



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Beef AI in Full Swing

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

The use of AI in commercial herds has continued to grow. This year the Veterinary Centre have been involved with trialling different oestrus synchronisation protocols over five herds.



Stoneburn New Venture – Hereford breeder Andy Denham with daughter Elisabeth with their new Angus stud heifers which had just been inseminated.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Beef AI in Full Swing
- What's Farmer Time?
- Ram Breeding Soundness
- Get Teasers done in January
- Scrotal Mange
- Investigating Wet-Dry Rates and Protecting the Asset
- Abortion Storm
- Boehringer Ingelheim Discontinued Products
- Weaning Animal Health
- Vaginal Prolapse in Working Dogs
- Drench Check and FECRT



Greta, Ems and Annabel Murray from Glenmore Station getting ready to AI



Amy Parish (Oamaru LAVT) loading AI straws for James & Abby Peddie's property in Middlemarch.



Good vibes at Lonestar Caberfeidh with George, Hamish and Lachie at the completion of their AI programme on 250 beef cows.

What's "Farmer Time"?

The top end of the Haka is not so remote these days...now that Jess Turnbull has been involved with the "Farmer Time" educational programme.

It allows direct video calls between a farmer and a classroom of students. It is aimed at educating students about where their food comes from and how it is grown. (I recently featured as a "cameo" playing the role of beef AI vet...not sure how that was received?)

With the majority of New Zealanders living in urban areas, many school-aged children can be unfamiliar with where their food is sourced from. 81% of the urban-based New Zealand teenagers surveyed know only a little or nothing about farming and food production.

"Farmer Time" is a simple initiative which appeals to farmers and teachers.

"Farmer Time" can help bridge the gap and better connect students to their food and the farmers who grow it.

It is great to see people like Jess Turnbull doing her bit in a positive way to portray the farming and food production in a real and positive way.



Jess and Dougal Turnbull of Tararua Station, Hakatamea Valley – Excited to access some top hill country sires via AI to advance their breeding programme. "You just couldn't buy the bulls we are using in our AI programme - they are proven and their numbers have very good accuracies."

Ram Breeding Soundness

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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.

Our clinic managers should be contacting you to organise 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 tupping 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.



Good breeding rewarded. Eric Ross with the Champion sheep of the Waimate Show "Collie Hills" 22.20. Eric Ross and Wade Newlands sell around 150 Corriedale rams. His family have had the stud since the 1950's. "They are a breed for dry land hills...we've got the feet pretty right, lifted their fertility and are fining them up with hoggets 23.5micron average."

Get Teasers done in January

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



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.



Scrotal Mange

Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly



An exciting topic and common cause of failure of breeding soundness at palpation time is scrotal mange. Scrotal mange is caused by a mite called *Chorioptes bovis* which lives and feeds on the skin of its host for its entire lifecycle. Sheep, goats, cattle and horses can all be affected. After rams we most commonly see it in horses, along the feathered areas at the back of the fetlock and pastern.

Transmission of the mite is from ram to ram or via things in the paddock like posts or bedding where they can survive for up to several weeks in moist temperate conditions. Mite numbers tend to build up in the colder months and in rams with poor health due to higher worm burdens, poor nutrition etc.

Rams often get a hypersensitivity reaction on their scrotums which causes the scrotum and testicles to heat up, affecting fertility and can cause the testicles to shrink (hypoplasia) or waste away (atrophy). The result is a ram who is temporarily (at best) or permanently (at worst) unsound.

There are some clear signs to make you suspicious-look for thickening of the skin, hair loss, scabs and oozing, although shearing cuts can look similar. It may also affect the inside of the hind limbs and around the poll.

Treatment of scrotal mange if only a few are affected is done with a dectomax injection which may require a follow up 2 weeks later if the mange is severe. In rare situations, the majority of the mob may be affected and require organophosphate treatment via a spray or shower dip.

It is important to remember that scrotal mange can strike quickly and that a quick visual check prior to mating even if they have been previously palpated can save trouble later.



Beef cows on oats.



Investigating Wet-Dry Rates and Protecting the Asset

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



"400 bloody wet-dry ewes at tailing...I'm not doing that again."

Over the last couple of months I have done a number of investigations into higher than normal wet-dry rates in ewes at tailing.

With hill ewes it can be hard to determine when these scanned in-lamb ewes are losing their lambs. The main areas are

- Disease that causes abortion (toxovax, campy, hairy shakers). This includes early embryonic losses through to weak live lambs.
- Iodine, cobalt and selenium deficiency.
- Poor body condition and lack of adequate feeding of multiples in late pregnancy.
- Storms after pre-lamb shearing.
- Mob size and stocking density of twins too high.
- Lack of shelter/starvation.
- Genetics of both ewe and lamb.

Speed of delivery, lamb birth weight and lamb fat reserves are all important for getting up to get the first drink. It is interesting that "lamb smarts" are reasonably heritable also. Triplets are of course up against it on many fronts with respect to the survival stakes.

Blood testing of wet-dry ewes can assist with investigations. Below is an example of results from unvaccinated ewes with less lambs at tailing. 40% of w-d ewes have had recent infection with toxoplasma. Infection with campylobacter was evident also, with 70% showing recent exposure and shedding of the bacteria. Toxoplasma is from cat (especially kitten) faeces and campylobacter lives in the gut of ewes and shed through faeces.

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. It is very routine now. 100% farms have some level of toxo on the place. 83% of farms have evidence of Campylobacter in ewe flocks.

Toxovax is a single, 1 shot for life vaccine. It helps plug the gaps in ewes that have not had natural exposure. In the early days of toxovax development they demonstrated 7-9% increase in numbers of lambs weaned when flocks did not observe any abortions or perceive a problem.

Campyvac4 requires 2 shots with the minimum recommendation being sensitizer 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 toothers they will only require a campyvac booster. Farms with high challenge have seen benefits to boosting all mixed aged ewes annually.

Serology					
	C fetus Strain 134	C fetus Strain 6/1	C fetus Strain DL42	C fetus Strain 5915	Toxoplasma Ab titre
WET DRY 01	<10	160	40	20	>=1/2048
WET DRY 02	<10	160	40	20	Negative
WET DRY 03	<10	40	<10	<10	1/1024
WET DRY 04	<10	160	<10	<10	Negative
WET DRY 05	20	160	80	40	1/512
WET DRY 06	20	320	80	<10	1/16.
WET DRY 07	20	160	80	<10	1/16.
WET DRY 08	<10	80	20	<10	1/64.
WET DRY 09	<10	20	10	<10	1/16.
WET DRY 10	20	160	40	<10	>=1/2048

Abortion Storms

Two Diseases Two Vaccines



Order ToxoVax EARLY!

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 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.

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
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: 91-9.22.



**Boehringer
Ingelheim**

IMPORTANT! Discontinued Lines and Alternative Selections!

Boehringer Ingelheim have ceased producing several lines of sheep drench and dip products.

The following is a key as to what you can use in place of discontinued product lines.



Arrest Hi Mineral
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Scanda Selenised 10L
*Low Dose 1ml/10kg



Matrix Mini-Dose
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Alliance 10L



Matrix Tape
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Eraser Tape
10L (November)



Switch Hi-Mineral
DISCONTINUED
No Stock Left



Converge
10L



Matrix Hi Min
20L



Cyrex Liquid
10L



Cyroshield Liquid
10L

At the Veterinary Centre we select products that will give the best results on your farm from companies that have completed NZ trial work and we know will stand behind their products.

Weaning Animal Health

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
– VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly



The most important drench a lamb gets is the one at weaning - make sure it's an effective one.

For farms with resistance suspected or diagnosed use Zolvix or Startect.



For farms using a triple (Eraser tape or Matrix Hi Mineral) check its effectiveness 10 days later with an egg count. Put a reminder in your phone.



If you don't know where you're at with resistance either discuss with us doing a reduction test OR do a weaning FEC as a reference point for the 10 day check. This is a very useful and practical bit of monitoring.

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.

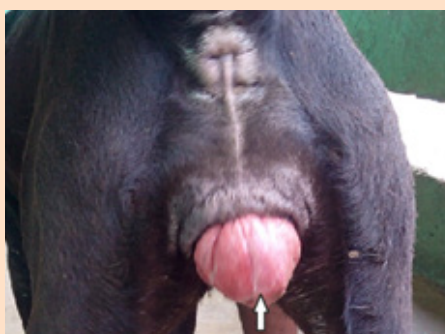
This growth occurs as a result of an oversensitivity to hormones when the bitch is on heat. The prolapse may start as a small fleshy mass but in some cases can become as large as 15cm. In these cases, the prolapse may prevent urination which is a life threatening situation.

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 desexing.

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.



Drench Check & FECRT

Essential monitoring
of drench effectiveness

**Invest in your
farm's future!**

Know your drench status.

Do a reduction test.

**Now is the time
to do a FECRT.**

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



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

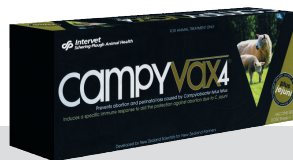


Order
ToxoVax
Early!

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

Vaccinators	EACH
Vaccinator 1ml	
Vaccinator 2ml	
Vaccinator 5ml	
Needles 18Gx 3/8 x 12	
Needles 18Gx 1/2 x 12	

MSD Animal Health recommends that a new vaccinator and needles are used with ToxoVax

*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!
--	--	--	------------------------------------

5 Mar • CampyVax4 Annual Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Apr • Put the Ram out!
--	------------------------------------

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received:

Initials:

Oamaru • Waimate
Ranfurly • Palmerston
Glenavy • Kurow • Omarama
www.vet111.co.nz | 0800 VET 111

Veterinary Centre
by the Big Blue Cross

