Pre lambing checks/best practice tips

- Iodine in non-splash container (teat cup, small Tropicana bottle) – iodine at birth and 6hrs later. Make sure iodine is Tincture & 10% type.
- Colostrum management – freeze within the hour, try to keep clean, ice cube freezer bags, do not defrost too quickly, triplets stomach tube as standard to ensure colostrum. Wash stomach tubes regularly
- Metabolic testing for ewes 3 weeks before lambing
- Dead stock book – why they died, when, mother – use to identify problems and avoid the next year
- Staff Briefing – does everyone understand the protocols? especially important when you have new vet students
- Bonding pen management – clean and disinfect after each use, Have pen label/sign to mark date and what issues are
- Mark problem ewes – lug mark, mark tag and make sure you do not keep ewe lambs of problem ewes.
- Vaccinate if joint ill problem – but only if a problem
- Suspend a watering hose form the roof to make filling buckets quick and easy
- Try using a fishing landing net for catching lambs

Pre calving checks/best practice tips

- Navels – iodine at birth if safe, do again in 24hrs -possibly at tagging
- Focus on safety – no shortcuts – follow protocols – do tasks with 2 people, move cow rather than calf then you are not bending and can see what is happening, have a safe area for tagging, use a leg crook
- Recording – ease, health, culls, issues
- New dehorning paste – syringe – horncheck – allows easy application and right amount
- Colostrum – keep frozen reserve, do not bring in colostrum from other farms that you do not know health status of?
- Biosecurity – new born calves should not be kept in same area as calves older than three weeks. 5 day limit then move calves on.
- When stripping colostrum from a cow try milking into a long glove to avoid spillage from kicking and having to hold bucket with other hand.