jug
- Add 100mL of the acidophilus yoghurt and mix thoroughly
- Place in the chilly bin and fill with warm water to the level of the mixture in the jug
- Allow to thicken to yoghurt consistency overnight
- Top up to 4L with water and mix thoroughly the next morning
- Feed lamb(s) as directed on your Anlamb package
- For future use, simply save around 100-200mL of the thickened mixture as a replacement for the acidophilus yoghurt.
- Discard the soured Anlamb after 5 days of refrigeration and start the recipe again by using pure acidophilus yoghurt

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- This recipe will feed 4 lambs for one day at the suggested feeding rates specified on the Anlamb package.

MIXING RATES FOR SOURED MILK

NUMBER OF LAMBS FED IN ONE DAY	Anlamb Grams per feed	Water per feed	Acidophilus yoghurt per feed
1	200	500mL	25mL
2	400	1,000mL	50mL
5	1,000	2,500mL	125mL
10	2,000	5,000mL	250mL
15	3,000g	7,500mL	375mL
20	4,000g	10,000mL	500mL

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