



EWES NEWS



Feet Soundness

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

- **THE ANNUAL INSPECTION:** Now is the time to sort out feet. Making a good job of inspected all feet is important. There have been flair-ups since the heavy rains over the early part of summer. If you only do 1 foot inspection a year, post weaning is the time to do it.
- Unfortunately drafting off limping sheep is not very effective at removing infection from the mob. Tipping over through a handler or conveyor to check feet, teeth and udders is ideal 1 month after weaning.
- Antibiotic treatment of lame sheep is most effective when the affected foot is deprived of moisture. We still have good antibiotic treatment options available.
- If there are signs of scald and early footrot in your flock 10% zinc troughing weekly for 2-3 treatments will break the cycle of disease transmission before rolling over for inspection.
- Strain typing and custom footrot vaccine

is available commercially. Some promising signs are coming out of our trial work. We will have an update of results at our March road show events.



Dormant footrot can lay silent in chronic hoof lesions for months waiting for the right conditions to re-surface.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Feet Soundness
- Beef & Sheep Roadshow
- "Newetrition" - Successful Mating of Ewe Hoggets
- Parasite – Seasonal Update
- Welcome New Vets
- Beef cattle pregnancy testing
- Increased Fly Pressure Throughout The District
- AI breeding programmes for sheep
- Heatstroke in Dogs
- The Veterinary Centre – Boehringer Ingelheim calf parasite monitoring project
- Dog Trials and A&P Dates

2021 SHEEP & BEEF ROADSHOWS
Join us for our informative & entertaining roadshow!

Veterinary Centre Road Show is back!

An action-packed hour of practical, relevant animal health info. Plus a good chance for a catch-up with neighbours.

3 TOPICAL TALKS

- **The Beef fertility equation.** What is the ideal cow? Why are fertility aspects of beef cow production 10x more profitable than beef characteristics? What can you do about it?
- **Veterinary Centre footrot research.** A preliminary update on custom vaccine trials and fielding your questions.
- **Autumn worm control.** Monitoring and navigating drench resistance build up.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Ranfurly | Thursday March 18, 4.30pm (venue TBA) |
| Middlemarch | Wednesday March 24, 4.30 pm (venue TBA) |
| Omarama | Thursday March 25, 2.30pm (venue TBA) |
| Kurow | Thursday March 25, 5pm (venue TBA) |

OUR CLINICS

Oamaru Ph 03 434 5666

Waimate Ph 03 689 7213

Palmerston Ph 03 465 1291

Glenavy Ph 03 689 8118

Kurow Ph 03 436 0567

Omarama
Ph 03 438 9868

Ranfurly
Ph 03 444 1020



“Newtrition”

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



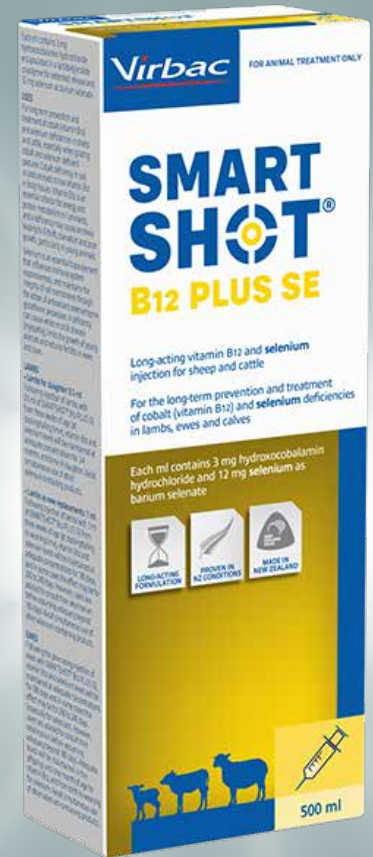
Successful Mating of Ewe Hoggets

Done well, hogget mating can improve lifetime performance by up to 20%, increase genetic gain, and improve efficiency of spring feed consumed. Reaching target liveweights before and after mating is the key to successfully mating your hoggets:

- **40kg/65% of mature LW** minimum target for each animal at mating, not mob average.
- Only mate those hoggets at target weight.
- Aim to grow ewe lambs at **120g/d from weaning to mating** to reach this e.g. wean mid-Dec at 28kg, mate 4 months later at 40 kg.
- During pregnancy they should be gaining **135g/d**, to gain at least 20 kg and reach a minimum of 60kg before lambing – 50kg straight after they've had the lamb.
- High quality pasture, or legume-based swards, are needed for lambing – high quality, of over 1200kg DM/ha.
- Target at least 60kg mated as 2-tooths – consider weaning their lambs early if

this is going to be difficult to achieve.

- Overall they'll need an extra 100kg DM – if this is not available then reconsider and leave the feed for the ewes. Mating hoggets in mid-late spring vs early is usually a better fit feed-wise.
- Animal Health considerations:
- Trace elements: Iodine & selenium in particular are essential for reproduction – give Vet LSD pre-mate to ensure they are covered. B12 is vital for growing animals – give Prolaject B12 in the autumn.
 - Abortion: Hoggets are especially vulnerable to infectious abortion, make sure they are fully protected with Toxovax, and a sensitiser and booster of Campyvax4.
 - Parasitism: Adequate worm control over autumn will ensure they are in the best condition to meet the ram – use a triple or novel drench prior to mating along with your usual programme.
 - Rams: A ratio of at least 1:55 is recommended, experienced rams on easy paddocks will have the most success. Consider the use of teasers.



Smartshot plus Selenium – Long Acting B12 and selenium supplementation.

- Pack Size 500mls
- Trace minerals B12/cobalt and selenium
- Dose rate - Lambs at weaning - 2ml
- Length of Action - 6 to 8 months
- Price per 2ml dose - \$2.70 plus gst
- Administration - Subcutaneous injection
- More information online www.smartshot.co.nz



Parasite – Seasonal Update

Euan Tait BVMS
Waimate Veterinary Centre

It's great driving around the countryside and seeing the dust bowls of 6 weeks ago looking green and with a good amount of tucker on them now. However, with the rain's timely arrival, we are likely to see an increase in parasite burdens throughout the area. As a result, lamb drenching intervals will need to be kept tight – try and stick to 28-30 day intervals. Missing a drench or extending intervals can lead to a very rapid increase in parasite burden. Make sure you are using an effective drench. Triple drench or novel drenches (Startect/Zolvix) are best.

Faecal egg count monitoring at 10 days post drenching provides a quick and easy way to make sure the drench you are using is working.

For those of you using a pre-tup drench in your ewes it is important to use the most effective drenches. It is best to have a good amount of refugia in the ewes too. Going on BCS and drenching the lighter ewes is a sensible, targeted approach. Marking the refugia ewes with tags is an easy way to monitor them.



New Maniototo staff member



Jo Sutherland

Welcome to Jo Sutherland who joins the Veterinary Centre Ranfurly team in the role of Territory Manager to cover for Lanni Hamilton who is now on maternity leave. Jo is passionate about farming in the Maniototo and excited to take up this key role. Jo and her family will be familiar with many farmers having most recently moved from Middlemarch, (where she is still secretary of the Strath Taieri Collie Club). Now based in Ranfurly township Jo is already under way in bringing Blue Cross service to our Central Otago clients.



Beef cattle pregnancy testing

Luke Smyth BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Many beef farmers have now seen the benefits of estimating calving date at pregnancy testing and then splitting cows into wintering and calving groups.

"...There were real benefits with grazing management and we'll definitely do it again next year" was one comment I heard recently. To be able to do this we need to have pregnancies between 40 and 120 days.

If you mated from Nov 20 to Jan 20 then pregnancy testing should occur March 1-10. This does require some forward planning with booking in of calls and mustering.

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 calving cows differently.
- Sell 3rd cycle/late calving cows or they can be the first to go if required.
- Identify bull sub-fertility. 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.

Ideally we want the results directly into the XR5000 or record tag /EID with the pregnancy status data on our tablet which produces some nice graphics for analysis. But recording of the aged data can be as simple as a spray dot on the back or a fold over sheep tag in the ear of 3rd cycle cows.



George Smith in action



Increased Fly Pressure Throughout The District

George Smith BVSc BSc Oamaru Veterinary Centre

With significant amounts of rain falling over the last month, the mercury starting to peak and humidity levels increasing, flystrike is beginning to become an issue throughout the district. Dipping contractors are reporting most farms visited recently have low levels of active strike around the breach. With favorable environmental conditions, fresh green grass and increased parasite loading, the fly pressure is only going to increase.

Options available for farms with active strike: Cyrex: Contains Cyromazine & Spinosad. Can be applied through shower or jetting. With saturation will give up to 12 weeks protection.

Cyrazin KO: Contains Cyromazine and Ivermectin. Applied through jetting. With saturation will give up to 12 weeks protection.

Luckily, most people had not applied Cyromazine based dip products prior to the heavy rain. Cyromazine based products are

prone to wash out if significant rainfall occurs within 7 days of application. Thus, therefore reducing the efficacy interval.



Sheep AI with Dave Robertson



Now is the time to plan your AI breeding programmes for sheep.

It is exciting times for sheep breeders and people are investing in improving their stud stock. We can source new genetics from around the country or link your flock in to a progeny testing programme.

Welcome to New Oamaru Veterinarians



Ellen Hodder

I hail from Taranaki, where I grew up on my parent's dairy farm. In the sheep and beef world, I have a particular interest in breeding and genetics. I spent a summer during uni working with Kelso - a stud farm in the Wairarapa. This gave me some real insight into the gains to be made in production with increasing the BW of our stock.

I enjoy getting stuck into dehorning, vasectomies, and AI as well. In my off time I enjoy tramping, running, and skiing in the right seasons. I also love theatre, so you might catch me on stage in Oamaru! I look forward to meeting with you all soon and helping you to achieve your production goals.



Natasha Vivian

After living in the North Island all my life, I figured it was high time to head south and have an explore of everything on offer here. I'm really excited to get into the overnight hikes, try all the new ski slopes and meet some new people. I'm keen to get out into some sheep country and am interested in maximising lamb production so will hopefully see some of you on farm soon!



Heatstroke in Dogs

Anna McLeod, BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

With the mercury rising in recent weeks and plenty of action on farm, working dogs are at increased risk of overheating. The physical demands of the job, combined with hot summer temperatures, can lead to heatstroke - an emergency, life threatening condition. Dogs are at an increased risk of overheating as they don't sweat like we do in hot conditions, but rely largely on panting to dissipate heat. When a dogs core temperature rises, internal organs such as the kidneys and digestive tract are particularly prone to damage - this can be permanent and life threatening

Signs of heatstroke:

- Heavy panting and drooling
- Vomiting, diarrhoea
- Wobbly, disorientated
- Seizure

First aid:

If you see any of these signs on a warm day, it is important to immediately cool them down and contact your vet - beginning cooling before arriving at the clinic can almost double their chance of survival

- Wet the fur with cool water - hose down, trough, wet towels

- Cool airflow - breeze/fanning - can greatly help after wetting
- Allow access to drinking water
- Get to clinic for emergency treatment as soon as possible

Things you can do to reduce the chances of heat stroke

- Trying to do the bulk of mustering/work early before temperatures rise, and ensure shade during the hottest part of the day
- Allow plenty of rest breaks and a dip in troughs or creeks where possible
- Ensure access to drinking water - consider carrying drinking water for your dogs where needed
- Clipping long-haired (e.g Collies) during the summer

Heatstroke can happen really quickly, so keep an eye on your working dogs during these long hot days!



The Veterinary Centre – Boehringer Ingelheim calf parasite monitoring project

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Thank you to all who have sent us in 10 faecal samples from your calves 10 to 14 days post drenching with a Boehringer Ingelheim product. We have now processed 185 sets of samples. Most of you will have received a phone call saying we have not found any eggs. There have been a few sets of samples with a low number of eggs found (22 sets) and we can usually find an obvious

reason for the presence of eggs other than the drench not working. I think what we can say, at this stage of the project is, that if calves are not drenched "well" the drench can't work. Weights need to be accurately measured/estimated, check the gun is doing what it meant to do, and make sure there is not big air bubble in the gun between calves (I think this particularly important for the pour on products). This project is still running, and we are keen for more samples as we move towards more pour on products and injectables. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

Dog Trials & A&P Shows

Once again we are proud to be supporting our local dog trials and A&P shows.

This year we will again be donating major prizes to each of the local 13 dog trial competitions.

We will also be in attendance and supporting the dog trials and A&P shows. We look forward to bumping into a few of our clients at these events over the next couple of months.

Dog Trial Dates

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tokarahi CC | February 7th & 8th |
| Strath Taieri CC | February 19th & 20th |
| Waitaki CDC | February 28th & March 1st |
| Patearoa CC | March 2nd & 3rd |
| Omarama CDC | March 7th & 8th |
| St Bathans CC | March 9th & 10th |
| Palmerston CC | March 19th & 20th |
| Waihemo CC | March 21st & 22nd |
| Kyeburn DTC | March 23rd & 24th |
| Omakau | March 28th & 29th |
| Waimate DTC | April 9th & 10th |
| St Bathans CC | April 17th & 18th Championships |
| Oamaru CDC | April 23rd & 24th |
| Macraes Flat CC | No Trial for 2021 |

A&P Shows

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| North Otago | 27-28 Feb 2021 |
| Omakau - Central Otago | 13 Feb 2021 |
| Palmerston | 30/31 January 2021 |
| Ranfurly | 17 Feb 2021 |
| Strath Taieri | 21 March 2021 |

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- ☑ You can use Toxovax anytime up to 4 weeks before mating.
- ☑ One shot gives lifetime immunity.
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Ranfurly team doing FECs

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Call your local Blue Cross Veterinary Centre to book one today!