

C-S.3 Diseases of Lambs and Parasitic Diseases

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Module Content

At the end of this module, candidates should be able to:

- Explain the aetiology, pathology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and control of the major diseases of growing lambs in the UK with particular reference to trace element deficiency states.
- Discuss the importance of helminth control in the health and productivity of sheep enterprises.
- Demonstrate the role of the veterinary surgeon in planned flock health and fat lamb production
- Assess and provide advice on the welfare of sheep 'on-farms', during transport and at slaughter.
- Advise on breed improvement and the control of genetic problems in farm animals.

Aim of the Module

This module aims to extend undergraduate training in combination practice experience to develop postgraduate expertise in clinical decision-making and reasoning skills required by advanced practitioners in field of sheep health and production. The module also aims to enable the candidate to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

1. critically evaluate lamb production systems, economics, key performance indicators, nutrition, grassland management, trace element requirements and disorders associated with deficiencies or imbalance;
2. systematically evaluate endoparasitic and ectoparasitic diseases of sheep using appropriate diagnostic techniques, and then implement appropriate treatment and prevention strategies, being able to critically evaluate any limitations;
3. systematically investigate disorders and diseases of growing lambs using appropriate diagnostic techniques, and then implement appropriate treatment and prevention strategies, being able to critically evaluate any limitations;

- critically evaluate the literature in order that evidence based medicine underpins all decision making processes.

Module Structure

The module will be divided into 4 study units:

Study Unit 1: Lamb Growth and Nutrition

- Nutrition of Lambs/ Grassland Management
- Investigation and management of the common trace element deficiency states of sheep.
- Investigation and management of common causes of poor lamb growth.

Study Unit 2: Endo-Parasitic Disease

- Understanding the biology of common ovine endoparasites (parasitic gastroenteritis; PGE) and their life cycles.
- Diagnosis, control and prevention of PGE.
- Development of anthelmintic-resistant strains.

Study Unit 3: Disease of Growing Lambs

- Diagnosis, control and prevention of the common diseases of lambs.
- Investigation and management of common causes of lameness in sheep

Study Unit 4: Ecto-Parasitic Diseases

- Understanding the biology of common ectoparasites including ticks, lice, mange mites and flies.
- Diagnosis, control and prevention of ectoparasitic diseases.
- The importance of ectoparasites as vectors of diseases.
- Diagnosis, control and prevention of the arthropod-borne diseases of sheep.

Assessment Strategy

3 x reflective, clinical case reports (1500 words each), 1 x short answer question and/or MCQ test and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.