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Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) Accreditation



Rules & Conditions

The Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme is run by Scottish Agricultural College Veterinary Services, (SAC VS). The testing programme outlined below identifies flocks that are free from enzootic abortion of ewes, (EAE).

1. An annual blood test of ewes will be carried out by your veterinary surgeon during the 3 months after lambing. This **MUST** include aborted ewes and ewes that failed to lamb. Ewes barren at scanning do not need to be tested. The number of blood samples collected is a statistical proportion of the number of breeding ewes in the flock (see pricing insert). In the first year up to a maximum of 90 ewes will be tested. If the results are negative then in the second and subsequent years a maximum of up to 45 ewes will be tested. Lambed ewes are tested to make up the total number of samples required. In particular those known to have produced stillborn or weak lambs, second crop ewes and purchased replacements should be selected.
2. Hill flocks on very poor hills may have very high barren rates due to the environment rather than infectious disease. If your flock does not scan, cannot identify aborted ewes AND has a high annual barren rate then you should first sample 20 lambed ewes and then make up the total number of samples required with barren ewes. Second crop ewes and purchased replacements should be selected in both cases. Unexpectedly high barren rates should be discussed with your veterinary surgeon.
3. If you keep flocks on more than one premises they should be sampled individually. e.g. if you have 700 ewes on one farm and 300 on a second farm then 44 and 42 samples should be collected respectively.
4. SAC reserve the right to carry out additional testing at our discretion.
5. EAE supervised status is awarded after 1 clear test.
EAE accredited status is awarded after 2 clear tests.
Certificates will be issued by SAC VS annually following clear tests.
6. Certificates must be completed and exchanged when buying and selling ewes.
7. Only ewes of a similar or higher status may be introduced to a flock - EAE accredited flocks must only purchase EAE accredited ewe replacements.
8.
 - a. EAE accredited and supervised ewes must not be kept on the same premises as ewes of a lower status.
 - b. Away wintered hogs must not come into contact with any other sheep on the premises to which they are sent.
 - c. Lambs for fostering must come from EAE accredited flocks.
 - d. Shared rams must only have been used in EAE accredited flocks.
 - e. EAE accredited and supervised ewes should not share transport with ewes of a lower status.
 - f. EAE accredited and supervised ewes should pass through sale rings before ewes of a lower status.

Points e. and f. **must** be applied during the month before and after lambing. Wherever possible they should also be applied at ALL other times of the year.
9. Livestock movement records must be kept up to date for inspection by your veterinary surgeon or SAC VS at any time.

10. The use of EAE vaccine is not permitted and EAE vaccinated ewes must not be purchased.

11. **All** aborted lambs and placentas, (cleansings), should be delivered to your local SAC or VLA laboratory. Where distance is a problem your veterinary surgeon can collect and post samples. Screening for EAE and the most common causes of abortion will be carried out. **The cost of this is included in your membership fee.**

12. If EAE abortion is diagnosed the flock will be removed from the EAE health scheme immediately.

13. As goats can be infected with EAE then any goats on the premises are subject to the same rules as the sheep flock.

14. Gimmering flocks. Farmers without breeding ewes who purchase and retain EAE accredited ewe lambs can apply to be registered as a gimmering flock. The ewe lambs can retain their status and be sold as EAE accredited gimmers provided that -

- a. no other breeding sheep and goats are kept on the premises.
- b. they do not come into contact with any other sheep and goats.
- c. the premises are inspected annually by SAC VS or your veterinary surgeon.

Certificates will be issued annually without any requirement for blood testing.

15. **Designated areas.** These are areas where the risk of EAE being introduced is very low. The boundaries must either present a physical barrier to the movement of sheep, (e.g. river, forestry, main roads, lochs etc.), OR be adjacent to other EAE accredited flocks. Any number of neighbouring flocks, (one or more), can apply to SAC VS to form

a designated area. Once flocks within a designated area are awarded EAE accredited status blood testing is carried out every second year thus reducing costs. Certificates are issued annually and all the other rules apply.

16. Failure to adhere to the rules of the EAE health scheme or failure to settle fees will result in the removal of the flock from the sheep and goat health scheme.

17. SAC VS will maintain a register of flocks in the scheme with EAE accredited stock

18. A client may advertise his membership of the scheme provided the status of the flock is accurately described. SAC VS reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any advertising which they consider to be inaccurate.

19. SAC VS shall not be liable for any expense, loss or damage arising out of any requirement made under the health scheme. No compensation shall be paid under the health scheme but this shall not affect a member's rights to claim damages for negligence.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes

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SAC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SCO03712