

C-S.3 Diseases of Lambs and Parasitic Diseases

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to:

1. 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;
2. 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. critically 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. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine to 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;
4. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units, each containing basic lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

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 1500-word reflective case reports (90%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and short oral presentation of the critique (15 minutes) (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. Students present their critique to the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

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.