



# EWES NEWS

Luke 'Skywalker' Smyth caught in his 'Star Wars' pose during beef pregnancy testing last year.



## Beef Cattle Pregnancy Testing

Many beef farmers have seen the benefits of estimating calving date at pregnancy testing. To do this we need to have pregnancies between 110 to 35 days.

If you mated from Nov 20 to Jan 20 then Pregnancy test from March 1-10.

Benefits of dating beef cattle pregnancies:

- Can monitor cows closer at calving. Especially with heifers and studs.
- Monitor the efficiency of cow cycling, conception and bull activity.
- Winter later cows differently.
- Sell 3rd cycle/late calving cows or these can be the first to go if required.
- Identify bull sub-fertility. This can be detected if there are different conception rates after bulls have been swapped. Suspect bulls can be serviced tested or culled.

If you have more dry cows than normal but have not aged pregnancy tested, you have missed a big opportunity to get to the cause of the problem. Foetal aging is a key to diagnosing beef repro performance and vital to implementing change that ensures better results.

After results our vets are looking forward to seeing some good incalf rates this year.

## February's Animal Health at a Glance

### Ewes:

- Pre-tup drench with Selenium. If you are not into drenching ewes pre-tup then consider using a 1mL dose of long acting selenium (selovin LA) to all breeding stock.
- Toxo and campy 1st shot
- 2nd shot Campy and Flexidine 1 month later.
- Do a pre-tup blood test for B12, Se & Iodine.

### Lambs

- Drench at 28 day intervals
- B12 and clostridial vaccine booster

### Rams

- Vet check for soundness and to sort out feet. Ensure rams are building condition for mating.
- Teaser ram surgery

### Cows

- Book pregnancy testing 6 to 8 weeks post bull removal

### Calves

- Weaning oral drench - matrix hi min mini dose
- 1st Covexin 10 shot (sensitiser)



## Welcome to New Vets



Emmy Armon



Celia Van Kampen

Welcome to Emmy and Celia, 2 of a very bright bunch of new vets recently joining the professional team at the Veterinary Centre. Emmy, a Christchurch native returns to the South Island following the completion of her study at Massey whilst Celia originally hails from one of New Zealand's prolific sheep and beef production areas, that being the high performing Hawkes Bay. Following 5 years of hard graft at Massey, both Emmy and Celia are looking forward to putting their training into effect in what is their pick of all the vet practices across the country. The opportunity to work in a truly mixed veterinary practice located in North Otago's high performing agricultural district ticked all the boxes. Add to that the Vet Centre's depth and range of professional experience available for mentoring and we think both Emmy and Celia are set to get their veterinary careers off to a flyer. And for anyone who thinks young ones do nothing in their spare time these guys are both into skiing, netball, surfing, horse riding and tramping. Just to be different Celia enjoys a cup of tea in the sun, something bound to cross over with many farmer clients amongst their busy workdays.

## Veterinary Centre Sheep Laparoscopic AI Service

Dave Robertson BVSc is again offering Sheep Laparoscopic AI service. The two primary advantages of Laparoscopic AI are

- Ewes are synchronised and mated on the day
  - It is an excellent way to introduce new, or re-introduce old genetics.
- If you want to use this service, or just find out more about it, then give your Blue Cross Veterinary Centre a call.



Yersiniosis vaccination is ideally administered prior to the stress of weaning

## Yersiniosis in Deer

- Yersiniosis is the leading cause of death in fawns during autumn and winter.
- Yersiniosis is a particularly vile and highly infectious disease. First signs in deer fawns are green, watery, smelly diarrhoea which soon becomes bloody.
- The disease is primarily related to age, stress and exposure to bacteria.
- Stressors include
  - ▶ Weaning, poor nutrition, sudden change in feed,
  - ▶ mixing of deer groups, cold wet windy weather, yarding transport and heavy parasite burdens,
  - ▶ It is recommended farmers should :
    - Reduce the effects of common stressors.
    - Wean before the rut when it is warmer and more feed is available.
    - Vaccinate with Yersiniavax to prevent clinical disease.
    - Remember it is too late to vaccinate once an outbreak of Yersiniosis has started

# Wormwise – Seasonal Update February - March



**Dave Robertson**  
BVSc, BSc

With the extended wetter than normal spring and summer worm control is very important. Missing a drench or extending intervals could lead to rapid build-up and contamination of pastures. I would say there has been more

drench put into ewes at weaning this year than normal, and lambs will certainly require a strict drenching interval to maintain growth rate and health.

## Key message for lambs post weaning:

- Use an effective combination drench. Triple or novel is best. With the increased awareness of triple drench resistance the time to start strategic use of Startect and Zolvix is now.
- Stick to a 28-30 day drench interval.
- If you really think there has not been any significant worm challenge then monitor with faecal egg count to ensure your assumption is correct.

## Pre-tup drenching of ewes

- Use the most effective drench
- Utilise some refugia. That is leave some undrenched. Tag/mark them to monitor



A good line of lambs benefiting from ample feed and more sunshine hours.

## Minerals

DAVE ROBERTSON BVSc, BSc

On the mineral front I think B12 can be a limiting mineral to lamb growth in wetter/lush conditions. It is usually an autumn thing, but have done blood testing on 2 toothed recently showing low/marginal levels. B12 is variable across properties. Do an Optigrow on works' lambs to gauge where your B12 levels are at.

### Iodine:

Flexidine is back in stock. Here's a collection of facts that I use to make my decision about iodine requirements.

- Parts of Otago and Canterbury have produced goitres in stock, that is, full blown iodine deficiency. We know native pastures are much lower in

iodine than improved pasture mixes.

- Brassica feeding over the winter deprives pregnant ewes of iodine at a critical stage of foetal development.
- Some modern clovers prevent iodine absorption in the animal.
- In wetter years when there is more leaching of minerals, and/or less dirt consumption iodine intake is reduced.
- Foetuses with sub-clinical iodine deficiency have lower birth weights and poorer lamb survival (in merinos and crossbreds).
- Research from fine wool flocks demonstrated lambs could be saved through iodine supplementation.

- A trial with long acting iodine in Romney ewes yielded 14% more lambs surviving in the treated group compared with controls. Other North Island trials have not shown a difference.

### Selenium

South Island soils are deficient in Selenium. Whether it's a long or short acting form, breeding stock (ewes and cows) need selenium on board at mating. A dose pre-tup (sheep) or in the winter (cattle) is standard practice. Monitoring actual animal levels with blood tests at critical times helps make decisions around supplementation.

# Fly Pressure and Lice Control

DAVE ROBERTSON BVSc, BSC

There was an early wave of fly pressure prior to Christmas, and that has remained the case in many areas. With higher rainfall pre-Christmas it cannot be expected that as much dipping chemical has remained in the fleece. Cyromazine is particularly prone to being washed out if significant rain falls within a week of application and you are not likely to get more than 4 weeks out of it.

If lice and fly control is desired this autumn, then using a diflubenzuron IGR such as Zenith or Fleecemaster through the jetter is a good option. Cyrex also has good knock down for lice and ~6-8 weeks fly protection from the cyromazine component. An alternative product is cyrazin KO jetting fluid which has ivermectin in combination with cyromazine. Ivermectin topically is a potent ecto-parasite chemical. This may be useful if you suspect chemical resistance to other actives, or don't want to rely too heavily on one chemical every year.

Clik and Clik extra is still performing well against fly. Those

farmers that have applied it to ewes early have found it to be very effective, although by end of February tailing, applications may be wearing off. A jet before Autumn hits is prudent, especially if we carry on with mild April - May conditions that we've had in the last year or two.

## Cyrazin KO

We have recently introduced Cyrazin KO to our range of fly prevention production. Cyrazin KO fits in a similar niche to Cyrex in that it provides up to 12 weeks of prevention as well as killing any existing strike. In addition the ivermectin component is good at killing lice. Whilst not better than Cyrex it does allow farmers to rotate an equivalent product with cyrex for best long term sustainable use.



# Feet Soundness

DAVE ROBERTSON BVSc, BSC

- Now is the time to sort out feet post weaning. It has dried out so spreading of footrot should have slowed down. Making a good job of inspecting all feet is important. Drafting off limping sheep is not very effective at removing infection from the mob. Antibiotic treatment of lame sheep seems most effective when the affected foot is deprived of moisture, and we have had some very good reports post treatment with tilmicosin (Micotil/Tilmovet). If there are still some signs of scald and early footrot in your flock then trough 2-3 times, 1 week apart to help break the cycle before rolling over and making a clean mob.
- To keep the clean mob clean check again in 1 month. Catch anything limping or suspicious.
- Treat infected animals with long acting tilmicosin (vet only administered). Re-check for cure in 14 days. Lincospectin and oxytetracycline are still available and can be administered by the farmer but to get really good cure rates grating in the woolshed for 24 hrs post treatment is required.
- We are planning on having some footrot workshops in March so let me know if you and your staff are interested in attending.



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health”*

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**Veterinary Centre Omarama**  
**Veterinary Centre Ranfurly**

**Ph 03-434 5666**  
**Ph 03-689 7213**  
**Ph 03-465 1291**  
**Ph 03-689 8118**  
**Ph 03-436 0567**  
**Ph 03-438 9868**  
**Ph 03-444 1020**