

## Coccidiosis in calves and lambs:

Coccidiosis is caused by a parasite that infects 3 week to 6 month old calves and 4 to 6 week old lambs.

Clinical signs are caused by damage to the gut lining and include;

- Loss of condition
- Reduced appetite/feed intakes
- Scour (often with blood or mucus)
- Calves may be seen straining with their tail heads raised
- Long term ill thrift

*With lambs and beef calves it is often the best in the group that are the worst affected as they will be ingesting more from the pasture*

### Risks

- Overstocking
- Dirty bedding/feeding area
- Mixing groups, feed changes or other stressful events
- Pasture contamination



### Diagnosis:

- Clinical signs and the age of the calves affected is of suggestive
- Worm egg counts – However not all coccidia cause disease; therefore the species needs to be determined by the lab in order to prove if they are causing disease.

### Prevention:

- Avoid overcrowding and stress
- Cleanliness and hygiene
- There are various treatment/prevention medications available which your vet can put in place.