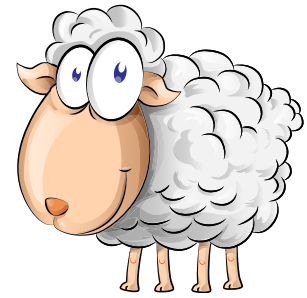


LAMBING

Some facts about lambing time on the farm



What time of the year is lambing?

Lambing can take place indoors or outdoors – indoor lambing tends to be for those born between January and March, with lambing outdoors common towards the middle of March and into April.



Indoor Lambing

For lambing indoors, ample clean and fresh straw is required, and individual pens for the ewes and their new lambs – this avoids any confusion about who belongs to who, aids bonding between ewe and lambs, and helps the farmer notice if anyone isn't feeding or is looking under the weather.



How long is a ewe pregnant for?

A ewe is a female sheep and she is pregnant for approximately 152 days, which is 5 months.



How many lambs does a ewe have?

Most ewes will have two lambs, but it isn't uncommon for larger numbers, sometimes as many as five!



The first few hours

Lambs will usually try to get up within minutes of being born and make their way to the ewe's udder for the essential colostrum in the ewe's milk, which they must drink within six hours of being born.



What is a cade lamb?

A cade lamb is an orphan lamb that does not have a mother. These will be bottle fed and raised by the farmer until old enough to go outside and join the rest of the flock.



Livestock in fields

Livestock need protecting whilst out in the fields. They might be pregnant or even have their lambs with them. Dogs chasing sheep can cause serious harm or even death for the sheep and it is therefore really important to keep all dogs on a lead when around livestock.

