

Get help from new products

Darren Carty looks at some products to aid in reducing labour at lambing

Guarding against fox attacks

OrlDen products, based in Warrenpoint, Co Down, launched OrlDen Fox Repellent Oil in 2014. Michael Lynch says the company is very pleased with sales of the product in Ireland and Scotland. "Our customers' response has been very pleasing. Nobody reported that they lost lambs treated with OrlDen Fox Repellent Oil. Effectively, they had zero losses to foxes and there was no mismothering of lambs by ewes."

Michael advises to put the oily paste on the neck area only (back of the neck/throat area). He says that putting it all around the neck may be beneficial in preventing attacks from a mink or weasel, but the company cannot guarantee this protection. The recommended time of application depends on the location of lambs. "If lambs are born indoors, apply the oil just before they are let out. If lambs are born outside, then they

risk predation immediately after being born or the following evening/night. The oil can be applied immediately or before that evening, at the latest, to provide protection. If applying to freshly-born lambs, still wet, it is important to apply the oil to the neck area only to avoid rejection."

OrlDen Fox Repellent Oil is available through agri and veterinary outlets in 100ml and 500ml sizes, treating approximately 15 and 80 lambs, respectively. The 100ml container costs €7.40, while 500ml costs €28. A five-litre container, which treats over 800 lambs, is also available on request. The paste is non-irritant for human and ovine skin, with one application sufficient for cover. Further details can be found at <http://www.OrlDenLivestockProducts.com>, by email at orlDenproducts@gmail.com or by phone at 048-41753157/07767 377500.

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The OrlDen fox oil repellent is recommended to be applied by hand and massaged into the lamb's neck.

Many uses for stockboard

Farm Relief Services (FRS) in Boyle, Co Roscommon, is selling sheep hurdles constructed from recycled plastics. The standard hurdles measure 5ft x 5ft, with one set of four hurdles costing €125, including VAT.

Boyle FRS manager Richard O'Dowd says the greatest advantages of the hurdles are that they are easy to clean and maintain hygienic conditions at lambing, along with providing newborn lambs with a warm, sheltered environment. The hurdles are also lightweight and easy to store.

Richard says that an option selected by an increasing number of customers to prepare areas for lambing or other tasks is purchasing sheets of stockboard.

He says that some farmers have used the sheets of stockboard to construct

their own pens and, in many cases, to prepare facilities for lambing. For example, he says the stockboard can quickly be applied to gates or at the bottom of sheds to exclude drafts.



Richard O'Dowd, manager, FRS, Boyle.

The sheets measure 8ft x 4ft in size and are variable in thickness. A sheet of 6mm thick stockboard sells for €42, including VAT, 9mm sells for €55, including VAT, while the heavy gauge 12mm thick stockboard costs €75, including VAT.

Contact Richard on 086-2521699.



The lambing hurdles are made from recycled plastic which, along with their lightweight characteristics, make them easy to clean and set up.

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