

Raising Orphan Lambs

Rearing orphan lambs can be an enjoyable and rewarding job for a whole spectrum of people – from a lifestyle farmer with a couple of pets lambs to the owner of a highly productive stud flock fostering triplet lambs of high genetic merit. No matter what the situation though, the rules for successful lamb rearing are the same for every situation.

What you will need before you start: Vet Services have all of your lamb rearing products.

- Bottle & teats
- Milk Powder (approx. 20kg per lamb)
- Clostridial Vaccine
- Colostrum
- Wool cover (optional)
- Parasite Management

Colostrum & Feeding

Colostrum should be feed in the first 6 hours of life, and another within 12 hours. Colostrum provides vital antibodies to fight off infections, energy and warmth to help regulate temperature.

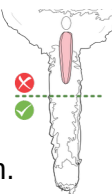
Orphan lambs should get fed 15% of body weight per day - give us a call if you have any queries over this!

Worms & Parasites

Young lambs are highly susceptible to internal parasites and worms. Get in touch with our friendly team if you would like to set up proactive lamb health plan including vaccinations, drenches, parasite monitoring and seasonal fly control to help avoid costly losses and to improve your lambs growth and productivity.

Castration & Docking

Tail docking and castration of lambs should be considered to make ongoing management easier. The most common method used is rubber rings. Aim for within 6 weeks of birth. If the lamb is over 6 months it is illegal to perform the procedures without local anaesthesia from a veterinary surgeon.



Abomasal Bloat is the biggest cause of death in reared lambs.

Bloat kills up to 30% of bottle-fed lambs before weaning. It usually occurs from 3-4 weeks old and it occurs 1-2 hours after drinking a sudden gorge

Other Common Health Conditions to watch out for: Eye infection or eyelids turning under, Naval infections, Mouth sores which can be painful and prevent feeding. Pneumonia with lambs having a temperature, cough and shortness of breath. an. Foot scald, Scours

Meet our Lifestyle Veterinarian Reshika!

Reshika has a special passion for supporting lifestyle block owners and their animals. With a mixed practice background, experience in small ruminant surgery, and additional education in lifestyle block medicine, she brings a thoughtful and practical approach to every farm visit. Whether it's helping manage your small flock, treating your four-legged companions, or offering preventative advice, Reshika is here to help he animals on your property thrive.

Want to learn more about our Lifestyle Block Services?

Call 06 876 7001 Email lifestyle@vshb.co.nz

Or visit our website www.vshb.co.nz/lifestyle-services



Raising Orphan Lambs

Yoghurtised milk to help avoid abomasal bloat in bottle-fed lamb - Single Lamb Batch

Ingredients:

- 330g milk powder
- 1L warm water
- 65ml plain unsweetened acidophilus yoghurt (as a starter)

Instructions:

- **Mix Base:** In a clean, lidded container or jug, combine 330g milk powder with 1L warm water. Whisk thoroughly until the powder has completely dissolved with no lumps.
- **Add Yoghurt Starter:** Stir in 65ml plain unsweetened acidophilus yoghurt. Mix well to evenly distribute the culture.
- **Ferment:** Cover the container and place it in a warm, insulated spot (like your hot water cupboard). Leave for 12+ hours until the mixture thickens and smells like yoghurt. If the mixture is still runny after 12 hours, leave it longer and consider adding warmth (e.g. hot water bottle wrapped around the container).
- **Save Starter for Next Batch:** Once it's yoghurt-like, remove 65ml and store in the fridge to use as the starter for your next batch.
- **Top Up with Water:** Add cold water to bring the total volume up to 2.7L. Mix thoroughly.

Feeding Notes:

- Store the yoghurtised milk in a cool place.
- It should keep for up to 5 days.
- Always check the smell—it should smell like yoghurt, not sour or off.
- Prepare your next batch at least 24 hours in advance.

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