



Clutha Vets Advice for Sheep Farmers Southerly Blast Special



With some of us waking up to snow this morning and more predicted over the next day or two, now is the time to be doing what you can to help the stock cope with this unseasonable weather.

Younger lambs and lambs being born in this weather are most at risk, as they do not have much fat to keep them warm. If you are able to bring newborn lambs into covered yards, until they can get up and get going, can help. If not, lamb covers can be helpful, of which we have plenty at all our depots. If you do find hypothermic cold lambs, giving them an intraperitoneal (into the abdomen) injection of dextrose before trying to warm them up can save their lives. Dilute Dextrose 40% with 50% warm water first before injecting. We have plenty of Dextrose 40% at Clutha Vets. It can be helpful to give the lambs an injection of antibiotics at the same time, as when there are lots of cold lambs to deal with, bacteria can be plentiful, and protective colostrum can be difficult to get. Getting cold lambs in the lamb warmers is essential.

Straw is also a good insulator so providing straw for the lambs to curl up in can be helpful.

Make sure the older lambs and ewes have some form of shelter either as a shelter belt or perhaps man-made shelter using balage or large haybales.

We also need to look after the ewes. With limited access to feed with snow on the ground, ewes that are close to lambing can be at a high risk for milk fever and sleepy sickness. Feeding out some hay may be possible if you are able to get out to the paddocks. Please ensure you feed in sheltered situations to encourage ewes to keep sheltered. If you do find you are having issues with down ewes, 120mls Glucalphos under the skin can help. If you are finding that you are having an issue with a large number of down ewes, Clutha Vets can help as we can administer IV calcium to ewes which can get them up quicker, and we can be the extra man power to help treat ewes if there is a large number of them down.

Any problems please do not hesitate to call us at Clutha Vets as we are always happy to help out where we can. Stay safe and stay warm!

