Frame to identify innovative and best practices

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I. Beltrán de Heredia, R. Ruiz
TOPIC:

- Reproduction
- Gestation
- Lamb mortality “management”
- Lamb mortality “ewe-lamb”

ISSUE: Colostrum issues (e.g. quantity, quality and intake)

Solution name: Guidelines for feeding new-born lamb colostrums

Country: Spain

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Dairy and meat

Source of information: Bibliography; Technical Services

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical
- Just Being Tested

Aim: Ensure that new-born lambs consumes a sufficient amount of colostrum at the optimal time, and keep good quality colostrum to feed orphaned lambs, lambs born from very prolific litters or abandoned lambs.

Description:

- What is implemented;
  To assess the amount of colostrum consumed by the lambs

- How is implemented;
  On the first day of life, lambs have to consume an amount of colostrum equal to 10% of their live weight. It is recommended to distribute that daily amount in a maximum of 4 doses, the first during the first 3 h of life, and then at around 8, 14 and 20 h. Whenever the mother does not have enough colostrum, high quality colostrum should be collected from multiparous sheep after having fed their offspring. Sheep must be in a good condition, suitably fed, and vaccinated against the more frequent diseases within the flock or the geographical area.
  Milk the remaining colostrum to the sheep every 12 hours after lambing. Pack the colostrum in 250 ml containers and keep:
    - Refrigerated up to 2 days.
    - Frozen at -18°C up to 2 years, and unfreeze at less than 60ºC (higher temperatures denature immunoglobulins)
    - Pasteurization: 56ºC for 30’ (to try to control Maedi-Visna disease)
  The temperature of supply of colostrum is 35-40ºC
  Abdominal palpation of the lambs to check their condition (full / empty).

- When is it implemented.
  Newborn lambs must get their first milk intake as soon as possible, and always before 3 hours after birth.
**Expected benefits:**

To reduce lamb mortality due to poor care and feeding management of newborn lambs.

**Prerequisites and/or limits** (knowledge, training, capabilities, cost, management, facilities, equipment, etc.)

- Labour resources available