



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Lamb Trading Essentials

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



With many parts of the district a-wash with clover and surplus grass, lamb trading and fattening is being considered by more than just the seasoned experts. Below are reminders for some of the basic animal health essentials for the 30kg store-lamb.

1. Don't bring on resistance worms.

- Use an effective drench.
- 30kg lamb Zolvix (74c) or Startect (64c) are gold standard, but if you are using Matrix triple drench (17c) do a FEC 10 days later to check efficacy. There are plenty of triple drench resistance worms traded FOC (free-of-charge) with lambs currently....
- A drench interval of 28-30 days will not get you into trouble at this time of year. Pushing drench out passed 5 weeks can see lamb growth-rates plummet. A 30 day FEC is recommended if you want to push drench intervals out. Moderate worm challenge will cost 50 – 100g per day. A high challenge will cost – everything you've invested sometimes!

2. Stop them from dying.

Boosting lambs with Multine 5 in 1 (33c) with selenium and B12 (57c) is worth it, especially when going onto crops or changing feed. Lambs going onto lucerne will benefit from a Covexin 10 (now in 500mL packs, 75c). Every dead \$120 lamb is the profit margin on

another 4 lambs!

3. Keep the flies out.

A squirt of Clikzin (shorter acting Clik) around the crutch (30c) or jet with 2.5l Cyrazin (35c) / Cyrazin KO (58c) or Cyrex (55c) will give ~6-8weeks protection. Not sure what the cost of messing around with melting lambs full of flies is, but its never good.

4. Don't bring on disease.

Troughing in 10% zinc sulphate will keep a lid on foot scald and early footrot. Lambs respond better to troughing than adult stock having softer feet and less complex lesions. Feet issues really do knock growth rates and can be over-looked by the trader without the mind set for dealing with it. Viral pneumonia is trickier to deal with but is one to look out for in lambs trucked over long distances (NI). I have had dealings with this last year, salvaged with a long acting shot of antibiotics – losing the ab free contract is better than losing lambs!

5. Longer term winter lambs will benefit from long acting products such as SmartShot B12, Cydectin LA and make sure they get their second shot of 5-in-1.

So for your 30kg stores put just over \$2 in the budget for animal health – a very sound investment to avoid all the hassles of death, disease and disappointment.

**All dose prices are for a 30kg Dose and exclude GST*



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FREE DRENCH CHECK!

- Free Faecal Egg Count (FEC) with every 20 Litres of Oral Sheep Drench purchased in February 2022 (including Matrix Hi Mineral 20 Litre)
- 10 Lambs Tested 7-10 days post drenching

Product of the Month



20 Litre
\$649.00
Incl GST

ACVM A009390

Matrix HI-MINERAL

Actives: Abamectin, Levamisole, Oxfendazole
Minerals: Cobalt, Selenium
Controls: Lungworm, Roundworm
Withholds: Meat 14 Days, Milk 35 Days
Application: Oral
Dose Rate: 1ml/5kg

Pricing \$0.56 per 100kg (Excl GST)



Abortion Storms

Two Diseases Two Vaccines



Toxoplasma is present on 100% of New Zealand farms, and Campylobacter on 88%*¹ – but both are equally important. These two diseases can cause abortion storms with losses up to 30%, or more, of lambs*^{2,3}.

Preventing them takes two vaccines. Maiden ewes require 1 dose of ToxoVax and 2 doses of CampyVax4 ahead of mating.

An annual booster of CampyVax4 is recommended in subsequent years, and completed before mating.

ToxoVax

- ✓ Controls the risk of Toxoplasma. **Live** vaccine.
- ✓ Up to 8% higher lambing percentages (3% national average).
- ✓ Vaccinate at least 4 weeks prior to first mating.
- ✓ One shot gives a lifetime immunity.
- ✓ **MUST BE ORDERED AT LEAST 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF TREATMENT** to ensure availability.

CampyVax4

- ✓ Controls the risk of Campylobacter.
- ✓ Increase lambing by an average 9%.
- ✓ Protect maiden ewes with TWO shots 4-6 weeks apart, and one booster shot in previously vaccinated ewes.

Drenching Rising Two-Year-Old Beef Cattle to maximise growth rates

George Smith BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



There are now a number of local beef farmers in our practice region aiming to finish beef animals before the second winter, whether it be bulls, heifers, or steers. These operations come in all shapes and sizes ranging from traditional beef systems to techno beef (cell grazing). The common denominator among all these beef operations is that they are aiming for animals to gain maximal weight in the shortest period of time and as efficiently as possible. By having animals at a killable weight prior to the second winter, reduces grazing costs per kilogram of carcass weight produced. This is due to the increased cost of grazing animals through a second winter whereby the cost per kilogram of dry matter consumed increases considerably.

Internal parasites cause appetite suppression, reduced feed digestibility, reduced feed utilization, and decreased nutrient absorption. All the aforementioned negative effects of an increased parasite load on beef animals leads to reduced animal performance due to a decrease in feed conversion efficiency. Many of the farms successfully finishing beef animals before the second winter will be quick to tell you that their success comes down to ensuring animals are growing at maximal growth rates every day of the year. To maximise growth rates and hit target kill dates it is imperative parasite burdens are kept to a minimum. Optimal times to consider drenching Rising Two-Year-old cattle is Sept/Oct (early spring), late December/early January and mid to late autumn (April). Double active products such as Eclipse Pour On are optimal as the Abamectin component works to kill a broad spectrum of internal and external parasites, whereby the Levamisole component works to kill Macrocytic Lactone resistant Cooperia and Ostertagia.



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.



*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.

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 Jan • GET ORDER IN ToxoVax	5 Feb • CampyVax4 First Sensitiser Shot (1ml/subcut) • ToxoVax 2ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Mar • CampyVax4 Second Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Apr • Put the Ram out!
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5 Mar • CampyVax4 Annual Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Apr • Put the Ram out!
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1. Dempster et al (2011), NZ Veterinary Journal, 59:4 155-159.
2. Wilkins et al (1992) Surveillance, 19:4, 20-23.
3. Sahin et al (2017) The Annual Review of Animal Biosciences. 5: 9:1-9:22.

Sheep Production & Productivity

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Minerals

Cobalt/Vitamin B12

Cobalt can be a limiting mineral to lamb growth in the Autumn.

Short acting B12 for trading lambs is fine, but consider a longer acting option for replacement ewe lambs or fine wool lambs to be wintered. With Junior SeCo capsules out until April, Smart Shot is the remaining long acting B12 option.

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



Iodine

Iodine is sometimes debated as to when and how much is required. 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.

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.

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). The '100 Club' research from fine wool flocks in the 1990's demonstrated lambs could be saved through iodine supplementation.

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

Flexidine pre-tup is the easiest and most comprehensive option for supplementing iodine for prolonged activity. 1.5mL into the muscle.

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 animals levels with blood tests at critical times helps make decisions around supplementation.



NEWTRITION

Tupping – getting your ewes up to weight

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



It's not really an exaggeration to say that right now is probably one of the most critical times in the sheep farming calendar, when you can have a big impact on ewe production for the coming season. Following weaning, ewes are likely to be at their most variable body weights and body condition scores of the year, as they have just put a lot of energy in to rearing good quality lambs. We all know how vital it is to achieve target BCS at mating, so that conception rates and subsequent lambing percentages are optimised.

The target at mating is for all the ewes in the flock to have a BCS of 3 – 3.5

So how do we achieve this goal?

- **BCS about a month after weaning**, when they're in the yards for another job (uddering or mouthing) – this gives them a bit of time to regain some of that weight inevitably lost during lactation
- **Treat each group differently so feed is prioritised:**
 - **Less than BCS 3 = preferentially feed** – consider running with replacement lambs or putting on better feed if available
 - **BCS 3 – 3.5 = maintenance feed or just ahead** – approx. 1 kg DM of medium quality feed; approx. 1 – 1.3 kg DM for ewes on hill country who use up a bit more energy moving around
 - **Above BCS 3.5 = control/tighten up** = use as a pasture management tool; follow other stock
- Doing the best you can now to get ewes to 3 – 3.5 now and then maintaining BCS as much as possible is a **far more efficient use of feed** than relying on flushing just before mating. Even if you're getting closer to tupping it's not too late to BCS, separate your light ewes and prioritise them thus not wasting feed on those that don't need it, so that conception rates are increased and we get a good result when scanning and lambing roll around again.



Drench Check & FECRT

Essential monitoring of drench effectiveness.

Invest in your farm's future!

Know your drench status.

Do a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT).

Now is the time to do a FECRT.

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



Veterinary Centre Ranfurly team busy doing Faecal Egg Counts (FEC).

Beef cattle pregnancy testing

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

A fantastic growing season pre-Christmas and into January has meant many may look to hold onto cows to help clean up paddocks. While some paddocks may look quite rank and seedy I've never seen so much clover in the base.

But with the looming threat of Omicron and staffing issues for meat processors I'd strongly encourage you to scan early, identify dry cows and late calvers and get them booked into the works while kill space remains available. While 15-20 dry cows may just be very handy right now, half a unit load of dry cows stuck on farm in June/July may well be a different story as feed tightens up.

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 service 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



Dog Trials & A&P Shows

Once again COVID has meant many cancellations in the A&P calendar, but we are proud to be supporting our local dog trials and A&P shows that are still going ahead.

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 where we can. We look forward to bumping into a few of our clients at these events over the next couple of months.

Dog Trial Dates (correct at time of print)

Tokarahi CC	13-14 Feb
Strath Taieri CC	18-19 Feb
Waitaki CDC	27-28 Feb
Patearoa CC	1-2 Mar
Omarama CDC	6-7 Mar
St Bathans CC	14-15 Mar
Palmerston CC	19-20 Mar
Kyeburn DTC	22-23 Mar
Omakau Earnsclough CC	27-28 Mar
Macraes Flat CC	1-2 Apr
Waihemo CC	3-4 Apr
Waimate CC	8-9 Apr
Oamaru CDC and	22-23 Apr
CHAMPIONSHIPS	

Back in Stock!

Cyrex
LIQUID



10 Litre
\$1249
Incl GST

Pricing \$0.21
per Litre (Excl GST)

Actives

- Cyromazine for long term protection
- Spinosad for instant kill

Features

- Effective against flies, maggots and lice.
- Combination power of 2 actives to mitigate resistance.

Length of Protection

- Up to 12 weeks protection (requires full saturation)

Features

- Dilution rate 1 litre makes 500 litres of wash
- At least 2 litres of wash required per sheep and an additional 0.5L for each month of wool growth up to a maximum of 5 litres per sheep.
- Suitable for all breeds of sheep.

Withhold

- Meat withhold 7 days

Vaginal prolapse in working dogs

Sarah Boys BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Vaginal prolapse occurs in un-spayed bitches, particularly Huntaways.

The condition is similar to a ewe with a bearing although there is a slight difference. In dogs, rather than the vagina inverting and coming out as a tube, the floor of the vagina actually enlarges to form a growth that protrudes from the vulva.

This growth occurs as a result of an oversensitivity to hormones when the bitch is on heat. The prolapse may start as a small fleshy mass but in some cases can become as large as 15cm. In these cases, the prolapse may prevent urination which is a life threatening situation.

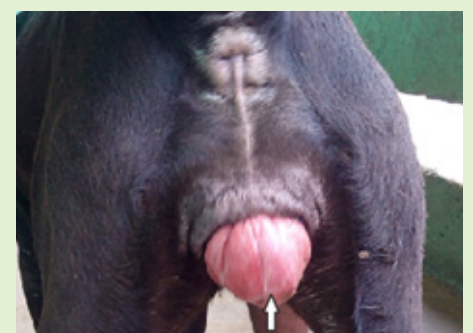
Once the bitch comes off heat, the drop in hormones causes the growth to shrink although sometimes it doesn't completely reduce back to its original size.

A bitch that does this once will do this every heat.

It is also hereditary - so affected bitches shouldn't be bred from.

The best treatment is desexing (spaying) - permanently removing the source of the hormones. The swelling will typically resolve within 1-3 weeks after de-sexing.

If the prolapse is small and not bothering the bitch, keeping it clean with warm water and applying a lubricant (e.g. calving or lambing lube) is fine. Following the heat, de-sexing is recommended to prevent re-occurrence. If it is larger and becoming rubbed and irritated, or the bitch is uncomfortable, please bring her into the clinic for a check-up.



Vaginal prolapse in bitch.