

Synchronised oestrus and Early Lambing



Controlled breeding with **Chronogest® CR** **PMSG®**



MSD

Animal Health



What is Chronogest CR?

Chronogest CR is an intra-vaginal sponge which is impregnated with 20mg of a synthetic progesterone-like hormone, cronolone (flugestone acetate).

How does it work?

Over a period of 14 days, the hormone is released into the blood stream via the wall of the vagina. During the breeding season, the hormone temporarily prevents the animal coming into season, and during the non-breeding season it primes the animal to respond to an injection of PMSG. When the sponge is taken out, the blocking effect of the hormone is removed and the ewe will come into heat approximately 48 hours later.

When do I use it?

- To advance lambing by up to six weeks
- To synchronise oestrus prior to AI
- During the normal breeding season to synchronise lambing

What are the important points to remember?

Chronogest CR is no substitute for good management. A higher ratio of rams to ewes is required (for example, 1:10 within the breeding season, 1:5 outside the breeding season) and good ewe and ram management is essential for success.

Do I need to use PMSG injections?

If you intend to advance the breeding/lambing period for your flock, then PMSG-Intervet injections at sponge removal are essential - see notes on use later in this leaflet.

Pack sizes

Chronogest CR is available in 25 sponge pack sizes. The new packaging protects the sponges from light and moisture, ensuring the sponges arrive safely for use or storage.

Interested?

Then before using the product please read the whole of this leaflet which is designed to help you plan for success. The sponging programme should be planned at least 6 weeks in advance of mating.

Early lambing

Using Chronogest CR sponges with PMSG-Intervet allows lambing to be advanced, which means that:

- Premium prices for Easter lambs can be realised
- Pedigree flocks can produce lambs at the optimum time for Autumn sales
- Even batches of lambs can be marketed

AI

Synchronising oestrus with Chronogest CR sponges and PMSG-Intervet also makes AI practicable, so that:

- Semen from genetically superior sires can be used
- Scrapie control measures
- Reduce spread of infectious diseases

Synchronisation

Using Chronogest CR sponges, lambing is generally completed in around three weeks, with a high proportion of ewes usually lambing in the first 7 days. The flock can therefore be managed much more precisely since it contains only two main lambing groups. This means that:

- Feeding and housing can be managed more effectively
- Savings in feed and labour costs are possible
- Vaccines can be given at the optimum time for each batch of ewes
- Shepherding can be more intensive, meaning better lamb survival

The Benefits





How to use Chronogest CR

Flock preparation

Chronogest CR (and PMSG if appropriate) ensures that most, if not all, of the ewes come into oestrus at the same time. Sponges neither enhance nor depress conception rates. This means that the factors which normally affect fertility, for example health, nutrition and management, are still equally important when synchronisation is being used. Given that you are asking the rams to do 16 days' work in 48 hours, considerably more 'ram power' is required. It is essential to note the following:

- 1 Rams used should be experienced and of proven fertility. Ram lambs should not be used.
- 2 Within the breeding season, plan on a ratio of 1 ram to 10 ewes. Please note that outside and just prior to the breeding season, rams' semen quality is generally poor and this has to be taken into account when planning to advance the breeding season. A ratio of 1 ram to 5 ewes should therefore be the aim outside the natural breeding season.
- 3 Examine all rams 6 to 8 weeks before mating for general health. A thorough examination of the rams' external genitalia should be made at this time - please ask your veterinary surgeon for guidance. Flushing of rams should be carried out over 6 to 8 weeks, aiming for a condition score
- 4 of 4 at the commencement of mating. 'Teasing' rams with ewes will also help to ensure they are ready for an early mating season.
- 4 Ewes should be in good condition and flushed for at least 3 weeks prior to mating. Aim for a condition score of 3 to 3.5, but avoid over-fatness. 'Teasing' the ewes with a vasectomised ram can also be beneficial.
- 5 Minimise stressing ewes and rams during the pre-mating period by avoiding procedures such as dipping, transport, shearing etc.
- 6 At mating, ewes should be penned in small areas with 1 ram per group. If not, the flock should be held in a small field for mating, with a maximum of 5 rams and 50 ewes per area. Ideally, supervised or 'hand-mating' should be carried out. This procedure involves either watching ewes closely and removing them from the group when they are served, or introducing the ewes individually to the ram. They should be returned to a different ram 12 hours later as this reduces the chances of failure due to an individual ram.
- 7 If it is decided to split the flock into groups to achieve an acceptable ram to ewe ratio, then the groups should be sponged at least 7 days apart to allow the rams to recover in between,

otherwise there is little benefit from this procedure.

- 8 Ram harnesses are not advisable during initial mating, but are useful to pick up the returns.
- 9 It is important that all stressful procedures such as dipping, unnecessary handling, etc. are avoided for the ewe during the month following mating as this is the time when implantation of the embryo takes place.

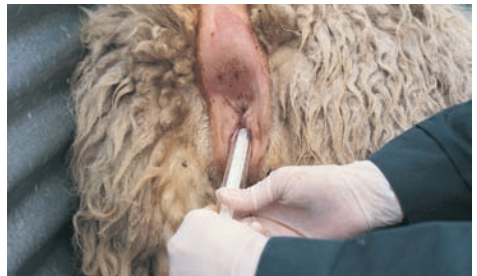
Use of the sponges

The insertion technique is shown in the illustrations. For a full description, please refer to the packing leaflet supplied with the product.

Sponges should be removed after the required time by gently pulling on the strings. As each sponge is removed, it may be accompanied by a small amount of distinctive-smelling fluid. This in no way affects either the ewe's health or her subsequent reproductive performance. It is important that used sponges are disposed of safely, since they are attractive to some dogs and can cause problems if swallowed. If no strings are evident, carefully examine the vagina. If the sponge is still in position, ensure that it is removed.



Day 0 Gently insert Chronogest sponge with applicator



Day 0 Withdraw applicator



Day 0 Sponge in position - note that strings are easily seen



Day 14 Withdraw Chronogest sponge

When should the sponges be removed?

Chronogest CR sponges should be left in place for 14 days and an intramuscular injection of PMSG-Intervet should be given at the time of sponge removal (see notes on PMSG-Intervet overleaf). Do not give the injection before sponge removal or more than six hours afterwards. Please note that where ewes are being bred outside their normal season, they may revert to anoestrus following the sponge/PMSG-induced oestrus. This means that failure to return to the tup does not necessarily guarantee they are pregnant. With early lambing flocks, it may be advisable to scan these animals 50 to 60 days post mating to identify any barren animals so they may be re-bred.

PMSG-Intervet

This is supplied in vials containing 5,000 international units (iu) of serum gonadotrophin (PMSG). The freeze dried pellet should be reconstituted immediately prior to use, using the diluent provided. The solution then contains 200iu/ml.

An average dose would be 2.5ml (500iu) although this can be varied with experience. The main factors involved in deciding the most appropriate dose rate for your flock are the breed of ewe, the prolificacy of the flock and how far outside the normal season breeding is being attempted. Whether or not AI is being used will also influence the dose required. Careful records of dose, time of year and lambing results should be kept to enable adjustments to be made the following season, if necessary. Further

guidance on dose rates of PMSG may be obtained through your veterinary surgeon or AI operator.

Recommended mating times

Oestrus usually occurs 36 to 72 hours after sponge withdrawal, but occasionally may be evident as early as 24 hours after removal. However, rams must not be introduced earlier than 48 hours following sponge removal. Otherwise they will repeatedly serve the same ewes, depleting their semen reserves prior to the main group coming into season.



Inject PMSG-Intervet intra-muscularly as required at sponge removal

AI

It is well worth considering artificial insemination, as it provides the opportunity to use semen from genetically superior sires to improve growth rate, carcass characteristics and wool quality. AI also reduces the risk of ram failures, especially outside the breeding season, and significantly reduces the number of rams required for synchronised breeding.

Commercial AI services are readily available, but should you have difficulty in contacting a suitable one, your veterinary surgeon may be able to help.

Pack sizes

Chronogest CR sponges are available in packs of 25 sponges only.



How to order

Chronogest CR sponges and PMSG-Intervet can only be obtained from your veterinary surgeon who will be able to provide any further information you may require.

Chronogest CR for controlled breeding in sheep



Controlled breeding with Chronogest[®] CR PMSG[®]

Contra-indications and warnings

- 1 Milk Withdrawal - nil.
- 2 Meat Withdrawal - 2 days.
- 3 Operators should wear protective gloves when handling the sponges during insertion and removal.
- 4 Insert only by means of the special applicator.
- 5 After removal, used sponges should be securely contained for disposal as clinical waste in accordance with local regulations.

Use medicines responsibly. For more information visit www.noah.uk/responsible

Chronogest CR sponges are only available via your veterinary surgeon from whom advice should be sought. Chronogest CR sponges containing 20mg cronolone (Flugestone Acetate) and PMSG-Intervet (Serum Gonadotrophin Ph. Eur.) Legal category: **POM-V**

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Further information is available from:

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Item Code: RU-033339



76357 • June 2011/46/500