**Treating Hypothermia (Chilling) and Hypoglycemia (Starvation) in Very Young Lambs**

**Sourcing and Warming Colostrum to Feed to Hypothermic Lambs**

- Colostrum from a lamb's dam is best, other options listed in order of preference:
  1. Individual healthy ewe colostrum from the same flock.
  2. Pooled ewe colostrum from the same flock.
  3. Pooled ewe colostrum from another flock (same disease status or better).
  4. Pooled cow colostrum (use 30% more; feed every five hours in the first 24 hour period).
  5. Any combination of the above.
  6. Commercial colostrum replacement product.

**Can the lamb suckle and swallow?**

- Lambs with a suckle reflex can be tube fed. Lambs can be injected in this manner.

**Moderate to Severe Hypothermia**

**Temperature ≤ 37°C**

- The lamb is suspended vertically by the forelimbs.
- The dose is 10 mL per kg bodyweight; 50 mL is sufficient for a 5 kg lamb.
- Use a 20 gauge (pink) 1 inch needle.
- The lamb is not warm or has shallow breathing.

**Actions**

- Administer warm colostrum by stomach tube. Feed 50 mL/kg bodyweight prior to warming.
- Warm the lamb first, prior to any other action. This requires the most labour.
- Do not warm before administering an energy source (i.e. dextrose or warm water).
- Check rectal temperature every 30 minutes to avoid overheating.
- Warm air heater is the preferred method.

**Warming a Hypothermic Lamb Continued**

- A water bath warms most quickly but requires holding the lamb to prevent movement (see diagram below).
- Use a warming box which allows circulation of warm air around the lamb (e.g. scours)
- A 60 mL syringe. Draw up 20 mL of sterile 50% dextrose.
- Boil clean water and draw up 30 mL of this water into the same syringe.
- This will provide 50 mL of warm (38°C–40°C) 20% dextrose solution.
- The dose is 10 mL per kg bodyweight; 50 mL is sufficient for a 5 kg lamb.
- The lamb is suspended vertically by the forelimbs.
- The injection site is 2.5 cm (1 in.) below and to the side of the navel.
- Use a 20 gauge (pink) 1 inch needle.
- The needle is inserted at a 45°-degree angle to the body wall (the needle is pointed in the direction of the lamb’s pelvis).
- Ask your veterinarian to show you how to do it.
- The internal organs will be pushed away by the needle and not damaged.
- Both the conscious and comatose lamb can be injected in this manner.

**Administering Dextrose Solution Using an Intraperitoneal (IP) Injection**

- With a sterile 60 mL syringe, draw up 20 mL of sterile 50% dextrose using a sterile needle.
- But clean water and draw up 30 mL of this water into the same syringe.
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**Techniques Used to Revive Hypothermic and Hypoglycemic Lambs**

- Sit with the lamb restrained on your lap. Measure the tube. The tube is placed into the side of the mouth in the space between the front and side teeth.
- Using gentle pressure, the tube is slid into the esophagus and down to the stomach.
- The tube will move easily. ANY resistance or COUGHING indicates that the tube is not in the stomach. If ≤ 37°C, stand. Reverse the hypoglycemia first before warming or feeding. This requires the most labour.
- Heat lamp alone is not recommended as it only warms one side.
- Do not warm before administering an energy source (i.p. dextrose or other agent). Check rectal temperature every 30 minutes to avoid overheating.
- Warm air heater is the preferred method.

**Care of the Newborn Lamb.**

- Assist the ewe at lambing.
- Keep lamb warm and dry.
- Observe easily. Watch for signs of rejection.
- Return to the dam once lamb is strong enough to nurse unaided.
- Strong and maintaining normal temperature of 39°C (102°F). Good nutrition during gestation, good lambing environment, an awareness of weather conditions, observation of the ewe and lamb at lambing, and assisting where necessary, will go a long way to preventing lamb losses from hypothermia.

**Additional Notes:**

- Johnie’s Disease can be spread from infected cows and ewes through their colostrum. Use cows from a Johne’s tested herd. Johne’s Disease can be spread from infected cows and ewes through their colostrum. Use cows from a Johne’s tested herd.
- Lambs from a flock with a positive test can be identified using livestock paint or marker.