



## TEASER TUPS: SELECTION, AFTERCARE AND USE

### Selecting teaser tups

- Teaser candidates should be well grown, healthy with good feet and teeth, and sexually mature with good libidos. Shearlings are often the best candidates.
- Easily identifiable – black, or a different breed to your stock tups – is another good characteristic of potential teasers.
- Long season breeders, such as Poll Dorsets, Charollais or Suffolks, are preferable to short season breeders, such as Texels.
- Ideally they are home-bred to avoid introducing disease. If buying-in teasers, ensure they get all the appropriate quarantine treatments for resistant worms, resistant fluke, scab and lameness.
- Tups should be starved of food for 24 hours before vasectomy.

### Aftercare: Short-term

- Once vasectomised, keep the teaser(s) in a well-bedded pen or dry paddock for a few days.
- Make sure you permanently identify your teasers (tags, ear notches) to ensure they are never mistaken for breeding tups.
- After a few days, check the surgical wound. It should be dry and intact. If the wound smells or looks infected, or there is any sign of breakdown, call your vet for advice.
- Teaser tups cannot be used straightaway: they need time for their wound to heal and for any live sperm still present to leave the body. **We recommend at least 2-3 weeks before using them, with >6 weeks as ideal.**

### Aftercare: Long-term

- Do not forget to include teasers in routine treatments for your adult sheep – fly control flukicides, vaccinations, trace elements etc.
- The effectiveness of a teaser declines after 2-3 years, so he should be replaced after this.
- If you have any other queries, feel free to contact me on 07557 092 760. Your private vet practice is another source of reliable information.

### Getting the most from teasers

- Ewes should be out of sight and smell of tups (and billy goats) for 4 weeks before introduction of teasers. Consider neighbour's tups, and that smell may carry for a mile.
- Teasers should be used about 5 – 5.5 months pre-lambing.
- Teasers should be used at 1 teaser : 50 ewes, although they can work at up to 1:100.
- The teaser effect can be achieved after 2 days, but they are often left in for 2 weeks as this is easier to coordinate. They should not be left in longer than this.
- Two peaks in oestrus will be seen in ewes: 18 and then 26 days after introduction of teasers.
- Stock tups should go in straight after teasers. Be sure to remove your teasers at the same time as otherwise they may fight off your stock tups.
- Synchronised ewes will require more tup power. 1 tup: 30 ewes is often quoted as a benchmark. Pre-breeding soundness examination of your tups by your vet is also recommended.
- Remember a compact lambing means it will be more intensive than usual. This may need more staff at lambing time.