



EWES NEWS



Beef Scanning

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Henry Williamson stud horned Herefords, Mackenzie Basin

It is never too early for a scanning yarn. My small animal colleagues roll their eyes or slope away when we start talking about scanning rates, or the latest pistol grips and head set configurations. For many beef producers they have realised the value in our scanning skills and can tolerate a level of in-depth discussion. "Being able to find those twin bearing cows is gold" one farmer said to me today. In order to do this, scanning between 40 and 100 days pregnancy is required. It is the same window in order to get pregnancies scanned into

cycle groups, monitor bull performance and identify AI pregnancies.

So if you are interested in yarning about more than just wet-dry rates, get organised and book in your preg testing now. Also let us know if you want BVD screening and tidying up horns done at the same time.

Joining Dates	Optimal Scanning Dates
Nov 20 to Jan 20	March 1
Dec 10 to Feb 10	March 20

Feet Soundness

- THE ANNUAL INSPECTION: Now is the time to sort out feet. It has dried out so spreading of footrot should have slowed down. Making a good job of inspecting all feet is important. If you only do 1 foot inspection a year, post weaning is the time to do it. 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. Tenaline for farmer use and veterinary administered tilmovet is still available as the gold standard for targeted treatment.
- 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.



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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



DAVE'S HAIKU

Choosing a Weaning Drench

Triple will do, but bring in some poo (10 days later)

A novel is best, but then give it a rest.



Protecting Your Next Year Lamb Crop

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The majority of our clients now use Toxovax and Campyvax4 vaccine in first year breeding ewes to prevent abortions. With the current



Getting ready for two tooth mating at Omarama Station

schedule being at its strongest in recent memory farmers will be glad they did. Toxovax is a single shot for life vaccine. Campyvax4 requires 2 shots with the minimum recommendation being sensitiser and booster shots to first year breeding ewes. Longer term protection occurs if a single Campyvax booster is given in the 2nd year. If you gave hoggets a 2 shot course then as 2 tooth they will only require a campyvax



booster. Farms with high challenge have seen benefits to boosting all mixed aged ewes annually.

ORDERING

As soon as practical complete and email the order form with this issue, 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 following example of a timeline for how early you need to place your toxo order.

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"> Order Toxovax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Campyvax 4 shot (Sensitiser - 1ml subcut) Toxovax Shot 2ml (intramuscular) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Campyvax4 shot (Booster - 1ml subcut) Flexidine 1.5mls (intramuscular) Oral drench Matrix Hi Min (includes Selenium) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put the ram out

The Veterinary Centre – Boehringer Ingelheim calf parasite monitoring project



Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

I have just sent away the 100th set of calf poo samples for the project we are doing looking at worm egg counts post drenching. A massive thank you to all who have contributed samples. To date 80% of samples have come from calves drenched with Arrest C, of which only 10 have had eggs detected with an average number of eggs of only 29 eggs per gram. There were 70 sample sets from calves drenched with Arrest C that had no eggs found in them. This project will run till May so can I please ask you to continue to collect samples as we will start to use more Matrix, Eclipse and Genesis. If your calves are at graziers get them on board as well – this information will be as useful to them as it is to you. If you have not sent samples in, we would still love to get them, and if you already have we would love to follow your calves right through the season. Thanks again for your support, Hamish and Finja.

“Newtrition”

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



PEM aka “B1 deficiency” in lambs

Blind, dejected, staggering, star-gazing, convulsing lambs – many of you will have had cases like this over the years. There are a few possible causes, but most often these signs are due to a disease of the brain called **polioencephalomalacia or PEM**.

Commonly known as “Vitamin B1/thiamine deficiency”, it is in fact usually caused by a change in the rumen environment leading to the production of thiaminases, which destroy vitamin B1/thiamine before it can be absorbed. Thiamine is an essential part of cellular energy metabolism for all animals, and without it certain cells malfunction and swell up. Cells in the brain are particularly badly affected, and as they swell they are squeezed against the skull, leading to the characteristic signs.

Anything that alters rumen metabolism can predispose lambs to PEM, for example:

- **Change in feed** esp. from poorer stinky feed to lush pasture
- **Feeding out grain** (high starch diets risky e.g. feedlots)
- **Weaning** and the rumen adjustment and feed changes that come with it
- **Feeding brassicas** (high dietary sulphur is a risk factor)

Immediate treatment is vital for a good outcome – IV or IM injections of vitamin B1 at least twice daily for the first 24 – 72 hours will be necessary in most cases. Thiamine powder can be drenched if many cases are being seen. If you suspect PEM in any of your lambs this season, contact your nearest Blue Cross Vet Centre to discuss treatment options and management of risk factors.



Fly pressure and lice control

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

There was an early wave of fly pressure prior to Christmas, and that has remained the case in many areas. With higher rain fall 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 use a diflubenzuron IGR such as Zenith or FleeceMaster through the jetter is a good option. Cyrex has also 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 maybe useful if you suspect chemical resistance to other actives, or don't

want to rely too heavily on one chemical every year. Klik and Klik 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 maybe wearing off and 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.

Product of the month

Cyrex 10 litre

- Cyromazine for long term protection, Spinosad for instant kill
- Effective against flies, maggots and lice
- Combination power of 2 actives to mitigate against resistance
- \$0.20 plus gst per litre of wash

Application

- 1 litre of chemical makes 500 litres of wash
- At least 2 litres of wash required per sheep and an additional 0.5 litres for each month of wool growth up to 5 litres per sheep
- Suitable for all breeds
- 7 days meat withhold
- Up to 12 weeks protection (requires full saturation)



Pre-Mating Productivity - Trace Minerals Justifying Iodine Supplementation pre mating

It only takes saving an extra 6 lambs per thousand ewes to justify iodine supplementation, however it is still 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. We know native pastures are much lower in iodine than improved pasture mixes, and 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). 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.

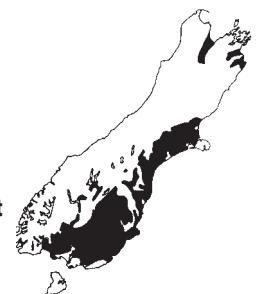
Selenium

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. With targeted drenching of capital stock ewes,

ensure ewes are still supplemented with selenium. This can be achieved by 0.5 – 1ml of long acting selenium.



Selenium Deficient soil areas in the South Island





Veterinary Centre Woof W.O.F

Ryan Philips BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

A good working dog, much like a quad or side-by-side runs best when the oil gets changed, motor serviced regularly, and the tyres have grip. Unfortunately we usually only see farm dogs when they've broken down, often during a critical period such as lambing or weaning. To help prolong the useful life of these valuable assets we have introduced our on-farm Woof W.O.F programme. If we can identify issues early we can help keep these hard-workers running smoothly when it really matters!

This assessment involves a head to tail exam, with a key focus on these five areas:

1. ENGINE – Heart, Lungs, & Abdomen

2. TYRES & TREAD – Lameness, Arthritis, & Mobility

3. BODYWORK – Skin, Eyes, Ears, & Lumps

4. FUEL SYSTEM – Teeth, BCS, & Toileting

5. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE – Vaccinations, Worming, & Flea Treatment

The team will be discussing the Woof W.O.F during the upcoming ram runs. Give us a call if you'd like one of our vets to head out and check up on your team.



Get Teasers Done in January

Celia van Kampen BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

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. Teasers are usually put out at a rate of 1:10-15 ewes for AI or alternatively 1:255-800 for "ram" effect.

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.



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