



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Criticism and Sugar of Beef Cow Pregnancy Testing

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish growth without destroying your roots. Criticism, a form of feedback or review, is essential for progression. You could say there should be no failure, only feedback. Pregnancy testing is a form of feedback. We are providing farmers with information on the most crucial aspect of their beef herd's performance. In our endeavours to provide quality objective data, a blue stripe on an empty cow I feel is insufficient.

To communicate the number of empty cows and the proportion of 1st cycle pregnancies is the priority. The mineral levels, body condition profile and BVD status of the herd are additional data points and the framework of some more polished information that will help identify areas where your herd can progress, or at least acknowledge success in key areas.

Body condition score data gathered at pregnancy testing is after the fact of when the business of cycling and conceiving are occurring, but it does give an indication of what has been going on and can assist with making decisions about weaning and feed priorities going into a tight winter. The numbers generated are not criticism (that would be "your cows are a bit thin mate" – and nobody wants to hear that). They are an objective way to communicate a discussion

around the fuel that drives the system. With the EID and wand technology it is straight forward to capture and report.

FARM A beef system is optimised represented in the table one: of interest was being able to monitor 1st service conception rates of each mob. This is a good way to "service test" the bulls that were joined with.

FARM B has a higher dry rate. There is a suspicion of some sub fertility from the bull used from the 2nd and 3rd cycle on. This needs follow-up with a service test.

FARM C had a good result and is the first time not mating for 3 cycles. The BCS profile indicate more weight mobilisation post mating, may not handle late weaning and will require some management over winter to calve in adequate condition.

Du bist doch nicht aus Zucker is a phrase the the germans use for "you'll be OK" (look to google translate for direct meaning). Beef cow systems are under constraints with feed for the next few months, but they can be resilient with a bit of priority planning and some good data. The germans are also fond of rational thought, good data and well made sausages...so much in common with beef cow pregnancy testing concepts.

Farm A - MA PD Summary	
1st Cycle	80%
2nd Cycle	13%
Dry	6%
BCS Ave	6.5
BCS 5 or less (Light cows)	8%

Farm B - MA PD Summary	
1st Cycle	70%
2nd Cyle	10%
3rd Cycle	5%
Dry	15%

Farm C - MA PD Summary	
1st Cycle	70%
2nd Cycle	17%
Dry	13%
BCS Ave	5.5
BCS 5 or less	51%



*Hope for the best and plan for the worst...
Its nice when you don't need to use all the tags.*

Barry Kemp
Craigney Springs, Dunback



Beef Weaner Calf Health

Mikaela Crawford BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



With weaning right around the corner, it's crucial to have a plan in place to keep calves healthy and growing strong. Here's what we need to focus on:

- **Parasite Control:** Once calves are off their mothers' milk and onto pasture, internal parasites can limit growth. Effective drench use is the key to staying on top of this. Injectable combination drenches such as Dectomax V or Eclipse E are available or alternatively Eclipse pour-on can also be used.
- **Minerals:** Two key minerals we need to think about are selenium and copper. Selenium is essential for immune system and overall health. This is where Selovin LA comes in handy – it's a long-acting option that keeps selenium levels adequate for up to 12 months. Copper is crucial for growth. Copacap copper bullets provide long-lasting supplementation or you can use a copper injection. The Coppermax or Copaject injection is especially useful if wintering on brassicas.
- **Vaccination:** In order to protect the calves from clostridial diseases Covexin 10 in 1 or Multine 5 in 1 can be used at weaning, followed by a booster a month later. These vaccinations are crucial if going onto fodderbeet.

Summary

• **Recommendation at Weaning:** Combination Drench, Selenium Supplementation, Vaccination (1st Covexin).

• **5 weeks later:** Copper supplementation, 2nd Covexin and drench if required.

So, as we're gearing up for weaning, make sure you've got your bases covered with parasite control, minerals, and vaccinations. It'll set the calves up for success as they make the transition to pasture-based diets.



Last drinks for a Hummock Run composite calf

ECLIPSE E with B12 & Se

DUAL ACTIVE
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& Cobalt

Meat WHP
21 Days
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500mL \$329.00

Eclipse E with B12 & Selenium ACVM A011151

Selovin LA

Long-acting Injectable Selenium Supplement



For the prevention and treatment of Selenium deficiency which can cause ...

- Reduced growth rates
- Low fertility
- Low milk production
- White muscle disease
- Impaired immunity & ill thrift

SELOVIN LA™ long-lasting injectable selenium supplement, providing up to 12 months protection in a single injection.

copaject INJECTION



copacaps™



Copper deficiency is an issue over winter due to molybdenum uptake through soil consumption in low cover winter pastures and crops.

Our vets can do liver biopsies and blood tests to check the copper levels in your stock.

* RVM only available with veterinary prescription after consultation. Copaject Injection ACVM A011573, Copacaps 10G ACVM A005259, and 20G ACVM A004945

COVEXIN® 10 VET ONLY

The most extensive clostridial cover available in New Zealand.



10-in-1

MULTINE 5-in-1 Clostridial Vaccine

The proven performer for cost effective control of five clostridial diseases.



5-in-1

MULTINE 5-IN-1 is available in ...
Multine Plain (ACVM A00934), Multine Selensised (ACVM A00935),
Multine B12 (ACVM A01131), and Multine B12 Selensised (ACVM A01176)

Semen Testing and Bull Soundness

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



After pregnancy testing and before bull sales our focus does shift to sire bulls. The Veterinary Centre have developed a comprehensive pre-sale check of bulls prior to sale.

Semen evaluation is an important screening step. Although semen quality is a dynamic process and quality can vary over the season, it is important to weed out those with low semen quality, this includes a semen structural assessment, and any bulls with testicular or penile defects.

We have recently upgraded all our equipment and the team make for an efficient process.

Stoneburn Herefords and Angus have been testing their sale bulls with us ever since they started. This year is the first line-up of Angus sire from a range of different sires AI and natural mated, out of cows from more than 4 different studs.

Semen testing is usually done prior to sale. For established service sires a mating ability test can yield more information about bull soundness. It also might be one of those years where you get us to trim up a mis-shapen foot to get a bull through another season. Please contact our beef team if you have any questions about the options available for breeding soundness checks on your service bulls.



Worm Control Update

Navigating Drench Resistance

Practical Tips on reducing drench inputs and improving stock health. 20min talk.

Veterinary Centre sponsored Happy Hour.



Dave Robertson

to be held at

the Fort Enfield, North Otago

Friday 26 April 2024 – 3.30 - 4.30pm

Register now ... Veterinary Centre Oamaru

Phone 03 434 5666 | Email events@vet111.co.nz



Stoneburn Herefords



Stoneburn Angus

Highly Horned Herefords and AI Success

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

James and Abbie Peddie along with their children have recently started a horned Hereford stud.

"I like them because they are quiet, tough cattle that get in calf, although I am really doing this for my kids, they love it." said James when asked "why horned Herefords?" I got the impression he has been asked this a bit...

James was stoked with the recent insemination programme with the 7&7 programme achieving 75% hold to AI this year. "It's a great way to get started in the stud game with some good proven sires". Although he seemed most excited about the 2 Wagyu straws that held. We are all looking forward to the BBQ in 5 years time. Let's hope it's at his Horned Hereford sale.



Pink Eye in Sheep

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Pink eye (infectious keratoconjunctivitis) is a highly contagious disease which most readers will have experienced at some point on their own farms. The condition can rapidly spread through a flock, most often in adult animals. Anywhere from 10-50% of animals can be affected.

Pink eye is caused by bacteria, which can be spread via flies feeding on eye fluids, or from sheep to sheep when in close contact. Eyes already irritated by pollen, dust or seeds are at an increased risk of infection. Feeding out mobs of ewes in dry spells increases the risk of pink eye infection.

There is no vaccine licensed for use in sheep (although there is for cattle – Piliguard), so treatment of affected mobs is often the only practical means of management. After this, sheep will generate a short lasting immunity, for 3-12 months. Even so, some sheep may be long lasting carriers/shedders of bacteria - an Australian investigation found some sheep carrying the bacteria for up to 250 days!

There are several treatment options available. These include Terramycin Pinkeye

Powder and Orbenin Eye Ointment – usually used when you are treating small numbers. If you are faced with treating large numbers/mob treatment, there are tetracycline (antibiotic) based topical (eye) treatments that can be sprayed on using a handheld garden sprayer. These can be discussed with your Blue Cross vet, if needed, at the time.

Treatment of only the affected animals is recommended, however unaffected eyes can be treated preventatively in cases of high infection rates. Serious cases may benefit from intramuscular injection of a tetracycline antibiotic. Again – best discussed with your vet.

Piliguard ACVM A006139
Terramycin Pinkeye Powder ACVM A001862
Orbenin Eye Ointment ACVM A004751



A ewe with conjunctivitis - inflammation of the inner eyelids and surrounding tissue.

Pre-Tup Drench and Minerals

Anna Macfarlane BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



With mating approaching now is the time to consider what can be added to boost the health and productivity of your ewe flock. There is a real benefit to lifting your light ewes and studies have shown that an increase of one BCS from a 2.0 to a 3.0 can increase scanning percentage 15%, lamb survival by 5% and lamb weaning weights by 5%.

Parasite Management

When considering drench decisions for your ewes this autumn the first question should be "Do they need a drench?". Drenching adult stock can increase the rate of drench resistance developing hence performing a Pre-Drench Check on 10 ewe faecal samples will give you valuable information on whether a drench is warranted or not for your ewes. Choose a drench that is effective on your farm and use a targeted drenching system when selecting who to drench e.g. drench the light ewes (below BCS 3) and 2 toothers, as focusing on lifting these girls is where you will see the most benefit. With any good parasite management program the entire picture needs to be considered such as ensuring all stock are fed well, avoiding parasites with crops, integration of different stock classes, good refugia practises and monitoring your drench performance with post drench checks.

As with the ewes, it's also a good time to look over the rams and any lighter rams may benefit from a drench and added supplements before they head into their most crucial few months of the year.

Minerals

Iodine is an essential trace element required to make thyroid hormones which control the body's metabolism, temperature and are required for the developing foetus. Deficiency can cause reduced fertility of ewes, abortion in late pregnancy or the birth of small weak lambs which are susceptible to starvation/ exposure. Iodine supplementation should be considered for your farm if

suffering higher lamb losses, if ewes are fed pre lamb on brassicas or you have a previous history of clinical goitre.

Options for iodine supplementation include:

- **Oral Drench:** LSD; short acting which can be given pre tup, 8- and 4-weeks pre-lamb.
- **Iodised Oil Injection:** Flexidine; A one off injection of 1.5ml to ewes 3-4 week pre-tup will increase the iodine status for up to 200 days. This is an easy and effective way to ensure adequate iodine levels and optimise ewe reproductive performance.



Flexidine ACVM A007866

Selenium

Selenium is another major mineral that is associated with fertility and immunity in sheep. Deficiency can cause increased foetal loss in early pregnancy and severe deficiency may cause white muscle disease.

Options for selenium supplementation pre-tup;

- **Short-acting** formulations can be found in many oral drenches, and short acting injections which last 4 weeks.
- **Long-acting:** Selovin LA injection will increase Se levels for a year making it a convenient and effective way to ensure adequate selenium levels all year round.



Selovin-5 ACVM A006139
Selovin LA ACVM A009509

If you would like to discuss any pre-mating treatment options then get in touch with your local Veterinary Centre.

Supplement Feeding in Drought

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutr.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Feeding grain is pretty common practice on many farms over the winter, but with the very dry conditions it has started earlier and many more places are having to consider it this year. Fortunately for us there is a lot of information about how to feed grain safely, at high proportions of the diet and for long periods of time – the Aussies have been perfecting this for decades.

Transitioning on to grain:

- Start at 50g per head per day (25g for lambs) and increase by 50g every second day up to a maximum of 300g.
- At this point sheep should be maintained on this amount for about 4-7 days, then if desired they can be fed every second day i.e. feed 600g per head every second day if they were getting 300g.
- They can be fed above this amount - ideally talk to a Ruminant Nutritionist about their overall diet.
- Make sure there is adequate roughage in the diet – without a fibre source they will be more at risk of acidosis, and the grains will pass through the rumen faster, reducing their utilisation and leading to wastage.
- Make sure plenty of clean water is available at all times.

Getting them started:

- If they've had it before this won't be a problem – over the ditch ewes are fed grain with lambs at foot, familiarising the lambs with it for the future.
- Adding salt helps, to get reluctant hoggets keen, or molasses trickled on top.

Supplements needed?

- Salt is not only useful to get sheep eating grain, but grain is low in sodium so could be added at 1% i.e. 10kg per tonne, if grain is fed at high amounts for a long period of time.
- Grain is also deficient in calcium – limestone can be supplemented at 1% - but again only if fed at high amounts, for long periods, and in at risk stock e.g. hoggets still growing.
- Protein – barley grain is about 11% CP – which is fine for a mixed age ewe in early to mid-pregnancy. Hoggets need about 14 – 15% CP in their diet. So how balanced the diet is depends on what else they are getting.

Sheep nuts or grain?

- Sheep nuts are a more balanced feed, and often have additives such as extra minerals, which may or may not be necessary.
- Utilisation is often a lot higher as they're easier to pick up, they're also easier to get hoggets started on.
- Make sure you check the ingredients and see where the ME (energy) is coming from – is it from starch (grain) or from a fibre source e.g. PKE or similar? Not necessarily bad as PKE will add protein – if that's what you need – but in exchange for higher quality ME.

Cattle and grain?

Grain feeding is very common in the dairy industry where the amount of grain fed to an individual can be tightly controlled. Unfortunately cattle are much more susceptible to acidosis than sheep, and so group feeding situations, even if mixed with a fibre feed, are not recommended. Grain also has to be processed for cattle – they don't chew their food as well as sheep!

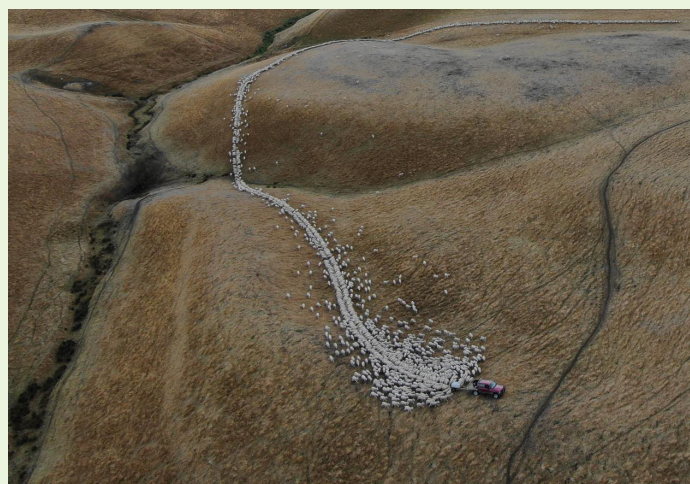
Palm Kernel as an alternative to grain

Palm kernel is a safe feed, particularly for cattle, and has the added advantage of providing extra protein in the diet. At around 17% CP it is well above grain. For sheep the main disadvantage is the high copper content – sheep are far more susceptible to copper toxicity

than cattle. If you do choose to go down this route it is recommended to limit intakes to 30% of the diet in ewes and 20% in lambs, and avoid feeding for long periods. Do NOT feed to Texels, they absorb even more copper than other breeds.

PKE is a fibrous feed, but this fibre is not effective in the rumen – as with grain roughage must also be provided in the diet to keep digestion functioning normally, along with plenty of water – otherwise they'll feel like they're eating dry weetbix!

Remember when looking at PKE to not only compare it to grain in cents per kgDM but also cents per MJME – this is a more accurate comparison. An added cost is the infrastructure needed – PKE must be fed in trailers or troughs as the wastage is extremely high if it is fed on the ground.



David and Hamish Gardner, Melford Hills, Waimate
Photos by Hamish Gardner

NEW FlexOLT

Flexible Oral Lice Treatment



Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutr.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

As teased in our March Ewesnews, we now have available an exciting new lice product for sheep ... **FlexOLT**.

Flex = Flexible

OLT = Oral Lice Treatment

Yep, it's a world first **ORAL** treatment for lice, thus leading to the "flexible" in the name – it can be used at **ANY STAGE OF WOOL LENGTH**, and sheep can be treated from **ANY AGE**, lambs can be treated from 6kg.

This means that treatment is now broken away from shearing, so can be done at a different time if you're too busy, or you can successfully do the whole flock at the same time if you split shear. A lice infestation in ewes with lambs at foot can be easily dealt with as the whole flock, ewes and lambs, can be treated. Lousy ewes pre-lamb can be treated no matter what their wool length, with no need to treat the lambs.

Newly purchased stock coming onto the property are a significant risk – they can now be treated and quarantined without any need for shearing. Weather is no longer a concern when treating for lice with an oral product. The ability to effectively treat every sheep on the farm within a short period of time significantly reduces the

likelihood of future lice outbreaks. This product has no known resistance, and has been shown to be more than 99.9% effective in trials. You don't have to worry about method of application letting you down – with FlexOLT the product is absorbed through the stomach and then "sweated" out all over the skin surface – the lice have nowhere to hide.

What else do you need to know?

- The basics are still important: Check your boundary fences – this product won't do the fencing for you.
- Get the dose right – weigh your sheep and calibrate the gun.
- Treat 100% of sheep on the property at the same time – remember that unlike our other enemy, worms, lice only live and breed on sheep, so are actually pretty easy to kill – if we get all of them.
- It has a very high safety margin – if a sheep spits a dose out treat it again!
- Withholds: Nil for wool, 56 days for meat (including lambs in utero when mums are treated).

Have a chat to one of our vets about FlexOLT, and whether this innovative new product will work for your farm.

THE FIRST EVER FLEXIBLE ORAL LICE TREATMENT FOR SHEEP.

- ✓ Any Wool Length
- ✓ Any Weather (cold or wet)
- ✓ Lambs-at-Foot
- ✓ Treat New Stock
- ✓ 99.9% Efficacy

FlexOLT ACVM A011971

Flexolt® Oral drench removes the stress of traditional lice treatment, and with a 99.9% efficacy, you may not need to treat lice for years.

FLEXOLT®

Available NOW!

from your local Veterinary Centre



Found a Ram out early?

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

With it being the year of the wiggly waratah and more sheep paying their respects to what's under the bottom wire, it can lead to discoveries of rams, or rams lambs emerging at autumn animal health events.

Don't despair or just accept it, these early unwanted pregnancies can be delt to with a mis-mating (prostaglandin) shot to ewes 6 days (or greater) after the unwanted males are removed.

This is a controlled, vet only drug.





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HI-MINERAL Oral Drench for Sheep

BEST PRICE

Our Special Price

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\$669.00




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NJ Phillips 20ml Metal Oral Drench Applicator

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Matrix-Hi-Mineral ACVM A009390