

MERRY Christmas

Veterinary Centre EwesNews

A View from the North

Ewan Penny BVMS

VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

"It's the same but different" - the answer I'd get when asking better travelled Scots what they thought of NZ. A frustratingly useless answer I thought. The constant search for new Ewesnews articles has yielded a comparison between vetting/farming in the UK and NZ.

Sheep

Whilst too wet for fine wool breeds, farming crossbred ewes in the UK and NZ are variations on the same theme – produce an acceptable number of lambs that will grow as quickly as is practical. The UK has a wider range of approaches to reach this goal, from "lowland flocks" on better land, lambing indoors to Texel/Beltex/Suffolk sires, aiming for a 180-200% lambing, producing fat lambs at an average of \$200-240 (£100-120) a head, to "hill flocks" of Blackface or Cheviot ewes, lambing outdoors in rain and wind, aiming for a ~110-160% lambing, producing store lambs at \$80 to \$150 a head. Consistent rainfall is a mixed blessing; footrot is as good as impossible to eradicate and liver fluke affects almost all regions, with widespread resistance to some products used for its control. Resistance of intestinal worms to wormers, however, rarely limits production, since climatic differences lead to a larger refugia on pasture. The odd sheep caesarean/lambing aside, veterinary input to UK flocks is, on the whole, not much different to NZ.



A Beltex (Left) and the hardy Scottish Blackface (Right)

Cows

Again, a wide array of approaches to achieve the same goals. Wet winters mean most (though not all) herds require to be housed for 5-7 months, depending on region. Whether Limousin or Angus, every beef herd should be aiming for one calf per cow every year (difficult

to achieve!!) Beef cows account for a significant vet workload in the UK: blood sampling herds annually for Johnes disease accreditation, semen sampling bulls prior to breeding, sick calves, pneumonia investigations, advanced breeding and calvings. The UK has been slower to catch on to easy calving genetics (discussed later), meaning difficult calvings and in particular caesareans are now a common requirement of UK vets, however ease of calving is becoming more of a priority for many herds. Herd sizes range from 50 cows to 600 or more.

Dogs

Border collies are by far and away the most common working and trialling dogs. Their intellect is unsurpassed, however Scottish shepherds have said they lack the stamina required for bigger distances in NZ and Aus. Dog trialling is a popular and competitive past time throughout the UK, carried out almost exclusively by collies. The most expensive sheep dog in the world was bred in Wales and sold in 2021 for £28455 (~\$55,000). There are sheepdog sales by public auction, most notably at Skipton Auction mart in Yorkshire, where vendors work sheep in front of buyers prior to sale.

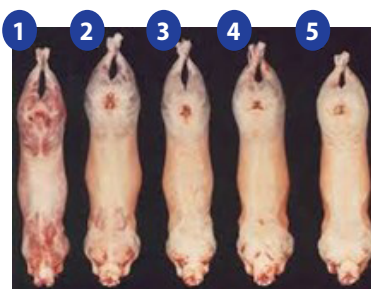
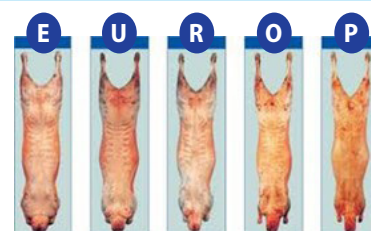
The Europe System

Before indoor lambings and cow caesareans are dismissed as sheer madness, European market forces are worth a mention. Farmers are paid according to conformation (from Excellent (Grade E) to Poor (Grade P)) and fat cover (1 (Lean) to 5 (Fat)) at slaughter. The difference between an E3 Beltex lamb and an O4 Blackface could be \$45/lamb. Machinery purchases being written off against tax can make intensive systems more appealing, and the realistic prospect of losing 20% of your newborn lambs in one night due to a cold snap can drive many shepherds to the indoors – UK farmers will continue to debate the merits of each system. Different approaches between hemispheres, both making the best of their climates and markets – "the same but different".



IN THIS ISSUE

- A View from the North
- It's Fly Time
- Merry Christmas
- Breeding Time
- Drenching Decisions at Weaning
- Mating Management – Looking after the Boys
- Ewe Udder Defects – Do they matter?
- Problems Pooing
- Boehringer Ingelheim - discontinued products
- ToxoVax and CampyVax4 Order Form



Conformation Score (left) – Excellent (E) through to Poor (P) and Fat Cover (Right) 1 (Lean) through to 5 (Fat) at slaughter

It's Fly Time

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

With a combination of heat and moisture the danger zone for fly is now upon us.

If you are getting fly strike, stop and have a think about why there are struck sheep:

- Are they uncrotched and offering smelly dirty bums to interested flies?
- Lambs missed a drench?
- Could a preventative dip have been done sooner and more efficiently?
- When were they last dipped and was the dip applied correctly?
- The best and most cost-effective approach to prevent flystrike is to use a combination of strategies that keep sheep as unattractive to flies as possible.



1 No fly chemical works in dags

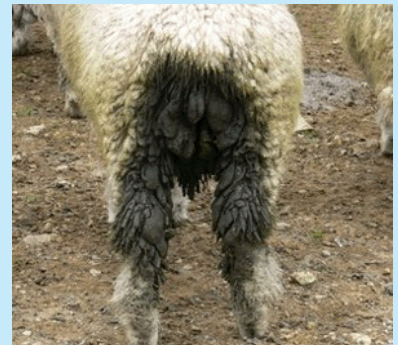
- Preventing sheep becoming daggy is vital.
- Have a robust worm control programme using an effective drench to reduce scouring. Don't extend drench intervals unless you are monitoring with FEC.
- Crutch or shear to remove dags and allow the crutch to dry out.
- Grazing high tannin crops or clean pasture results in less dags.

2 Reduce fly challenge

- Keep sheep away from fly hotspots.
- Flies love sheltered conditions such as shelter belts and gullies with scrub. Move sheep to higher open ground where the temperatures are cooler, and the wind speed is higher.
- Get dead carcasses down the offal hole as quickly as possible.

3 Chemical application

- Faulty application is often to blame for poor fly results following dipping
- For saturation dips to be effective the sheep must be wet to skin level along the backline, over the rump and around the crutch. Pushing large numbers of sheep quickly through the jetting race is often to blame for inadequate coverage. When the first pen of sheep has been through the jetting race, stop and part the wool at multiple sites to ensure the skin is wet.



MERRY Christmas

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.



Oamaru Team



Glenavy

Omarama Winter Wonderland



Waimate Team



Kurow Team



Palmerston Team



Ranfurly Team

Breeding Time

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Bulls will now be running with cows and heifers in many beef herds. It is worth keeping a close eye on them whilst working to make sure there are no disappointments come pregnancy diagnosis. Things to look for:

The Penis

Known as “achieving intromission” - is the bull actually able to get its penis inside the cow? Corkscrew penises, broken penises, excess penile tissues in young bulls and rings of hair causing strangulation can prevent the job being done. Take a close look next time you see a bull mounting any females.

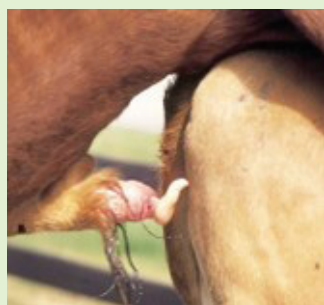
The Females

At least 60% of cows should calve in the first 21 days of calving. Do you notice high number of cows returning to heat/being mounted after the first 21 days of bulling, i.e. are they not holding to service?

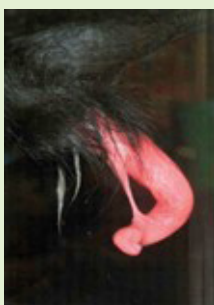
The Bull

Does the bull ever look sick or off colour? The high temperature of a sick bull will kill off his sperm. Once his temperature has returned to normal, it takes 61 days for sperm to regenerate – i.e. the bull is unlikely to get cows in calf for approximately the next 2 months.

If you encounter any problems give us a call. Timely intervention can help improve in calf rates.



A corkscrew penis (left) and persistent frenulum (right). Both defects will prevent successful mating.



Drenching Decisions at Weaning

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



It has long been recognised that preventative drenching of lambs at 28 day intervals from weaning results in improved performance, and has a big impact by reducing the build-up of larvae on pasture over the autumn. Of this programme, the choice of drench given at weaning is one of the most important of the season – particularly if long-acting drenches were used in your ewes pre-lamb.

When ewes have had a long-acting pre-lamb drench, such as Bionic, Cydectin LA or Exodus LA, any resistant parasites will be picked up by new lambs in spring. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the 60-80 day FEC checks done on long-acting drenches this season have come back with significant numbers of eggs – this follows a rising trend over the last couple of years.

To clear out any resistant worms in your lambs (from drenched ewes, or from over-wintered worms) at weaning and set them up for the autumn, a fully effective drench e.g. a novel drench such Zolvix or Startect, should be used strategically at this point. This is particularly important if pre-lamb drenches have been used. Follow this up with a 10 day FEC to check drench effectiveness.

Remember to use refugia after every drench – in this case it's best not to leave lambs undrenched, but to manage refugia by another method, for example grazing undrenched ewes after the lambs.



Mating Management – Looking after the Boys

Dougall McLachlan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Rams are often the neglected part of the equation when preparing for the mating season. After a strenuous mating season and deserving of some well-earned rest, they are often put in the back paddock and forgotten about until just before the next season.

Acting now allows us to make culling decisions while replacements are plentiful, and take remedial action if necessary.

Testicular Palpation: Although Brucellosis as a cause of epididymitis and infertility has been nearly eliminated due to the accreditation scheme with breeders, it does still rear its ugly head from time to time. Regular palpation will identify this and other testicular anomalies. Suspicious findings can be checked by blood testing.

Scotal Mange: Mite infestation of the scrotum causes irritation and thickening of the purse such that fertility is affected through the higher temperature effect on

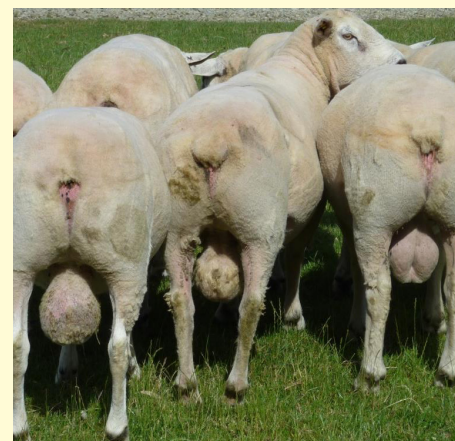
spermatogenesis. Wool breeds are more commonly affected. Treatment is not a quick fix and requires multiple injections of a mitocide such as Dectomax or Ivomec. Animals detected at palpation time can be initially treated then.

Pizzle Rot: Infection of the pizzle. Again, more common in wool breeds. Due to exposure to urine at time of the year when protein levels in the diet are high, and often associated with urine-stained wool producing a foul-smelling infection in the prepuce. Ring crutching the pizzle as a precaution virtually eliminates this. Most rams are shorn before mating, and it could be found then but prevention is better than cure.

Parasites & Trace Elements: Don't neglect your rams from a routine parasite treatment, and consider the benefits of trace element supplementation such as selenium and iodine (e.g. LSD) prior to the season.

Age & Constitution: Talking from experience we get slower as we get older. Keep in mind the need to have a young fit and healthy ram team – this is particularly important on harder hill country.

Come on BOYS – Look after your BOYS



Rams at Punchbowl

Ewe Udder Defects – Do they matter?

Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidem.)
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Many farmers will already be feeling udders in ewes and getting rid of any with hard quarters or lumps. The logical assumption is that these ewes won't rear twins well in the coming season.

However, to date we hadn't had any research to determine the best timing for this culling decision, OR what the actual impact of these hard quarters are.

Recent research out of Massey validated the long-standing assumptions around rearing twins. In the study ewes with lumps had 58% less milk in the affected quarter, resulting in:

- 3-5 times more lamb deaths
- 25g per day lower pre-wean growth rates

Overall (with the increased deaths and lower growth rates), this meant that ewes with udder defects weaned 11-15kg less lamb per ewe than their non-affected counterparts.

These are some significant figures, and definitely justify considering prioritising udder health in your culling decisions in the pre-mate period.

The study showed that the optimal time to screen the flock is 4-6 weeks post weaning, so consider how you could fit this task into your yarding calendar. In many flocks budget on finding around 5% of ewes with defects.

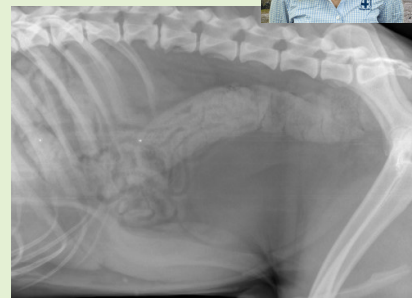


Problems Pooing

Anna McLeod BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Judd, a 5 year old Heading dog, presented to the Waimate clinic recently after his owner noticed he was continuing to strain but was unable to pass faeces. On examination he was moderately dehydrated, tender in his abdomen, and firm faeces could be felt rectally. He was admitted to hospital and x-rays soon confirmed he was significantly constipated.



Judd's abdomen - large amount of impacted faeces in colon

Constipation is relatively common in working dogs, particularly in older male dogs.

Signs can include:

- Continued straining to toilet without producing any faeces, or only a small amount of mucous liquid
- General lethargy and abdominal discomfort
- Off food, sometimes vomiting

There are many causes of constipation, and sometimes multiple concurrent issues contribute

Diet - diets high in meat and bone, and low in fibre content

Prostate - enlargement of the prostate pushing up on the colon

Arthritis - arthritis of the spine causing pain and difficulty squatting or lifting the tail



Spondylitis – severe spinal arthritis



Enlarged prostate

Fortunately for Judd, investigation revealed no significant complicating issues with his prostate or spine. Following a week in hospital, with supportive treatment and repeated enemas to relieve his impaction, Judd was able to return home and resume his normal duties.

Constipation is best treated early! The longer an impaction sits in the colon, the more intensively it needs to be treated, the longer it can take to resolve, and the greater the risk of permanent damage and repeated episodes.

Any signs of straining in your working dogs are best checked out as soon as possible with your vet



Boehringer Ingelheim

IMPORTANT! Discontinued Lines and Alternative Selections!

Boehringer Ingelheim have ceased producing several lines of sheep drench and dip products.

The following is a key as to what you can use in place of discontinued product lines.



Arrest Hi Mineral
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Scanda
Selenised 10L
*Low Dose 1ml/10kg



Matrix Mini-Dose
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Alliance 10L



Matrix Tape
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Eraser Tape
10L (November)



Switch Hi-Mineral
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Converge
10L



Matrix Hi Min
20L

At the Veterinary Centre we select products that will give the best results on your farm from companies that have completed NZ trial work and we know will stand behind their products.



Cyrazin KO
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Cyrex Liquid
10L



Cyrazin Liquid
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Cyroshield
Liquid 10L

ORAL SHEEP DRENCHES

ECTOPARASITES

Veterinary Centre

Pre-Mating Vaccine Order Form 2022-23

Please email your order to your nearest clinic or contact your Territory Manager.

Name	
Address	
Phone	

- Oamaru** P. 03 434 5666
E. oamaru@vet111.co.nz
- Waimate** P. 03 689 7213
E. waimate@vet111.co.nz
- Ranfurly** P. 03 444 1020
E. ranfurly@vet111.co.nz
- Palmerston** P. 03 465 1291
E. palmerston@vet111.co.nz
- Omarama** P. 03 438 9868
E. omarama@vet111.co.nz
- Kurow** P. 03 436 0567
E. kurow@vet111.co.nz
- Glenavy** P. 03 689 8118
E. glenavy@vet111.co.nz



Order
ToxoVax
Early!

ToxoVax – 2ml Dose

- Controls Toxoplasma.
- One shot for lifetime immunity.
- Vaccinate at least 4 weeks before teaser/ram in.
- Up to 8% higher lambing percentage (3% nat avg).
- ORDER 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO TREATMENT.**

Pack Sizes: 100 or 200 Doses



CampyVax4 – 1ml Dose

- Controls Campylobacter.
- Protect Maiden Ewes with TWO shots 4-6 weeks apart, or ONE booster shot in previously vaccinated ewes.
- Increase lambing by an average 9%.

Pack Sizes: 100 or 500 Doses



Flexidine – 1.5ml Dose

- Prevents Iodine deficiency.
- 1 Injection 4 weeks pre-tup/pre-mate

Pack: 166 Doses

Order ToxoVax at least 4 WEEKS prior to treatment date. ToxoVax is a live vaccine and made to order, it will expire approximately 10 DAYS from pick up.

Delivery of ToxoVax to Oamaru and Waimate is on the highlighted days indicated in the side calendar.

ORDER

Product	Doses	Date Required
ToxoVax (2ml Dose) 4-8 Weeks Prior to Mating ORDER 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO TREATMENT		
CampyVax4 (Sensitiser 1ml) Initial Sensitiser for Maiden Ewes Only		
CampyVax4 (Booster 1ml) 4-6 Weeks after Sensitiser in Maiden Ewes, and 4-8 Weeks Prior to Mating		
Flexidine (Suggestion) 4 Weeks Prior to Mating		

Vaccinators	EACH
Vaccinator 1ml	
Vaccinator 2ml	
Vaccinator 5ml	
Needles 18Gx 3/8 x 12	
Needles 18Gx 1/2 x 12	

MSD Animal Health recommends that a new vaccinator and needles are used with ToxoVax

*Example: Early April Mating Plan

MAIDEN EWES (Two Tooth)

Require 1 dose of ToxoVax and 2 doses of CampyVax4 4-6 weeks apart and 4 weeks prior to mating. We recommend a dose of Iodine Supplement at 4 weeks prior to mating to prevent Iodine deficiency.

5 Jan	5 Feb	5 Mar	5 Apr
• GET ORDER IN ToxoVax	• CampyVax4 First Sensitiser Shot (1ml/subcut) • ToxoVax 2ml Dose Intramuscular	• CampyVax4 Second Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	• Put the Ram out!

VACCINATED EWES

Recommend 1 Annual Booster dose of CampyVax 4-8 weeks prior to mating if previously vaccinated. We also recommend an annual dose of Iodine Supplement at 4 weeks prior to mating to prevent Iodine deficiency.

5 Mar	5 Apr
• CampyVax4 Annual Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	• Put the Ram out!

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Received:
Initials:

ToxoVax Delivery Dates

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30					1	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Oamaru • Waimate
Ranfurly • Palmerston
Glenavy • Kurow • Omarama
www.vet111.co.nz | 0800 VET 111

Veterinary Centre
by the Big Blue Cross

