

Green Mountain Bovine & Equine Clinic

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Lambing and Kidding Season

Hello all sheep and goat farmers! Spring is almost here and the first big event in our veterinary calendar is lambing and kidding season. While many of you are well prepared for the season, a few reminders may be handy.

Firstly, increase the quality and quantity of feed as birth approaches. Lambs take a lot of room from the stomach and yet demand more nutrients in the last few weeks. Therefore, the quality of feed must increase—especially for twins or triplets.

Watch for any doe or ewe that has lost appetite in late pregnancy. That animal likely has pregnancy toxemia and can be helped during early stages with glycol to boost energy. Another symptom caused by feeding pressure is vaginal prolapse, a pink ball protruding from the vagina before lambing. A prolapse retainer is a useful tool to hold that in.

At lambing or kidding, watch for hypocalcemia/weakness caused by a dietary calcium imbalance, common in goats and dairy sheep. Oral calcium gel or injectable calcium may be necessary.

Lambing or kidding that does not progress after ½ hour is usually a problem. Feel free to wash up and see if you can easily help. If not, certainly call us. Make sure to pen up new lambs and kids together with their mother to improve bonding. Be careful not to over-interfere or you will end up with bottle babies in the kitchen. Have a stomach tube and catheter tipped syringe handy for stomach tubing colostrum if the young one does not nurse within 2 hours.

Often we come out for pre-lambing or kidding visits to discuss and avoid problems ahead of time. Please feel free to call to set up a visit (603-256-8400). We are always happy to prevent emergencies!

Lambing/Kidding Supplies

Digital Thermometer	6.00 ea
Prolapse retainer	11.00 ea
Feeding tube	2.00 ea
60cc syringe	2.00 ea
7% iodine	1.00 oz
Glycol pint	6.00 pint