



We are lucky to have talented staff who share a love of farming and animals. Kirsty from the Veterinary Centre Oamaru admin team took this photo which is not just a great shot of spring lambing but also mirrors how some mums are feeling during school holidays.



Jeff Spillane,
Commercial Manager

Are lamb returns due for an alignment of the stars? Pricing is strong at over \$7 per kg and successive years of reduced sheep numbers means there is good demand for what remains. Even the weather gods have given good current ground moisture levels. As temperatures warm, grass growth should be prolific, even for dryland operators. Most farmers I have talked to have described high, if not best ever scanning percentages and so far there has been no major weather event to threaten survival. The biggest gripe has been about the tedious job of re-mothering excess triplet orphans from high lambing totals. Regardless of how external factors play out, we will be available to help with animal health problems, give sound advice specific for our farming area and help make the most of opportunities as they arise.

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Sheep Production- Spring Lambing

Cross-bred farmers standing in the tailing pen might consider the following with respect to animal health this October:

- 1. Feeding** - now that the ewes are over peak lactation are these twin lambs getting enough quality feed to grow at 300g/day until weaning? It is usually a legume (clover or lucerne) that drives top lamb growth rates from 4-10 weeks of age.
- 2. What is the parasite challenge** in these paddocks? If the ewes haven't had a long acting drench, perhaps the lambs might benefit from a pre-weaning /weaning drench. Tailing at 4-6 weeks of age is too soon for a lamb drench. If ewes have had long acting drenches take the opportunity to collect 10 samples from

ewes to check egg counts.

- 3. Mineral boost to lambs**- Some properties are low in cobalt and if ewes have not had a boost of B12 pre-lamb, it can be of benefit to top-up B12 levels at tailing in lambs before they become



deficient. Milk is generally high in B12 so it is less-likely to see outright B12 deficiency pre weaning.

- 4. Who wants to be chasing fly** pre-weaning? The best fly protection product to apply at tailing is Clik, especially for

fine wool. It gives 4-5 months protection. Clik has a 35 day meat with-hold for cross-breds and 56 days for fine wool. Always consider the meat withhold period when choosing your product for use at tailing. There are other shorter acting and shorter withhold IGR spray-on products also for systems that draft fats soon after tailing.

- 5. Scabby mouth** - The biggest being prevention with good vaccination is better than cure. And checking "takes" 10 days later is very important.

5. Have some blue spray/tetravet powder and a bottle of penicillin handy for infections and general scrapes you find along the way. Best to have it ready at the start otherwise the animal will soon get whisked off the production line without a second thought.

- 6. Did ewes receive pre-lamb 5 in1?** If not then give lambs a shot of Lamb Vaccine at tailing to prevent tetanus. You can give the first Multine dose at lambing as a sensitizer and then a booster at weaning.



Deer Velvetting - New Regs

- Luke Smyth, BVSc Veterinary Centre Oamaru

As all deer farmers will be aware, the Regulated Control Scheme (RCS) for velvet harvesting has come into force for the 2017/18 season, this means the industry has become subject to new standards of hygiene and food safety.

Most farmers have now been busy upgrading or thinking about upgrading their deer sheds, crush's and freezers. If you are still unsure about what these requirements are contact DINZ on 04 473 4500 or look at the DINZ website www.deernz.org
All velvet being sold for export must

be accompanied by a Velvet Status Declaration (VSD), this paperwork is signed by the farmer stating the velvet has been harvested, handled, stored and transported according to the new standards.

If you don't want to bring your facilities up to the requirements, then yes you can still get your stags velvetted for animal welfare purposes but you will struggle to legally sell your velvet. Vets do not sign the VSD form, false declarations on the VSD form will be entirely at the owners risk!!

Oxywash for Deer Velvetting



An MPI approved sanitiser / disinfectant suitable for use in deer velvetting operations, including crushes, pens, de-velvetting equipment, racks, and cold storage facilities.

Oxywash is a chlorinated sanitiser
■ Mixing Rate Mix 1 litre of Oxywash with 9 litres of water

■ Application method - Spray solution over surfaces (e.g. from a backpack sprayer), scrub then rinse with potable water.

■ 5 Litre pack \$57.40 plus gst



Angus Gibbs BVSc
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Working Dog Health - Twisted Stomach

Twisted stomach or Gastric Dilated Volvulus (GDV) in dogs is a reasonably common, rapid onset, emergency affecting large dogs. Often the dog is found dead in its kennel in the morning, however if noticed and treated in time then the outcome is often good. The key to success is the quick identification of the problem and getting into surgery. Often a few hours make the difference between life and death.

The biggest risk factor of a GDV is dogs that have a direct relative having had one, which is due to the size and shape of the chest. Large chested dogs, especially huntaways are most likely to experience a GDV. Other risk factors for GDV include large meals/feeding every second day, drinking large amounts of water rapidly, dogs that eat rapidly and lean dogs.

Signs to look for - Off food, vomiting or unproductive retching, tight/distended abdomen, whimpering and other signs of abdominal pain, pale gums lethargy/

collapse.

Treatment involves stabilising the dog, which is usually in shock, then proceeding to surgery, where the stomach is untwisted and stitched to the abdominal wall preventing it happening again. The outcome of the surgery depends on the amount of time that the stomach has been twisted and the extent of damage to the stomach, in areas that have lost blood supply. If corrected with the stomach tissue having good viability the prognosis is good.

Prevention involves surgery (Gastropexy) to open the dog up and stitching the edge of the stomach to the abdominal wall, which lasts a lifetime. Preventative surgery should be considered in all huntaways, especially in dogs with a direct relative having had a GDV and in valuable dogs.



Huntaways have a greater risk of developing GDV

Feeding Beef Cows After Calving

The most important time to feed a beef cow is 2 to 4 months after calving. This determines how fast her calf grows and how soon she gets back in calf. Cows need to be gaining weight when with the bull to optimise cycling. In a trial performed where

the only difference between groups was high (20kgDM/day) versus low (8kgDM/day) the empty rates were 0% and 22% respectively. In reality we want to be feeding somewhere between at around 12kgDM/day from calving to mating. Any reduction



in this and the cow will sacrifice her bodyweight first to maintain milk production. With only 85 days for a cow to get back in calf to maintain a 365 day calving interval cows need to be cycling when the bull goes in. Make sure selenium levels are adequate.

Yearling Cattle - Spring Treatments

Yearlings and 2 year olds can benefit from a drench. In yearling stock Eclipse pour on or injection both containing levamisole would be worth the extra dollar or two per dose to ensure optimum growth rates continue through adolescence. For older animals, Genesis pour on will remove the parasite load persistently for 14 days both internal and external.

Minerals - Young cattle will benefit from a boost of B12 and selenium mid-spring to maximize the growth rates as the grass comes away. There are short and long acting options available for supplementation depending on how often you have convenient access to the animals.

BVD boosters for yearlings will be due. BVD can affect in calf rates by 5 to 15% and cause ill thrift in young stock. Talk to one of our veterinarians if you suspect unmitigated BVD is interfering with your beef herds productivity.



Research News

Michael Lilley BVSc



Michael Lilley BVSc, recently visited Elanco's fly and lice research site at Yarrandoo on the outskirts of Sydney

In early September, I was lucky enough to tour Elanco's research institute on the outskirts of Sydney. It was an excellent facility and includes a farm that is used for new product development and testing. It is where many innovative chemicals have originated in recent years with Dicyclanil (Clik), Monepantel (Zolvix Plus) and Extinosad (Cyrex) to name a few. It is almost beyond comprehension the studies, time and cost required to ensure a new product works, is safe to the animal and has an acceptable withholding time. One hundred thousand compounds are required to be tested for before a new active ingredient can be brought to the market! Resistance to fly, lice and worms to mainstream drenches and dips is much more advanced in Australia than in New Zealand. Whilst resistance is lower here we do have good levels of fly, lice and worm resistance. I'll cover the three of these off separately in coming months.

Lice- Lice control programs need to be well thought out with regard to timing, application method and chemicals used. Rotation of chemicals is important in lice control (they can be linked in with fly treatments) as there should be no untreated refugia in a good lice control program. This is different to worms. Lice can be hard to kill - under statutory dipping all sheep being annually dipped through some very effective (and nasty) chemicals, still failed to eradicate lice. It is a very farm specific task to design an effective lice control program. Breed and shearing times play a big role along with biosecurity. Moral of the story is if you are having issues with lice control or would like to ensure your current program is sustainable long term get in touch!

Ode to tailing

With the kids poem (and photo) competition on this month we thought we would publish this tribute to tailing that our more mature audience will be able to relate to. Remember to get your kids to submit poems for our poem competition -the rural schools have always done really well!

Scrim

I find myself a meek and mild fellow,
But when I see the scrim I am far from mellow.
Marking time brings rewards and toil,
It also makes my Irish blood boil.

Tailing or docking, my collar gets hot,
Meek and mild I am not.
To set my temper off it will take,
Only one lamb to break.

"Lift up the scrim"
"Not that high"
"Pull it tight"
The lambs begin to fly.

That's enough of that.
I stomp my feet, throw down my hat.
My high standards none will meet,
These lambs have got these fools beat.

I'm walking home the game is up,
This never happened when I was a pup.
We were perfect back in the day,
Except for some old fool whose temper had frayed.

Author unknown

Commercial Mycoplasma Bovis Testing

We have had numerous enquiries over the last few weeks about the possibility of accessing a commercial test for M. bovis to use on service bulls.

MPI has worked with the four laboratories to make PCR testing for Mycoplasma bovis commercially available for the testing of healthy service bulls

only for this current mating season.

Sampling is via naso-pharyngeal swab and requires the use of a good head crush and a long guarded swab. Turnaround times and sampling protocols are still to be verified by the labs and MPI.

