



# Veterinary Centre EwesNews

## "There's your trouble"

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

It is what you want your mechanic to say when your vehicles not right. It's a catchy song title from The (Dixie) Chicks – I suggest you look up. It is also my enduring favourite euphemism for describing an outbreak of footrot.

The current run of hot dry weather has been a great opportunity to listen to some country music and tip some ewes over to sort out "your trouble" from the clean ones.

Current market conditions mean getting rid of "trouble" or any sort of ewe is tricky, with agents best advice being "find a creek bed or rough corner somewhere to park them up for while". All well in good ... other forces at play are that the works are getting picky about what is acceptable for transport and processing. This has led them to take a dimmer view of lame sheep entering the processing facilities. Vet certificates can allow them to get priority processing if you do have space.

What are some options if you are having to patch up lame ewes or salvage them for breeding:

- For diagnosis and investigating the overgrown flappy bits of hoof you can't beat a pre-wash bath, a good handling facility, a set of sharp trimmers and a sense of humour. Don't make them bleed.
- CULL mis-shapen, multi-feet lesions that are too far gone. Some sheep just keep getting re-infected and have lost too much condition to turn around.
- A dose of antibiotics. Rules also mean I am not allowed to promote brands, but there are some useful long acting formulations that achieve 85 - 98% efficacy provided you do the follow-up (below).
- Topical something – a 10% zinc trouging or liberal hiss of blue spray into lesions after the diagnostic trim and dose of antibiotics. I do enjoy the efficacy and nostalgia of my grandfather's old brew but it's a bit messy.
- A night on the grating post treatment (no that's not a euphemism for getting on the beers – but it could be?!). This allows feet to dry out and allow treatment to reach peak concentration to zap the bug. Seems to make a big difference.

- Follow up, follow up, follow up, (could be the big show tune chorus to footrot the musical?). Do this 10-20 days after treatment is important. This is to remove dried up lesions and expose any pockets of bacteria that maybe hanging on. I like to apply blue spray or another zinc trouging after the check for cure. This will mean dealing with any remnants of dormant bacteria that might be clinging on. What I have learned is that antibiotics will relieve clinical signs of footrot, but they can also suppress footrot bacteria that can re-surface 2-3 months later, and possibly be more tolerant to subsequent treatments, so this clear-up check and trim is essential.

Trust is a hard won thing, and these treated feet will have to have 2 clear inspections and have negotiated a 2-3 month green grass test to ensure they are truly sorry for the trouble and shame they bought on the flock.

Is it all worth it? Farming will always challenge you from all angles and this is just another test of your tolerance for a seemingly futile and frustrating disease process. "No hoof, No horse" and all that. Perhaps you will get to explore a new music genre or comradery with co-workers? If you are struggling for a sense on meaning and purpose to it all there is always "getting on the grating" afterwards.



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**Back in Stock!**

**Cyrex**  
LIQUID



10 Litre  
**\$1319**  
Incl GST

**Pricing \$0.23**  
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



Jetting Lambs at Murney's



# Pregnancy Testing of Beef Cows

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

Really looking forward to catching up with beef farmers in the next month or two to see how your herds are trending this autumn. Please get in-touch early to book a slot with us that suits.

With EID wands – and people that have learnt to use them – it is now even easier to monitor herd conception rates, bull performance, BCS and other variable of interest.

The fact that when a cow gets in calf is the biggest determinant in her efficiency and profitability means that monitoring this is very useful. Identifying and monitoring the variables that contribute to a cows conception date is also interesting. The formula for beef fertility outcomes is not complicated:

**Beef fertility = Cow condition and nutrition + Previous calving spread + Bull and mating management + health and disease + Young stock growth + Genetics.**

The execution of this is not always straightforward but we can capture a lot of data on these variables at pregnancy testing that can identify areas where we can improve.

- Age scan pregnancies. Bench mark and generate calving groups.
- Know your BVD and mineral status.
- BCS profile.
- Bull power review and evaluation.

We try and do more than put blue stripes on the empties and drive away. We want to leave with some good data to celebrate or be the basis for improvement. Your business and herd success is our key motivator. So keep challenging your vet to tell you why you have a group of empty/late cows and how they can be minimised.



Mating time frame	Optimum scan date
Dec 1- Feb 1	March 10 – 30
Dec 15 – Feb 15	April 1 – April 20

## Drench Gun Checks

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
**VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

70% of drench guns are not delivering the dose they are set for.

Get a measuring cylinder and squirt 10 doses in to test accuracy. ie. 5mL dose x 10 = 50mL

Make sure guns are in good condition. Clean out and store with water in barrel after use. Apply light oil to inside of barrel and plunger. Change the nozzles if they are getting sharp or rough. We do see issues from rough guns damaging sheep.

The Veterinary Centre Ranfurly do enjoy the challenge of re-conditioning drench guns. It can be amazing what a good clean, a new spring and washers can do to your ol' favourite cooper colt or Phillips gun.



Emma and Jenny at the Ranfurly Veterinary Centre ready to revive your old drench guns.



## Heatstroke in Dogs

**Vanessa Love BVSc**  
**VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly**



Heatstroke, or hyperthermia, is the illness we see in dogs following exposure to excessive heat which may or may not involve exercise.

The normal upper limit of body temperature is around 39.4, above 41.2 organ failure starts to occur.

Dogs with heatstroke pant, they have dry, sticky gums, they are lethargic and sometimes disoriented, very bad cases may have seizures.

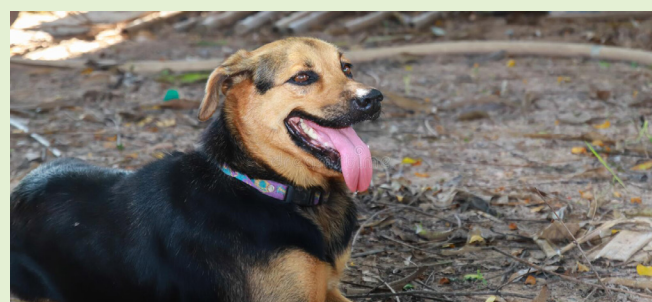
Dogs only have a small number of sweat glands so they can't regulate their body temperature like we do, their main method is by panting.

The most common heatstroke cases we see are working dogs who have worked hard during warm days. It is important to note that working dogs may be at risk even if it doesn't seem like a very hot day.

Heatstroke is a serious medical emergency. The dog's body temperature must be dropped safely.

You can start the process if your nearest clinic is far away with cool water (not ice water) poured over the head, legs and stomach, or wet cloths which need to be continuously replaced as they retain heat. Make sure there is good air flow in the vehicle while you travel. Using water which is too cold may cause vasoconstriction in the extremities and not reduce the core body temperature.

Once at the clinic we treat with fluids and oxygen and watch the temperature closely to ensure we don't cause hypothermia. The next day dogs usually have bad diarrhea and are reluctant to eat. Permanent organ damage can occur in bad cases that survive.



Beating the heat and getting amazing views loading out lambs





# Sending Bulls to the Works

Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly



It is that time of year again where bulls all over the country have finished their jobs for the season and for many, they have fulfilled their purpose and will be making their way to the works.

We commonly assess bulls for transport certificates as they get a specific range of problems such as:

- Broken penises (penile haematoma)
- Penis masses/tumours
- Hip and back injuries
- Knee injuries
- Broken claws
- Lameness

Mature bulls carry a lot of weight, during mating they are usually trying to wrangle a much more agile cow, or heifer, and often doing so on uneven ground many times a day. It is no wonder they get injuries, often long lasting and require transport certificates. Broken penises are very

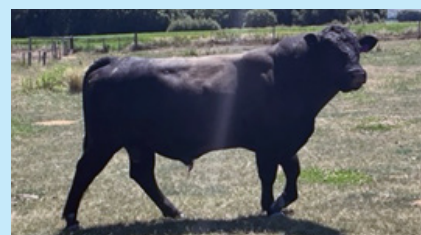
common, and are basically any injury along the shaft which causes massive bleeding, this prevents erections and is typically career ending for the bull.

Penis tumours usually develop from warts and some can become quite large. These are career ending and a common reason for transport certificates and insurance reports. If they are actively bleeding or discharging they cannot go to the works.

Leg, hip and foot injuries can be certified for transport if they are evenly weight bearing when standing and no more than grade 2 out of 3 lame when walking.

These checks are usually done in the paddock and are very quick. Bulls with certificates must go to the closest meatworks and get priority slaughter on arrival.

If in doubt about whether a bull is suitable to go to the works, give your local clinic a call and discuss it with your vet.



An Angus Maniototo bull with a broken penis (hard to see!)



An Angus Strath Taieri bull with a penis growth

## Abortion Storms

## Two Diseases Two Vaccines



AVAILABLE ONLY UNDER VETERINARY AUTHORISATION. ACVM No's: A4769, A9535.  
Schering-Plough Animal Health Ltd. Phone: 0800 800 543, [www.msd-animal-health.co.nz](http://www.msd-animal-health.co.nz)  
NZ-CVX-201100004 © 2020 Intervet International B.V. All Rights Reserved.  
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.

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

Preventing them takes two vaccines. Maiden ewes require 1 dose of Toxovax and 2 doses of Campyvac4 ahead of mating.

An annual booster of Campyvac4 to mixed age ewes is required in following years.

### 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, or one booster shot in previously vaccinated ewes.

Introducing

### Mikaela Crawford BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

I grew up in Northland so I have ventured quite far from home! I spent a lot of time on a beef farm as a kid which ignited my passion for veterinary medicine and large animals. I am passionate about reproduction and parasite control in the sheep and beef industry.

Outside of work I am keen to have a go at the Frisbee Golf course here in Waimate after playing Ultimate Frisbee competitively for 3 years up in Palmerston North. You might also catch me playing tennis and netball! Scenic walks are also a common occurrence for me on the weekends.



### Catherine Nelson BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I was born in Coventry, England and moved with my family to sunny Blenheim in 2007. Despite being away from the UK for 15 years, I still have the residual accent and addiction to tea. Outside of work, I can usually be found hiking, riding horses, swimming, at the gym, listening to music or spinning a yarn with friends and family.

In the sheep and industry, I'm very interested in parasite control and nutrition, but I'm excited to be learning about all areas of the job.



## Looking after your ewes post-weaning

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



After weaning your ewes get a short, but well-deserved break, before the yearly production cycle begins all over again for them at tupping time. They have just put a lot of energy into rearing good quality lambs, and are likely to be at their most variable body weights and condition scores of the season. Putting the effort in to get as many ewes as possible reaching target BCS before going out with the ram, will have a big impact on production for the coming season. Achieving BCS targets will optimise conception rates and thus subsequent lambing percentages. Feeding based on condition score is also a more efficient way to distribute valuable feed resources.

### 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.

## Minerals

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

### Selenium

Selenium is essential for a healthy immune system and to achieve optimal growth. Soil levels are generally low on South island pastures.

Standard practice is to dose ewes pre-breeding with a long acting product (Selovin LA). However, if using short acting products (Selovin 5) pre-breeding and pre-lamb doses are required. Blood sampling can help make informed decisions around what supplementation is required.

### Iodine

Iodine deficiency is commonly associated with pregnant ewes grazing brassica crops, with this group needing supplementation. It is occasionally seen in pasture fed ewes. Iodine deficiencies have been linked to higher lambing losses, especially in colder weather since lambs have less ability to regulate temperature.

The most accurate test of Iodine is to measure thyroid weight in stillborn/dead new lambs, however Iodine blood samples can be taken from ewes pre-mating. Flexidine is the long acting form (6-8months) – giving this pre-mating will cover lambs for Iodine throughout pregnancy. LSD is a shorter acting form with ewes requiring 2 doses to cover lambs – pre-lambing and at scanning.

### Cobalt/Vitamin B12

Cobalt is needed to produce B12, a vitamin which aids in protein and energy metabolism. Deficiencies will limit autumn growth rates in lambs.

Short acting B12 injections for trading lambs is fine, but a longer acting B12, such as Smartshot, will give better cover for replacement ewe lambs over winter.



ACVM A009509



ACVM A007866



SmartShot B12 ACVM A009984  
SmartShot B12 plus Se ACVM A009402

## Proudly supporting 2023 Collie Club & Dog Trials

This year we will again be donating major prizes of a **Dometic 70L Chilly Bin** to each of the local 13 dog trial competitions including the championships.

We will also be in attendance and supporting the dog trials 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)

St Bathans CC	29-30 Jan
Tokarahi CC	12-13 Feb
Strath Taieri CC	17-18 Feb
Waitaki CDC	26-27 Feb
Omarama CDC	5-6 Mar
Patearoa CC	7-8 Mar
Kyeburn DTC	21-22 Mar
Omakau Earnsclough CC	26-27 Mar
Macraes Flat CC	1 Apr
Waihemo CC and CHAMPIONSHIPS	2-3 Apr
Waimate DTC	7-8 Apr
Oamaru CDC	21-22 Apr



## 2023 Agricultural & Pastoral Assn

The A&P Shows are important events that bring the country to town. A great opportunity for farmers to get together and see some of the latest innovations. Also a chance for the townies to get a wee taste of country.

### A&P Show Dates (correct at time of print)

Otago/Taieri A&P	28-30 Jan
Palmerston/Waihemo A&P	4-5 Feb
Central Otago/Omakau A&P	11 Feb
Maniototo/Ranfurly A&P	15 Feb
North Otago A&P	25 Feb
Strath Taieri A&P	19 Mar
McKenzie County A&P	19 Apr





# 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

### 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

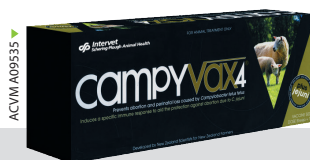


Order  
ToxoVax  
Early!

#### 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, Waimate, Palmerston & Ranfurly is on the highlighted days indicated in the side calendar.

### ORDER

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

Vaccinators	EACH
<b>Vaccinator 1ml</b>	
<b>Vaccinator 2ml</b>	
<b>Vaccinator 5ml</b>	
<b>Needles 18Gx 3/8 x 12</b>	
<b>Needles 18Gx 1/2 x 12</b>	
<b>MSD Animal Health recommends that a new vaccinator and needles are used with ToxoVax</b>	

#### \*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	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!

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:

Oamaru • Waimate  
Ranfurly • Palmerston  
Glenavy • Kurow • Omarama  
[www.vet111.co.nz](http://www.vet111.co.nz) | 0800 VET 111

**Veterinary Centre**  
by the Big Blue Cross

