



# EWES NEWS

**STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

## Manufacturing Failure – Flexidine!



**Jeff Spillane,**  
Commercial Manager

There has been a manufacturing failure in the production of Flexidine long acting Iodine injection and there will be a limited supply available in 2018.

The Veterinary Centre has been able to source a significant amount of available product and will allocate 50% of product to our clients based on last years usage.

**Iodine is involved in egg and sperm development, ovulation, conception,**

**pregnancy, lamb survival and wool and milk production!**

*Note that halving the dose of Flexidine still gives significant iodine supplement but for a shorter duration.*

### Options to Consider

- Injecting a half dose (0.75mls) of Flexidine pre-tup, followed by Vet LSD (oral iodine, plus Vitamin A,D,E plus Selenium) 4 weeks pre lamb
- Drench Vet LSD (or oral iodine) pre-tup, and injecting a half dose of Flexidine 4-8 weeks pre-lamb.
- Drench Vet LSD (or oral Iodine) 3 weeks pre-tup, 8 weeks pre-lamb, and

4 weeks pre-lamb

- Target a group for full dose Flexidine (say hoggets and two-tooths, where there is a higher lamb survival challenge).

These are some possible scenarios and there are obviously many more. Discuss the best options with our vets, with the aim of maintaining farm profitability in a realistic way, on your farm.

None of these options can give the surety of consistent iodine supplementation (for 8 months) delivered by a full dose of Flexidine but the aim is to find the best compromise.



## New Member of the Team

I have joined the Veterinary Centre as the Territory Manager for Waimate/Glenavy.

I am from a small town in Northland, called Dargaville where I have strong ties to the both the dairy and beef industries. Growing up my passion was utilizing different types of feed to achieve the highest gains in both dairy and beef production, this led me to gain my Butchery qualification and National Certificate in Agriculture.

After working both in New Zealand and overseas I attended Lincoln University where I achieved a Bachelor of Science majoring in Plant and Animal Science's, specializing in Agronomy. Since graduating I have worked as an Agronomist dealing with pasture and forage crops, cereals, process vegetable and oil crops.



**Nick Reed - Waimate/Glenavy Territory Manager**

Outside of work I enjoy both hunting and fishing (they keep my butchery skills sharp), raising beef calves, as well as playing and watching rugby. I hope to contribute regular articles on Agronomy to both EWESNEWS and MOOZ NEWS, as well as holding meetings and discussions with interested farmers. I look forward to getting to know everyone.





**Dave Robertson**  
BVSc, BSc

# Protecting Your Next Year Lamb Crop

The majority of our clients now use Toxovax and Campyvac4 vaccine in first year breeding ewes to prevent abortions. With the current schedule being at its strongest in recent memory farmers will be glad they did.

Toxovax is a single shot for life vaccine. Campyvac4 requires 2 shots with the minimum recommendation being sensitiser and booster shots to first year breeding ewes. Longer term protection occurs if a single campyvac booster is given in the 2nd year. If you gave hoggets a 2 shot course then as 2 teeth they will only require a campyvac booster. Farms with high challenge have seen benefits to boosting all mixed aged ewes annually.

## ORDERING

Order forms will arrive in the next week or so if they have not already. As soon as practical complete and email the order form to your Territory Manager or fax through to Veterinary Centre Oamaru using the contact details provided. If technology is not your thing or if you have some questions just ring up or come into your local Blue Cross Veterinary Centre and fill out your order form there.

Also remember the tight time line for Toxovax and the short shelf life. See the

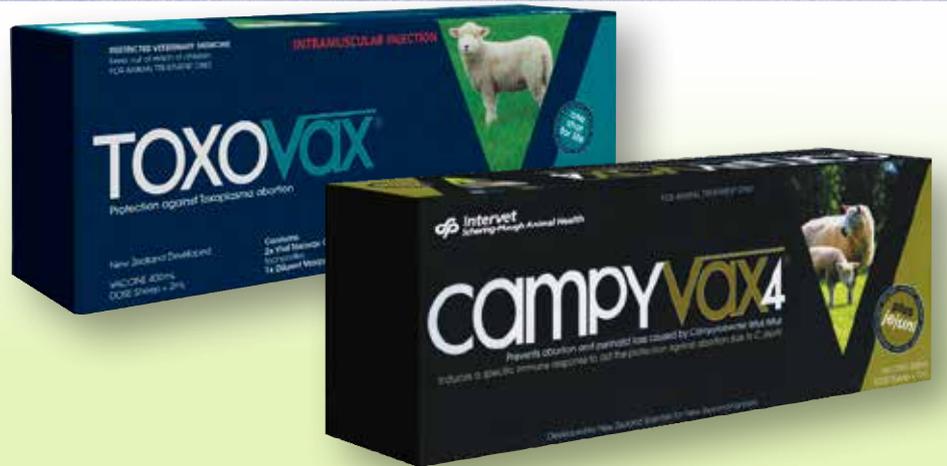
example timeline below for how early you need to place your toxo order.

## 4 STEPS TO ORDER

1. Receive order form in the mail
2. Complete toxovax, campyvac and other pre-tup requirements at least 1 month before they are to be given.
3. Email back to your Territory Manager via the address provided, or fax back to Veterinary Centre Oamaru.
4. Your Territory Manager will notify you when your product is available.

## 2 Tooth/Hogget Pre-mating Animal Health Programme (example for early April mating)

Jan 5th	Feb 5th	March 5th	April 5th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order Toxovax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Campyvac 4 shot (Sensitiser - 1ml subcut)</li> <li>• Toxovax Shot 2ml (intramuscular)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Campyvac4 shot (Booster - 1ml subcut)</li> <li>• Flexidine 1.5mls (intramuscular)</li> <li>• Oral drench Matrix Hi Min (includes Selenium)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put the ram out</li> </ul>



## Androvax

Get more lambs from less ewes with the same feed. With a 4:1 return on investment Androvax has been shown to boost flock performance by 5 - 20%. For farmers who want to take advantage of improving market conditions quickly Androvax is a strategic tool to increase lambing numbers for the immediate season without changing genetics. Ideal if you consistently scan less than 150%.

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Increased lambing by 5-20%
- Similar number of lambs born to fewer breeding ewes.
- Ideal as a recovery strategy to rebuild stock numbers quickly

- Immediate productivity increase allows you to tailor management plans each year
- Overcome the lower twinning percentages associated with early lambing
- A pre mixed formulation for on farm convenience.

Two shots are required exactly 8 and 4 weeks before mating starts. The following year only a booster is required 4 weeks pre-mating. Feed planning at the other end is still important.

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR ANDROVAX:

For 1000 ewes that could conservatively

get a 10% lift in lamb numbers (if say normally weaning 1300 lambs), Androvax would result in an extra \$12,000 in lamb revenue\*. This equates to a ~4:1 return on the investment in the vaccine.

\*@ 32kgs x \$2.90/kg Lwt = \$120,640. Give 2 shots of Androvax and get a conservative 10% lift in lamb numbers ~ 130 extra lambs x 32kg x \$2.90 = \$12,064. Cost of the 2 shots of vaccine ~ \$3.40



# Ram Breeding Soundness

Get your ram team checked for breeding soundness by a Blue Cross Vet this month - it is an effective insurance against the subtle signs of SUB-FERTILITY and brucellosis. In light of the ram soundness study there are

also many other aspects of the ram health you can invest in with large benefits to getting the best out of your ram team. Make sure you ask our vets about the key findings when doing a ram soundness check.

**The Veterinary Centre Ram Study completed last year gave us many insights into improving ram longevity and performance. Ram soundness checks are useful to not only ensure successful mating but can also be used to help with longer term culling decisions.**



Our clinic managers are currently organising this year's ram runs - call us if you have not yet been contacted.

With lameness being one of the leading causes of ram wastage, it is worth considering footrot soundness in rams well in advance of tugging time.

**Animal health plans** have been popular with clients and their workers. These can be a simple calendar of routine treatments or can be extended to include monitoring steps and weight targets. Take an extra 30 minutes with your Blue Cross Vet to sort out your animal health routine this year.

## Get Teasers Done in January

For hogget and 2 tooth mating or early mating of mixed aged ewes teasers can be very useful. Putting teasers out will get ewes cycling, and can have a synchrony effect if done early enough. With hoggets, more will take the ram in the first cycle if run with teasers prior to joining.

If you are intending to do a laproscopic A.I. program with the Veterinary Centre this year, teasers are essential. Usually put out at 1:10-15 ewes.

Teasers can also be used to select the most fertile ewe hogget replacements, even if you're not mating hoggets. Research has shown that cycling hoggets are more fertile and productive as adult sheep.

Get your teasers made AT LEAST 9 WEEKS prior to ram joining, so if your mating April 5, you would put teasers out March 18, so need them "fixed" before the start of February! If you're getting some done for hoggets, you may as well put them out with the 2 tooth first.

## Feet Soundness in The Flock

It has been a while since I have mentioned feet, and it is amazing that a bit of moisture in December has seen flare-ups of scald within a matter of days. It still looks dry but there have been opportunities for the dormant footrot bug to jump from its hiding place of chronically infected hooves to fresh scaldy ones. Pre-weaning troughing is probably on the cards for some operations in order to halt further spread and enable a break in the cycle of infection prior to tipping ewes soon after weaning.

With respect to footrot control "**never waste a good dry patch of weather.**" When it is dry and there is no active spread of footrot this is the time to inspect feet and remove what pool of infection there is before the next wee autumn flare-up.

I do have several success stories of clients putting in the time, AT THE RIGHT TIME, using a plan and the Micotil system and have got rid of footrot recently. We have been using Micotil to good effect to salvage infected animals and more aggressively break the cycle of infection. Ring us today to get cases treated post weaning.



# Minerals for Lambs B12 and Selenium

Some parts of the South Island soils are deficient in cobalt. Certain climatic conditions and pasture species also lead to lower cobalt in-takes. Young stock do have a higher requirement for B12, of which cobalt is the essential ingredient. A deficiency of B12 is often part of the autumn ill-thrift complex, or poorer performance from winter trade lambs, fine wool hoggets or replacement ewe hoggets.

Short acting injectable B12 lasts for about 21 days in the animal. Fine for boosting a store lamb with a 4-8 week stay on property, but what about those young sheep that are to be wintered on farm - what are the options for prolonged elevation of B12 levels?

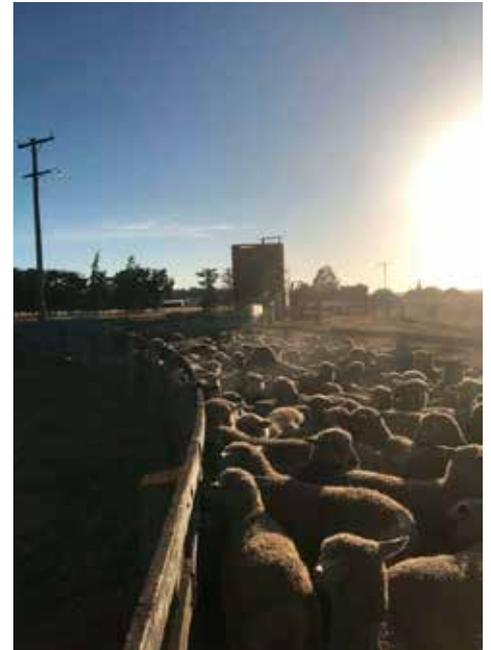
Long acting SMART SHOT B12 and SMART SHOT B12 + Selenium injectable is a very effective way of boosting levels

for up to 6 months. A half dose will last 3 months, which may be enough to get through critical autumn period. SMART SHOT B12 is popular with fine wool hoggets and keeper ewe lambs, especially those going to the ram and/or on irrigated properties.

SeCo Junior capsules supplement 100 days of cobalt and Selenium along with a white drench wormer. Getting them into hoggets in February sets them up for mating and prevents the build-up of larval challenge on pastures at the back end of Autumn. They are popular with fine wool lamb finishers putting them on irrigated pastures after weaning. To use sustainably, targeting mobs that are likely to respond the best and using a 120 day exit drench of Matrix or novel active is advised.

Price wise SeCo capsules are not too

much dearer than an equivalent half dose of Smart Shot B12 and 3 oral drenches, but are more convenient.



## Looking After the Team - don't regret not vaccinating your working dogs!

With dog trials around the corner now is the time to get your working dog vaccinations done. The early trials start in late February. We see outbreaks of both parvo and kennel cough on farm every year. Having lots of dogs in 1 place will definitely increase the risk.

January presents a great opportunity to get your dogs vaccinated during ram palpation visits. Use the opportunity to boost your working dog vaccinations, or start a new pup on its initial course. Our core vaccine covers the following diseases:

- Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Parvovirus
- Parainfluenza

Pups need 2-3 vaccinations with the last one at 14-16 weeks of age. Adult dogs need a booster at one year old, then every three years.

Canine (kennel) cough is covered by a separate annual vaccine, but is one of the most important to consider especially if taking your team onto different farms.

We will be in touch to check where you are at with your dog vaccinations. If you don't hear from us contact your closest Blue Cross Veterinary Centre so we can help you keep your dogs working.



<b>Oamaru</b>	<b>Ph 03-434 5666</b>
<b>Waimate</b>	<b>Ph 03-689 7213</b>
<b>Palmerston</b>	<b>Ph 03-465 1291</b>
<b>Glenavy</b>	<b>Ph 03-689 8118</b>
<b>Kurow</b>	<b>Ph 03-436 0567</b>
<b>Omarama</b>	<b>Ph 03-438 9868</b>
<b>Ranfurly</b>	<b>Ph 03-444 1020</b>