

## Give your ewes a boost

Clostridial vaccination at pre-lamb boosts the ewe's antibody production, and it's this boost just prior to colostrum production that ensures colostrum has good levels of antibodies to pass on to suckling lambs.

The vaccine you choose at pre-lamb is one of the factors that will determine the level of antibodies available for suckling lambs – which could be the difference between lamb survival and clostridial deaths.

Lambs are born with very few antibodies, and rely on antibodies in the ewe's colostrum for protection against clostridial diseases including Pulpy Kidney and Tetanus. Clostridial vaccination of the ewe just prior to lambing is utilised on most NZ farms to maximize the level of antibodies lambs receive in colostrum.

Protecting lambs against clostridial disease is essential to maximise lamb survival through to weaning. Of most importance is Pulpy Kidney in growing lambs, but Blood Poisoning in ewes and lambs around lambing, and Tetanus in lambs at docking are also important killers.

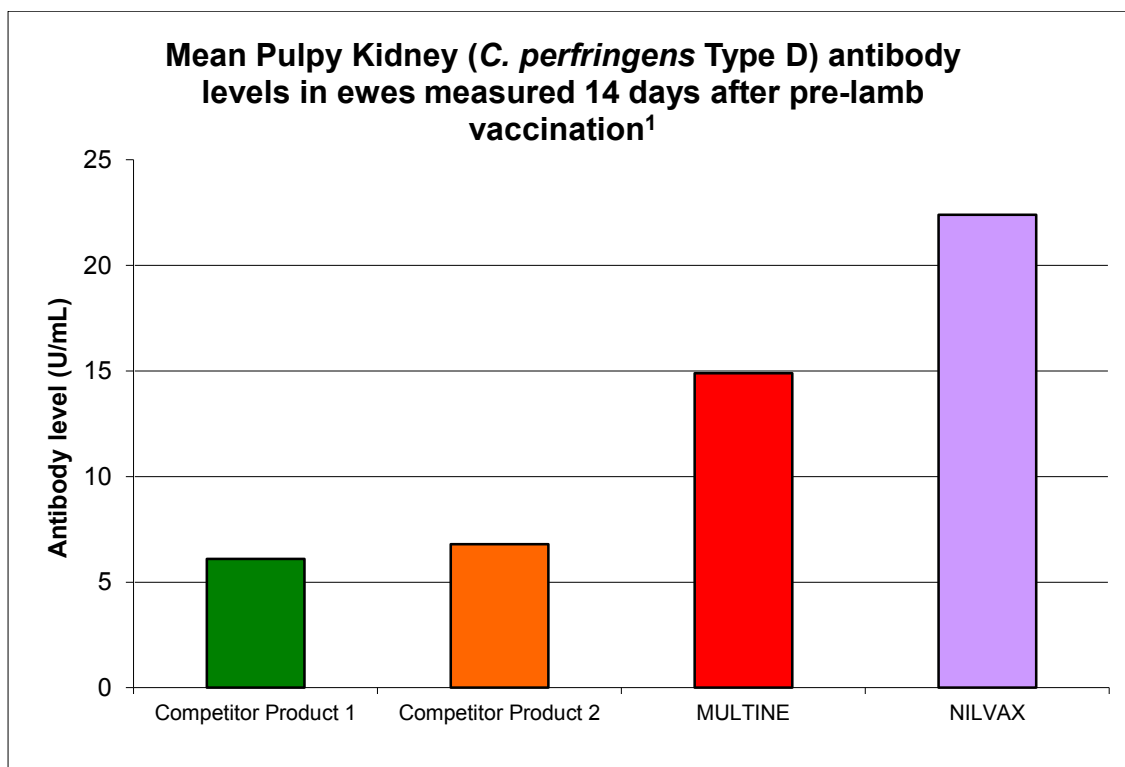
The duration of protection gained by the suckling lamb is determined by the amount of antibody absorbed from colostrum. Inadequate levels of antibody intake by lambs can be seen in situations such as:

- Poor mothering ability of ewes
- Inadequate milk production by ewes
- Lambs which are weak sucklers
- Multiple lambs sharing colostrum
- Low antibody production in the ewe

Pre-lamb clostridial vaccination aims to reduce this last situation – by boosting the ewe's antibody levels just prior to colostrum production. Younger ewes, and those in lower condition or under nutritional stress, may be less able to respond well to vaccination.

In a trial comparing the immune response of twin-bearing ewes to different pre-lamb vaccines, significant differences were seen between vaccines (Figure 1).

Figure 1



NILVAX<sup>®</sup> gives an improved immune response, resulting in more ewes responding to vaccination, and with a higher level of antibodies.

What do more antibodies mean for your farm?

- Ewes can be vaccinated earlier – up to 6 weeks before lambing. This decreases the risk of Sleepy Sickness caused by mustering and yarding close to lambing
- More antibodies are available to suckling lambs – this is important as MULTIPLE LAMBS SHARE COLOSTRUM
- Lambs are protected for longer – up to 16 weeks of age

### **NILVAX<sup>®</sup>: Boosted with levamisole for an enhanced antibody immune response**

More antibodies mean:

- Ewes can be vaccinated earlier
- More antibodies available for lambs
- Lambs are protected longer
- Later lambers have better protection



<sup>1</sup>Moffat. 2001, Soc. Sheep & Beef Cattle Vets. NZVA