



# EWES NEWS

**Merry Christmas from the Veterinary Centre administration staff . . .**



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Myles  
Sarah & Sue

Jamie, Johanna & Charlotte



Ranfurly

Jeremy, Renea & Sherry



Kurow

Chrissy



Glenavy

Helen & Samantha

## Thank-you

Thank you for your custom and for choosing us as your Veterinary provider. From our Veterinarians, our clinic managers, our Territory Managers on the road and all of the Veterinary Centre team, it is our pleasure to be working with you and we wish you and your families a very safe and happy Christmas.

## Lamb Drenching Essentials - Lauren Strange BVSc, BSc Veterinary Centre Waimate

*It's that time of year again, our spring crop of lambs is ready to start drenching, and with lamb prices looking promising everyone will be keen to maximise their lamb growth rates.*

**So a few pointers:**

**1. Use an effective drench** - with reports of more than 20% of North Island properties having triple resistance, we should be considering the strategic use of our novel drenches Startect and Zolvix. Weaning is a good time to hit those worms hard and reduce future pasture contamination.



**2. Do a faecal egg count reduction test** - might sound complicated but all it involves is two 1.5 hour visits and 100 undrenched lambs. This provides you with valuable information to ensure you are using effective drenches for your property and we can take steps to reduce the development of further resistance. South Island properties are sitting around 5-6% showing triple resistance and we need to act to keep this low.

**3. Be smart about your drenching practices** - correct and working gun, correct dose, 28-30 day interval and include some refugia. This year it might be beneficial to drench all the lambs but put some light mixed age ewes or hoggets in with the lamb mobs. The older animals get the benefit of better feed and reduced competition and the eggs of any resistant worm will be diluted out by the eggs shed from these older animals.

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# Managing lambs on Rocket fuel feed - Dave Robertson BVSC, BSc

Probably the biggest cause of lambs' deaths is not being organized to get clostridial vaccine into them. For every dead lamb is the profit gone on another 4 live ones.

There are other causes of sudden death such as red gut and pneumonia, but we must never over-look the obvious and the basic. 5 in 1 vaccines are the most effective option for eliminating pulpy kidney - the major cause of sudden deaths. It just needs to be DONE TWICE 4 WEEKS APART to be effective.

**The look-a-like syndrome to pulpy**

**kidney is red gut.** This occurs in lambs that are on a Lucerne or clover dominant pasture. Red gut can be due to the low fibre content of high quality feed causing the rumen capacity to shrink. Also the higher levels of protein fermented in the large bowel cause it to expand and be prone to twisting. This does not usually occur until the lambs have been on the feed for a month or more. The disease process can be mitigated by:

- Fibre (straw/hay) available - not always practical.

- Grazing on pasture 2/7 days.
- Mowing and wilting a few rounds of your Lucerne prior to grazing.

**Using 10 in 1 Covexin vaccine has also been reported to be effective with preventing deaths on rocket fuel feed over and above 5 in 1. Stepping up to Covexin may also be of benefit when grazing sheep on fodder beet. The high sugar content making animals more prone to clostridial growth.**

# Ram 'Warrant of Fitness' - Bridget Roulston BVSc

A pre-mating examination is an important part of any sheep breeding operation. Get your rams up to speed for the upcoming mating season, by not just palpating for soundness but giving them a comprehensive WoF. The visit

provides a great chance to have an on farm discussion with your vet regarding your animal health needs for the year.

- Palpate rams for soundness
- Blood test suspect rams for Brucella Ovis

- Treat rams with scrotal mange
- Inspect feet - trim and treat lameness
- Vaccinate with 5-in1 or 10-in-1
- Vasectomise any teaser rams
- Discuss the annual animal health plan for your stock
- Vaccinate working dogs

# B12 in the Wet Spring - Dave Robertson BVSC, BSc

Ewes low in B12 and not supplemented pre-lamb, risk their off-spring becoming deficient.

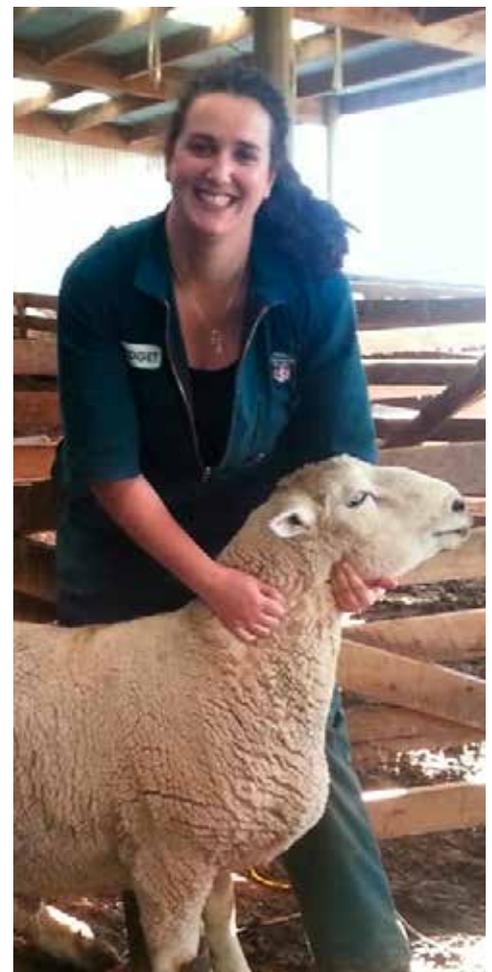
I have talked to a number of farmers who are B12'ing and drenching lambs before weaning when this has not been routine practice.

How effective is short acting B12? In deficient lambs it can make a significant impact on growth in the 1st 14 days, but after 1 month if conditions have not changed they will have deficient levels again.

Longer acting B12 supplementation is a good option for young sheep that are to be on-farm through the autumn.



**SMART SHOT B12 and SMART SHOT B12 + Selenium injectable is a very effective way of boosting levels for up to 6 months. A half dose will last 3 months, SMART SHOT B12 is popular with fine wool hoggets and keeper ewe lambs, especially those going to the ram and/or on irrigated properties.**



# Effective Flystrike Prevention Following a Wet Spring - Dave Robertson BVSc, BSc

Fly strike in sheep is one of those things that is best to put the effort into prevention. Coming back from Christmas holidays to find fly blown lambs and ewes is very demoralising. Even a 50c piece size area of fly strike can stop a ewe cycling for a month. For lambs the loss of growth, suffering and deaths, along with the time dealing with the mess, are enough for many to vow to get things sorted before Christmas next year...

The obvious measures are to ensure stock are clean and don't get wormy. So crutching and a regular effective drenching program are essential pillars to preventing fly.

There are generally 3 waves of fly pressure, the first few appearing around December, then the second and bigger wave in mid-summer and the third wave mid-autumn. This is important when planning your program especially

in relation to persistent activity and application time.

Your fly- lice program for your sheep flock can be complex with the range of chemicals now available. There is

a general move towards being more aware of chemical resistance and using these resources in a planned and sustainable way.



The recent wet weather appears to have increased the number of ewes with dags this spring.

## Mode of Delivery and Class of Stock

### 1. Spray-on treatments

Spray-on products are generally used for lambs at tailing or weaning where you don't have a jetter/or shower dip. CLIK® spray-on at tailing has been a revolution for lamb fly control, especially fine wool lambs giving 4-5 months protection, but it does have longer meat with-hold which is not ideal for fattening lambs. Cyromazine-based spray ons, such as Vetrain® or Cyrazin® are popular for cross-breds.



There are of course many other finer points to discuss with a veterinarian around a fly prevention programme. The main thing is to make some time to discuss a programme and get the right chemical on before the first wave of fly pressure hits.

### 2. Jetting treatments

Jetting can work out cheaper, faster and achieves full body coverage. Effectiveness depends on the amount applied. Chemical does not work in dags. Single active IGR chemicals such as Zenith® and Cyrazin® have claims of up to 12 weeks. These only work as preventatives and do not kill existing



strike. Checking to ensure animals are saturated to the skin is important.

### 3. Early Strike

If early strike is already present or if increased potency is required then a combination product is advised. Cyrex® or Cyrazin-KO® are good options. In addition to Cyromazine IGR they also contain an instant kill chemical. Cyrex® contains Spinosad, a widely used lice treatment with good kill of existing maggots. If you do repeatedly use Spinosad at other times then Cyrazin-KO® could be considered. This contains



Ivermectin and has a claim for up to 14 weeks fly protection. Ivermectin does strip out of solution so is not considered for shower dips or where fluid is recycled.

# Managing Bulls during Mating

## Single Sire versus Mob Mating

Most commonly cows are mob mated with multiple bulls. 3 bulls/100 cows is standard. High capacity bulls can do up to 50 cows, but the standard expectation is 1 bull covering 35 cows in a cycle. The main benefits of mob mating are the ease of managing 1 cow mob, the insurance that if one bull is sub-fertile the other bulls will compensate. However, there is the tendency for more injuries to bulls through fighting, and if one dominant bull becomes sub-fertile, cows are left un-mated. Single sire mating is less common, but when well managed 1st service conception rates can be higher and there are less risks of bull injuries. To mitigate against subfertility rotation of bulls each cycle is common practice. Keep an eye on your bulls over mating. Try and observe them serving. Yes they can spend a lot of time sleeping during the day (70% of cows are mated during the night). Hounding hassling behavior in the second cycle can be a sign they have not been effective the 1st time around. Cows riding cows with no bull action is also a concerning sign.



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## Sheep Performance Vaccines

Abortion storms were much more common before vaccination became the norm. Since the introduction of performance (or abortion) vaccines most abortion storms are prevented.

Whilst abortion storms are less frequent the risk clearly remains. Toxoplasmosis has been found on 100% of farms tested and campylobacter on 88% of farms tested. Despite the availability of effective vaccines our Blue Cross Veterinary Centre team investigate abortions every year in our district.

Studies show farms using Toxovax lamb on average 3% higher than those which don't. Campyvax users showed an increase in lambing percentage of 9%. These gains are on top of prevention of abortion storms occurring.

### ORDERING

Your order form is included with this newsletter. Complete it and send this into your local Blue Cross Veterinary



Centre to secure the product you need or ring the clinic. Remember Toxovax has tight shelf life requirements so planning and being organised is vital. **You need to order at least 8 weeks before you intend to introduce the ram. You can place your order now and know it is done.**

Toxo/campy orders can be sent in by email to [oamaru@vet111.co.nz](mailto:oamaru@vet111.co.nz)