



EWES NEWS

In this issue . . .

In this issue we have excellent articles from a lot of the team. Andrew Muir our champion for BVD, has a compelling bit of local data on how wide spread the disease is. Rhys Williams in Ranfurly has done a local case study into Johnes

prevention in sheep. Ashleigh our East Otago field rep, who is sadly leaving us, could not go without a plug for the dog food that has been a quiet revolution for many working dogs in our area, especially huntaways. Luke Smyth our

experienced deer man has a reminder of our fast, efficient deer pregnancy testing service and Naomi Barrett in Omarama has a look at pour-on options for lice treatment.

2016 SHEEP & BEEF ROADSHOWS

We'll have the latest research



We'll bring hospitality



We'll bring entertainment



Come and catch up with other farmers for an informal and informative event.

Where & When?

14 June	Veterinary Centre Oamaru	7.00pm
15 June	Omarama Hotel	2.30pm
15 June	Kurow Hotel	7.00pm
16 June	Hyde Hall	2.30pm
16 June	Ardleigh Golf Club, Palmerston	7.00pm
17 June	Alexandra Beef & Lamb Expo	10.00am
21 June	Cafe on Queen, Waimate	7.00pm

R.S.V.P. to your nearest clinic or Phone 0800 VET 111





Comment - Dave Robertson BVSc

Coming up to the shortest day is a bit of a mindset thing for famers in winter mode. It means we're not far away from warmer weather, grass growth and the start of the next production cycle. June is therefore a good month for reviewing the season that has been and planning the next.

In gathering more data on beef cow production during pregnancy testing this year, we have some interesting insights to share, some preliminary findings from our ram health and husbandry survey as well as an introduction to some key messages to consider for ewe health leading up to lambing. To hear about all this you will have to come to our roadshows in June.

We've designed the talks to be very brief to allow for more discussion, debate and maybe even some silliness. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

BVD Exposure in Beef Herds- 2 Years of Data - Andrew Muir BVSc

This year during pregnancy testing we have sampled a further 19 herds for their exposure to BVD. The map below shows this data overlayed with the 13 herds that were sampled last year. We are beginning to get a real picture of how common BVD infected herds are.

- A value greater than 0.75 indicates that the herd has a Persistently Infected (PI) animal in it or they have had recent exposure to the virus.
- A value of 0.17- 0.74 indicates the herd has minimal current exposure to BVD.
- A value of less than 0.17 indicates no exposure to the virus

As you can see from the data, only 6 of the herds sampled had no or minimal exposure. All the others have had recent exposure to the virus. Research from Beef and Lamb has shown that the average infected beef herd has a 5% lower pregnancy rate than uninfected herds.

Several of the herds from last year have put in place a BVD control programme after receiving their results. Control programmes are based around:

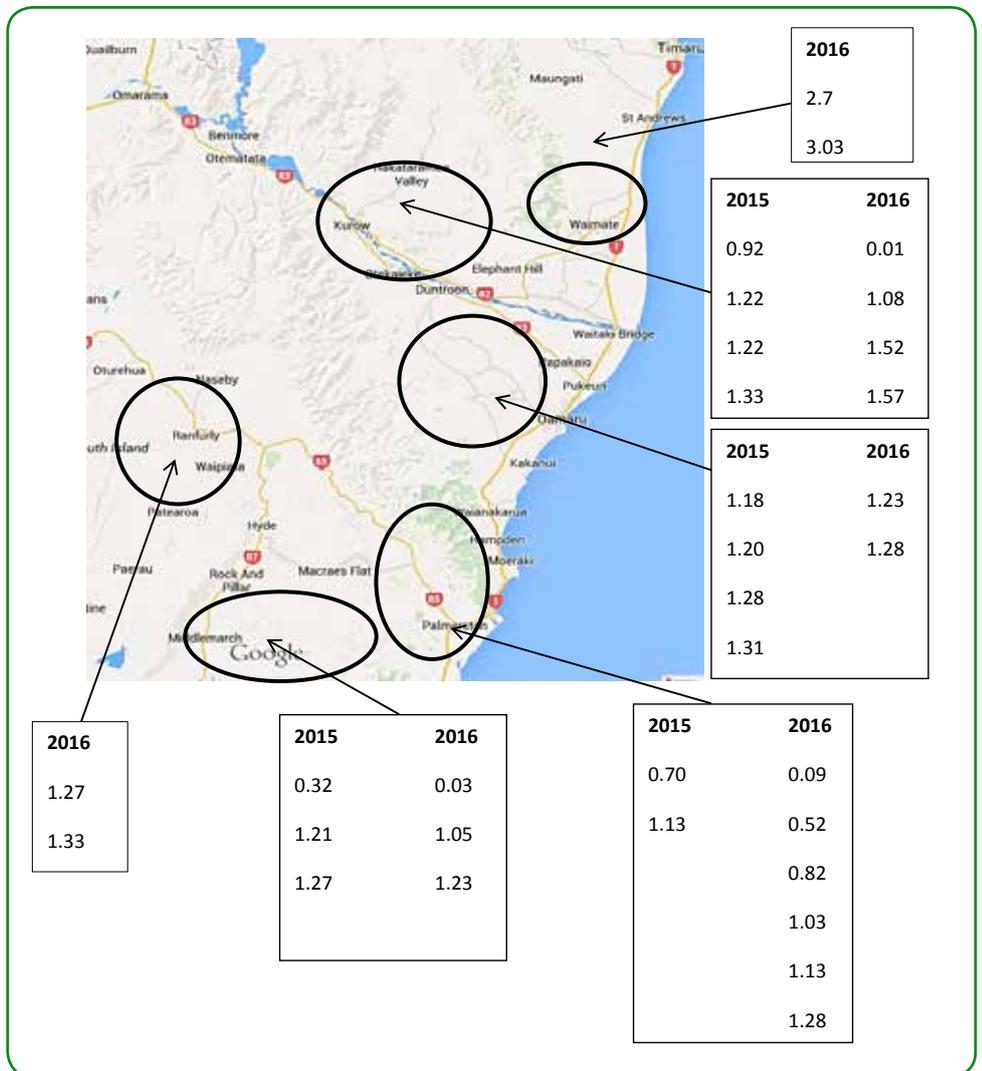
- Blood testing
- Vaccination
- Biosecurity

If you are looking at vaccinating your herd, now is the time to get the 1st

injection in. The sensitiser and booster shots can be given 4 weeks to 6 months apart.

It is important to have a discussion

with one of our veterinarians who understands the complexities of this disease and can help you put a proper control programme in place.

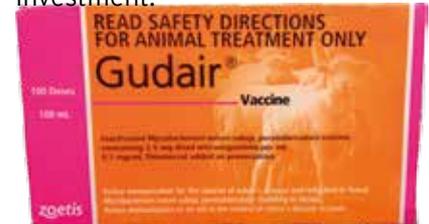


Ewe Wastage – Johne's Disease - Rhys Williams BVSc

Johne's is present on 70% of farms and has contributed to 22% of total ill thrift diagnoses in NZ in the last 5 years, followed closely by Trace Element deficiency, showing us that it's a problem in New Zealand. Johne's disease is caused by a bacteria that infects lambs while suckling or grazing, persisting in the gut and flaring up at stressful times such as a pinch of feed or shearing. Ewes subsequently lose a significant amount of condition and eventually die. Vaccination with Gudair® as a hogget markedly reduces the onset of disease and contamination of the farm with the Johne's bacteria.

Phil Smith runs 8500 Romney-Merino crosses just outside Naseby and has been vaccinating his sheep for Johne's for 10 years. Prior to vaccination, Phil was losing 200-300 sheep each year, which was attributed to Johne's. Once vaccination started there was a massive improvement in the hoggets the following year, ewe wastage continued to drop yearly until all animals were vaccinated. Another appreciable difference to Phil was that there were no tail enders slowing down droving and a lot less faecal staining of wool in the yards at shearing time. A contractor experienced with use of

Gudair vaccine jabs all the hoggets on the conveyor in late September which covers them for life. Phil still benefits from reduced Ewe wastage and improved production and welfare. There is no longer restrictions with slaughter of vaccinated animals. More details will be presented at our roadshows including returns on investment.



Phil Smith of Glenspec Holdings Limited knows the value of Gudair vaccine for Johnes disease.

Pre lamb Planning - Start now!

- Jeff Spillane

Pre-lamb purchases begin towards the end of June for some and follow quickly for the rest. Here are 4 tips for cost effective pre lamb purchasing -

- 1. Talk to an expert** - Its worth having the conversation with a trusted Blue Cross Vet. Conditions change, new technologies arrive and research gets updated.
- 2. Categorise treatments** - not all stock have the same parasite challenge or responsiveness to treatment. A targeted approach does require more thought but has the potential to give a better return on your investment.
- 3. Utilise refugia** - just because you

can't see it doesn't mean it's not happening. Resistance has

a slow or steady march. There are things you can do to reduce its progression.

- 4. Use your reduction test data** to make logical decisions. If you haven't done one you need to!

The Veterinary Centre can provide you with all of the above, the professional advice, the sustainable management, very competitive pricing and optimised returns.



Farewell to Ashleigh Edmondston, Palmerston Territory Manager

This month we say goodbye to our Palmerston Territory Manager Ashleigh Edmondston. We will continue to see Ashleigh from time to time in her new role with Royal Canin. Ashleigh has certainly demonstrated her passion in this field with her knowledge and advice on Royal Canin working dog food that she has shared with many clients. The Veterinary Centre and the clients Ashleigh has been involved with will miss her commitment to delivering excellent service. We wish Ashleigh well in this next phase of her career.

Endurance Dog Food at work in East Otago

Kerry and Jacqui Chittock have been strong supporters of the Royal Canin Endurance working dog food since they started using it at the start of this year. Royal Canin Endurance is specially formulated to meet the high energy demands of the New Zealand working dog, with higher amounts of protein and fat that the dogs need to work all day, every day in our hard conditions. It would be fair to say that Jacqui and Kerry run a pretty tidy operation when it comes to their working dogs. Kerry does well in the dog trialing scene and is often found out mustering the hill country for one of the locals. Pups and trained dogs are also well sought after out of the Chittock farm. Due to the results seen in the working team

on Royal Canin, Kerry and Jacqui now use the Royal Canin large and medium breed puppy formulas with any litters and young pups that they have.

When asked what they like about the product and why they keep coming back for more, the answer was simple, "It works and the dogs do great on it."



Managing Lice in Sheep - Naomi Barrett, MAVSc,

Winter is the rutt as far as lice are concerned. Multiplying and rapidly causing damage to the fleece and generally giving sheep an ill thrifty, untidy appearance.

Shearing tends to take care of 70% of the population but to really get control, an off shears, pour on application is the best option.

There are a number of chemical options for this now days. The best product will depend on whether you have fine wool or crossbreds and the size of your sheep.

Of the pour ons, Expo is best for crossbred ewes. For merinos or halfbreds, Zapp Encore or Magnum are most suitable.

Jetting can be done but it requires at least 4 weeks of wool (and grease) post shearing to be effective, so is not convenient for pre lamb shearing.

Remember lice are only maintained on sheep. They do not survive in the environment to infect sheep. That's where a total muster and correct application of the right dip is critical to eradicating lice from the flock.

The Veterinary Centre vets and territory managers have good knowledge on this topic. Ask them which options are best for your flock.

Scanning Deer - Luke Smyth, BVSc



With portable battery powered scanners the scanning of hinds for pregnancy has become much easier. Rectal scanning

diagnosed in-fawn from 30-35 days pregnant until around 120-130 days pregnant. After 120 days, the pregnancy tends to drop down into the abdomen making visualisation of the pregnancy difficult. Hinds should be scanned 35 days after the stag has been removed from the mob, this means the majority of hinds should be scanned from early June through to early July.

Facilities. Sufficient restraint of hinds is necessary. Deer crushes are the ideal setup but with quiet hinds and an extra person to help with deer handling, swinging doors, races and small pens can all work well.

Permanently identify dry hinds. Dry hinds should be tagged with

either a coloured fold over sheep tag or a slaughter tag, this saves a lot of confusion further down the track when aerosol marks wear off!

If you are planning to scan your hinds for pregnancy or are unsure about your facilities or the help required, please talk to one of the Veterinary Centres experienced deer vets.

allows earlier diagnosis of pregnancies, identification of "late" and empty uterus and for "dry" uterus's to be visualised.

To achieve the best possible outcome from scanning there are a few things to consider

Timing of scanning. Hinds can be

