

# Veterinary Centre EwesNews

## Novel Drench Shortage Update

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

There has been significant pressure on supply of Zolvix and Startect in New Zealand. There is currently no new stock of either drench available until March 2024.

We are going to have to use current stocks judiciously, and use traditional drench families supported with FEC efficacy monitoring. This is going to have issues for quarantine policies and farms with significant drench resistance.

It does again remind us to take a broader view of maintaining lamb growth rates and stock performance with less drench inputs. Many farmers I have had debriefings on the subject have gained confidence that the solution of sheep parasite control lies with farm systems approach.



Of this the essential components to parasite control are:

- Avoiding parasite challenge. Agronomy and clean pasture concepts.
- Integration of different stock classes within a grazing system.
- Refugia of susceptible worm population maintained on farm.
- Monitoring active parasite levels with FECs before drenching. Monitoring drench efficacy 9-14 days after.
- Use an effective drench when required.
- Stockmanship.

Habit and mind set change with respect to worm control is essential for the future of sheep production.

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## Effectiveness of Teasers

**Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly**

We are well into summer now and for most January is a big lamb weaning month. It is also a good month to reflect on how your ewes performed this season and look forward to next mating.

One way to create a more compact lambing and better conception within the first cycle of mating is to use teaser rams.

Teaser rams are vasectomised rams which still produce testosterone and have a 'teasing' effect on the ewes they come in contact with. It is a known fact that the first ovulation of the season has poor fertility and subsequent ovulations are a lot more fertile and a lot more likely to result in multiples. Putting a teaser ram in for 14-17 days prior to introducing the proper rams means when rams are introduced the ewes are synchronised and the heat is more fertile.

Teasers are effective across all age groups, but the response is better the older the ewes are. However they are usually used with hoggets and two toothers which is where most of the studies on their effect are concentrated. The response rate to teasers is variable with the body condition

of the ewes, breed, weather conditions and teaser ram libido.

A study using romney hoggets found 62% of teased hoggets were mated in the first 17 days, compared to 32% of unteased hoggets. While more unteased hoggets were mated in the second 17 days. The same study found 17.8% of mated unteased hoggets were dry compared to 11% of teased hoggets across a 34 day mating period. Some of the hoggets in the study were under 36kg and did not perform well. Another NZ study found teased hoggets had at least a 16.4% higher pregnancy rate than unteased hoggets in the first 17 days of mating.

Teasers are reasonably widely used across the practice, this year to date we have done 162 ram vasectomies, up from 127 last year. We commonly seem to make pet lambs into teasers. However these numbers fluctuate as they last a few years once they've had the surgery. Our largest jobs will be nearly 30 teasers on some of the stations every few years. The recommended ratio for a

teaser is 1:200, although there are reports of higher ratios of ewes to rams being used successfully.

It is best to tag them with a cattle tag or other obvious tag as they tend to develop decent sized benign testicular lumps and give us a fright at ram palpation time.

Teasers must be vasectomised at least six weeks prior to introduction, so if you're interested, put them on your to-do list and get in contact with your local Vet Centre clinic.





# Trace Minerals and Modern Parasite Management

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutri.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

## Trace Minerals and worms

Feeding all stock well and ensuring your ewes are a good body condition score is the most important thing you can do to help them cope with a worm burden. If all this has been achieved, trace minerals can be the icing on the cake to battle the worms.

There is good evidence that selenium and copper supplementation can increase resilience to larval challenge, by increasing blood proteins. Copper can also act directly on worm larvae in the stomach if it is given orally as copper oxide needles.

Having said that – I'm not recommending copper supplementation for sheep without individual advice – most sheep flocks are more at risk of copper toxicity than deficiency, and so supplementation should be undertaken with care.

Selenium is vital for a healthy immune system – to ensure your ewes have adequate levels bloods from 5-10 ewes is sufficient (pre-tup is an ideal time), and check levels in your lambs when drafting by getting livers sampled at the works.

## White Muscle Disease in Hoggets

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutri.)  
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



A mob of ewe hoggets had been grazed on swedes over winter, and after being brought in for shearing, several animals began to stagger and become recumbent as they were being taken back to the crop the following day. Around a dozen hoggets were affected – some staggering, with most sitting or lying on their side. When lifted they attempted to walk but were weak and unable to do so. They all had good appetites. Over the next few days some of the hoggets improved and could walk off if lifted, but several had to be euthanised.

Along with the clinical signs, and the history of being grazed on swedes, and then being under stress due to the yarding and shearing, White Muscle Disease was suspected as the most likely diagnosis in this case. White Muscle Disease causes degeneration of the heart, diaphragmatic and skeletal muscles, due to a deficiency of selenium and/or Vitamin E in the diet. It can be seen in newborn lambs, when their mums' diet has been deficient, and this congenital form is usually fatal. When it occurs in older lambs or hoggets survival rates are higher as it mainly affects the skeletal muscles rather than the heart.

In this case, the affected hoggets had very low levels of both selenium and Vitamin E. The surviving animals were injected with a Se + Vit E supplement, and the rest of the mob was drenched with LSD. In future all ewe hoggets will be supplemented before going onto crop in the winter.

Vitamin E is found in green, leafy forages, and deficiency is most often seen in animals fed conserved or stored feeds. Brassicas are also low in Vitamin E, and White Muscle Disease has been reported before in hoggets grazing swedes or turnips over winter.

Selenium deficiency can be more common on crop, and in lambs born to selenium deficient mums. Heavy use of sulphur-containing fertiliser can increase the risk of selenium deficiency. Diets with high levels of PUFAs (Polyunsaturated fatty acids) combined with low selenium levels are also thought to increase the risk of this condition – lush, high quality pasture can be high in PUFAs.

Make sure your stock have had adequate selenium supplementation, and if they are at risk of Vitamin E deficiency i.e. young sheep on crop over winter – supplementation with LSD is worth considering. Along with Vitamins E, D, A & C, and chromium it also contains selenium and iodine, both needed on brassicas.

## With less drenching do we need to supplement more Trace Minerals?

Managing parasites these days can involve both fewer drenches than in past – particularly for ewes – and those drenches used may more often be a novel drench, which is not mineralised. So with not as much selenium, cobalt, and sometimes copper, zinc and iodine going down their throats with the oral drench – is this a concern?

- **Selenium** – yes, potentially. Selenium in oral drenches lasts about a month – without regular mineralised drenching additional supplementation may be necessary e.g. make sure it's in with the B12, give your ewes long-acting selenium (Selovin LA), use prills on pasture, discuss other options with your vet.
- **Cobalt** – no, you would need to drench with cobalt every few days to have an impact. Don't let lamb growth rates suffer and continue with your normal programme of supplementing your lambs with either Prolaject or Smartshot, +/- selenium. If you don't supplement, test livers of works lambs to ensure levels are adequate.
- Other minerals are often in oral drenches – copper, zinc, iodine – they are in such tiny amounts that missing out on them will make no difference. Also, your stock are very unlikely to need additional copper or zinc. However, iodine is essential over tupping and in the two months pre-lamb, especially if mums have been on brassicas. Ewes need either Flexidine long-acting iodine injection over pregnancy, or the correct dose of oral iodine at the right time e.g. LSD pre-tup/scanning/pre-lamb.



*White Muscle Disease causes degeneration of the heart, diaphragmatic and skeletal muscles, due to a deficiency of selenium and/or Vitamin E in the diet.*



*Stephen Dykes (Gladsmuir) drenches his Stud Ewes*



*Rams at Newhaven*



# Drench Performance Test

Performing a Drench Performance Test will give you an idea of what is working and what isn't at this point in the year to help you make drench decisions for your lambs this season. This can be done on farm by farmers.

This testing makes a lot of sense for farmers wanting to ensure their drench investments are working for them and help make clear decisions. Parasite populations and dynamic and change throughout the year hence the best time to do this is:

- When lambs are to receive 1st drench of the season
- In the Autumn once egg counts are high enough (>300epg)
- When one drench family has been used consecutively
- On ewes before pre-lamb.

## What is needed

- You will need 50 un-drenched lambs
- 2-3 different drenches. You can use drench already on farm or small 100ml bottles provided in the pack
- An accurate gun or syringe (in pack)
- Coloured spray for different drench groups (in pack)
- 40 FEC bags and forms for different drench groups (in pack)

## Day 1

- Collect faecal samples from 10 random lambs (un-drenched) for a pre-count FEC and drop them into your nearest Veterinary Centre clinic.
- Dose 15 lambs in each drench group accurately. Mark them with colour (e.g. Matrix = purple, Zolvix = orange, Scanda = green)

## Day 10-14

- Collect 10 FEC from lambs in each colour group. Bring the lambs in and sample straight off feed and send in samples to the Veterinary Center for counting.

## Follow up

Your case vet will report and discuss findings and assist in adapting your parasite management plan based on the results. This can be repeated in autumn to assess if the efficacy has changed or again in the ewes pre-lamb. This is designed to broadly monitor changes in worm susceptibility throughout the year and in different stock classes so that you continue to monitor what drench is an effective drench on your farm at various points in the year.

## Cost

4 x \$82+GST FEC + disposables (~\$95).  
Larval cultures are an optional extra



# Heat Stress in Dogs

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Working dogs are at risk of overheating, particularly during the weaning muster and yard work. The physical demands of the job in combination with hot summer weather can lead to heat stroke, which is a life-threatening condition. The signs are excessive panting, trying to seek shade, drooling and collapsing.

## Heat stroke is an emergency, and we must reduce their core temperature back to normal.

When a dog's core temperature begins to rise blood supply to the skin increases, but the blood supply reduces to vital internal organs such as the kidneys.

Things you can do to reduce the chances of heatstroke in your dog:

- Try to keep dogs in the shade during the hottest part of the day.
- Try to do the bulk of mustering/yard work first thing in the morning.
- Ensure dogs have lots of access to cool, clean drinking water.
- Clip long-haired dogs during summer to help with heat control.

## If you notice a dog is too hot actively cool them by:

- Put them in a trough, make sure the dog can hold its head up.
- Hose them down.
- A technique which works well is to put the dog in the dog box, wet the coat or cover them in wet towels and then go for a drive. This uses the principle of thermal dynamics by dissipating heat through evaporation and convection.

If they are lethargic and can't seem to cool down it is important you get the dog into the clinic as soon as possible



Dogs do not perspire the way humans do; in fact, the only sweat glands that they have are on the pads of their feet. Dogs pant to cool themselves.



*Training is a big part of the Veterinary Centre business and we enjoy having students at all stages. Briar Duncan from the Maniototo spent a week seeing practice before heading off to vet school next year. We think she could skip it and start now...but suppose she has to make it official.*

*All the best Briar.*



## Veterinary Centre Sheep Drench Guide

**IMPORTANT**  
The Coopers range is On-Label for Lambs & Ewes but the low dose administration is more difficult, especially in the smaller lamb doses.

**Dual Actives**  
LAMBS UNDER 20KG

**Corporal**



Albendazole, Levamisole  
with Se, Co, Cu and Zn  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Arrest Hi-Mineral**  
**DELETED**



Albendazole,  
Levamisole  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Coopers Scanda**  
Selenised



Levamisole, Oxfendazole  
with Se, Co and Zn  
**LOW DOSE: 1ml/10kg**

**Dual Actives + Tape**  
LAMBS UNDER 20KG



Albendazole, Levamisole,  
PLUS Praziquantel  
with Se, Co, Cu, Zn & I  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**First Drench**  
**DELETED**



Albendazole, Levamisole,  
PLUS Praziquantel  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Dual Actives**  
LAMBS OVER 20KG & EWES



Abamectin, Levamisole  
with Se and Co  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Switch Hi Mineral**  
**DELETED**



Abamectin, Levamisole  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Coopers Converge**



Abamectin, Levamisole  
with Se and Co  
**LOW DOSE: 1ml/10kg**

**Triple Actives**



Abamectin, Levamisole,  
Oxfendazole  
with Se and Co  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Matrix Mini Dose**  
**DELETED**



Abamectin, Levamisole,  
Oxfendazole  
with Se and Co  
**DOSE: 1ml/10kg**

**Coopers Alliance**



Abamectin, Levamisole,  
Oxfendazole  
with Se and Co  
**LOW DOSE: 1ml/10kg**

**Triple Actives + Tape**



Abamectin, Albendazole,  
Levamisole, PLUS  
Praziquantel  
with Se, Co, Cu and Zn  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

**Matrix Tape**  
**DELETED**



Abamectin, Levamisole,  
Oxfendazole, PLUS  
Praziquantel  
**DOSE: 1ml/5kg**

## Bulls- Keep Your Eyes Peeled for Poor Performance



**Luke Smyth BVSc - VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

Bulls are crucial to the success of any beef breeding enterprise. We place tremendous faith in the bulls to work alone or in small teams and continue to deliver a new crop of calves year on year.

If we set the following aspirational goals for our beef cow mating:

**95% in calf for a 3 cycle/9 week mating period.**

- **65 calves in the 1st cycle/3 weeks.**
- **20 calves in the 2nd cycle/3 weeks.**
- **10 calves in the 3rd cycle/3 weeks.**

A little time and attention to making sure the bull team is fit, free from disease and actively working is critical to achieving these goals.

### During mating

- Check bulls twice each week for the first 3 weeks and then weekly for the next 6 weeks. Get up as close as reasonably possible. Watch each bull walk, check for swellings around the sheath and for lameness. Once bulls are 6 years old and beyond their 4th breeding season, they are much more susceptible to sub-fertility, poor mating ability and breakdowns. These bulls should be subject to more rigorous scrutiny as they often fail to mate effectively and start fight with the younger bulls. Ideally bull teams would have been matched on age and body weight. I'd be deeply suspicious

of a dominance issue if a younger bull has poked up a gully and is constantly "off by himself".

- Have a spare bull or bulls available to immediately replace any that break do due to lameness, back issues, broken penis or obvious illness.
- Rotate bulls in single-sire groups to make sure that any bull infertility is covered. Single sire joining works well, but it has risks.

### After mating

Suspensions may be raised during the mating period, but scanning is the first true indicator of whether these goals have been achieved. Alarm bells start ringing when a higher-than-average empty rate occurs, particularly those results above 20% empty. In these situations, the first question I'm often asked is "could it have been the bulls". My response is to ask the question "did you have confidence in your bull team during mating" and then to suggest a deeper dive into the scanning data and examination of any suspect or broken down bulls.



*Bull checks in extensive run blocks may mean getting the binocular's or spotting scope out.*

## Sorting Ewes

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

What to keep, what gets a second chance and what to cull.

### Strategy 1: Practical farm approach

Take out light ewes with sound mouths, udders and feet, given them a drench and fresh feed for a month. If they haven't picked up then they go. Next level can be to ask why they haven't picked up.

### Get a diagnosis:

If you have got more skinny ewes than acceptable then do some tests. Veterinary post mortem study on 3-5 ewes can identify most causes of ill thrift.

- Johnes, poor molar teeth, pneumonia, liver damage, parasites are most common.

We can run samples for cobalt, copper and selenium.

Body muscle and fat reserves drive production. We all know this. Weaning reduces feed demand of ewes by 40%. Light ewes will take 2 months to genuinely rebound from weaning. Recovering light ewes to optimum conditions can be the best return on a feeding investment. No point pumping ewes that are already up to weight.



**ECTOPARASITES**



### VETRAZIN LIQUID

**Active ingredients**

- Cyromazine (long term protection).

#### Features

- Prevent flystrike.

#### Length of protection

- Up to 12 weeks protection.

#### Application

- Dilution rate 1:500.
- At least 2 litres of wash required per lamb.
- All breeds of sheep.

#### Withhold

- Meat WHP 7 days.

#### COST

- 12c +GST per Litre.

**12c**



### CYREX LIQUID

**Active ingredients**

- Cyromazine (long term protection).
- Spinosad (instant kill).

#### Features

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

#### Length of protection

- Shower/Plunge 8-12 weeks.
- Jetting 3-8 weeks.

#### Application

- Dilution rate 1:500
- At least 2 litres of wash required per lamb.
- All breeds.

#### Withhold

- Meat WHP 7 days.

#### COST

- 25c +GST per Litre.

**25c**

# Veterinary Centre

## Pre-Mating Vaccine Order Form 2023-24

Please email your order to your nearest clinic or contact your Territory Manager.

Name

Address

Phone



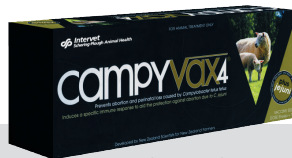
Order  
ToxoVax  
Early!

ToxoVax ACVM A004769

### 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 ACVM A009535

### 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 ACVM A007866

### Flexidine – 1.5ml Dose

- Prevents Iodine deficiency.
- 1 Injection 4 weeks pre-tup/pre-mate

Pack: 166 Doses

• Oamaru P. 03 434 5666  
E. oamaru@vet111.co.nz

• Timaru P. 03 684 5666  
E. timaru@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

• Kurow P. 03 436 0567  
E. kurow@vet111.co.nz

• Omarama P. 03 438 9868  
E. omarama@vet111.co.nz

• Glenavy P. 03 689 8118  
E. glenavy@vet111.co.nz

## ToxoVax Delivery Dates

### DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					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

### 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	29		

### MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					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

### APRIL

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				

**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 and Waimate 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.

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!

## 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 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**

