



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Worm Control Update

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

It is hard to follow-up last months left-field article on bull soundness, I thought of maybe looking at religious practices that use lamb sacrifice as a way of honouring their god/deity and likening this to refugia practices of leaving animals undrenched to honour the harmony of life and existence... but have decided I have probably offended enough cattle breeders last time to not want other communities on my case.

On a drier subject we have some sobering drench check data from around the region this Autumn. Here is a table of 54 recent samples taken post drench (7-14 days). While there are drenches still “doing a job” the situation is deteriorating with traditional drench families. If sheep farmers do not put any thought to sustainable drench and avoiding worm burdens on pasture then...it gets tricky to maintain normal operations.



Post drench FEC Average

(eggs per gram for 10 samples)

FEC average (epg)	0	5-200	>200
% of samples	22%	50%	28%



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Winter has arrived!

Andrew Fisher out on the road... keeping intouch with our farmers ... we're there rain, hail, sleet, and as you can see SNOW!



Welcome Carrie Bleach

The new face of Oamaru Vets, after 30 years in a previous role in Oamaru, and looking for to meeting all the locals.



Veterinary Conference

The recent veterinary conference attended by Veterinary Centre team. A great few days to re-charge and re-connect and to realise the world is rapidly changing around us. I am not going to worry you all about emission targets and “knowing your number”, the best the Veterinary Centre can do for you right now is a continued focus on providing really good animal health advice, service and sustainable product use...

Veterinary Centre Winter SEMINARS

Custom Footrot Vaccination

1 July – 4-5pm
Oamaru – Boots & Jandals Hotel

Sheep & Beef Seminar

7 July – 6-7pm
Waimate - Waihao Forks Hotel

Sheep & Beef Seminar

28 July – 5-7pm
Kurow – Kurow Hotel

Spring Management

4 Aug – 4-6pm
Palmerston – Waihemo Lodge

It'd be great to catch up!

Book Today

RSVP to events@vet111.co.nz

Sheep Production – Worm Control Management

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Using egg counts to assist with drenching decisions with lambs and hoggets at this time of year is very useful – almost the best time to use them. Instead of routine monthly drenching, you maybe able to hold off for another 2-8 weeks from drenching again. Strategic use of Startect (if you haven't already) and not using a triple more than 3 times in a row is prudent.



Dave Robertson doing a FEC

With worm control it is also essential to address the environmental phase of the parasite lifecycle. This is achieved through:

Genuine integration of lambs, ewes, and/or cattle. This means following lambs/hoggets with undrenched adult ewes. If ewes are in good order and adequately fed, they are net removers of a worm burden and only a fraction of the parasites consumed go on to complete their lifecycle. Cattle are useful for the clean-up of sheep parasites also. Example might be, the recent hogget grazing blocks could have a rotation of ewes through them followed by cattle in the spring.

Specialty forages for lamb's post weaning (or even for ewes and lambs pre-weaning) seem



to be one of the key ingredients to not losing production due to parasites and to maximise lamb turn-over. Now is a good time to review your agronomy plan for the next season...I think that is part of the tradition of Matariki?

BCS monitoring and feed budgeting. Coming up to pre lamb essential information for ewe flocks is going to be pregnancy status, Body condition, available feed post shearing and when the grass is going to grow more than 30kgDM/ha / day for set stocked twins (needing 3kgDM/day). To put ½ a BCS score on a BCS 2 ewe requires ~80MJME above daily maintenance where as to put ½ a score of on a BCS 2.5 ewe requires almost twice that level of energy and put weight on a BCS 3 ewe is not that useful. This maybe a moot point, as once passed 90 days pregnancy it is difficult for any twinning ewe to lay down fat. Still targeting lighter twinning ewes post scanning makes sense.

More targeted drenching of ewes is going to have to be the norm. Putting up with a few dags on singles is going to be part of that. Specialised winter and spring feed for twinning ewes are also going to be important tools for maximising ewe milk production, lamb growth rates and reducing drench requirements.



Easily identify your Refugia animals with the distinctive blue tag



Product of the Month



Startect

broad spectrum oral combination drench for sheep

- Active ingredient**
Derquantel, Abamectin
- Controls**
Itch Mite, Lungworm, Nasal Bot, Roundworm
- Withhold**
Meat 14 Days



85c Per 40kg Lamb Dose Excluding GST

OVER 15KG AND 6-12 WEEKS

ACVM A010353



Nev Powell and Bob Houston sorting ewes before the ram went out at Nev Powell's property in Waihaourunga.

Otago Merino Association Awards

TOP COMMERCIAL
Clip of the Year 2022
Patearoa Station – Charlie & Belinda Hore

OVERALL WINNER
Clip of the Year 2022
Armidale – Simon & Sarah Paterson

Mineral Options for Ewes

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Iodine. Pregnant ewes (and their lambs) need iodine. It is important for lamb birth weight and vigour. If they have not had flexidine pre-tup then supplement mid pregnancy. Half dose **Flexidine** or **LSD drench** are your options. Iodine uptake is lower when ewes

are on crops and with a lot of poorer quality "tag" around this autumn - winter the mineral consumption will also be lower.

Vitamin D. People need this during the winter, it looks like sheep do too. The recent North Canterbury trial showed benefits of injecting ewes with Vitamin A,D,E (**Hideject**). This injectable form has the highest concentration of Vitamin D (250,000IU/0.5mL dose). This vitamin is important for calcium uptake and utilization in the body. Injected ewes had significantly less bearings. You could achieve a similar result with 2 doses of LSD. Some farmers like the convenience of an intra-muscular (intra-sheep) injection.

LSD contains Vitamin A, D (10,000 IU/dose), E, + iodine (short acting), Se (2mg) and Chromium.



A Mineral Plan

Flexidine pre-tup?	Scanning	Pre-lamb
Yes	• Hideject 0.5mL IM	• Selenised drench/capsule • 5 in 1 +B12 (if not using capsule)
No	• LSD oral drench • Or 0.8mL Flexidine and 0.5mL hideject	• LSD oral drench • Selenised drench/capsule • 5 in 1 +B12 (if not using capsule)

Planning Ahead

Euan Tait BVMS
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



As vets, we are required to prescribe antibiotics for use in animals. If you don't have a current annual prescription for restricted veterinary medicines (RVM), then a point of sale prescription is required where you discuss the condition with a vet at the time of purchase.

While most conditions you treat with antibiotics are fairly routine, thinking about dose rates and treatment duration is a part of the process that is vital for good outcomes. What is the condition? How bad is the condition? What will work best? The best way to know these answers and have them at hand is to do an RVM consult with a member of our sheep and beef team.

July is a great time to catch up with us and set out what you want to achieve in the coming season. We can sort your RVM, discuss the gold standard treatment plans for certain diseases while also deciding on an animal health plan best suited to you achieving your goals. Our Animal Health Plan focuses around key performance indicators to help maximise your flock's potential. We will also discuss any production limiting diseases and appropriate worming strategies for your farming scenario. It won't take long and is a worthwhile exercise which also helps you pass your next audit easily! "Proper planning prevents poor performance".

Preventing Twisted Stomachs with Prophylactic Gastropexy



Unfortunately, twisted stomachs (GDV) are a common cause of loss of working dogs. Large breed dogs, with deep chests, especially huntaway's are much more prone to the condition than heading dogs and some lines of huntaway's are more at risk than others.

Warning signs a dog is developing a twisted stomach are: discomfort, panting, bloating, and reluctance to work. Sadly, many dogs develop twisted stomachs overnight and are found dead in their kennels in the morning.

Dogs with a twisted stomach require emergency surgery to untwist the stomach and 'fix' it back in the correct location to prevent re-occurrence.

What many people may not know is that there is a preventative solution available.

A gastropexy is a surgery where the stomach is permanently secured to the inside of the abdominal wall. After a gastropexy, a dilation of the stomach can still occur, but the life-threatening twist cannot. The surgery can be combined with de-sexing. Recovery involves 3-4 days of strict rest followed by 2 week of gentle exercise. After surgery, there may be a short period of belching as the stomach adapts to its new position but otherwise complications are uncommon.

Please ask about prophylactic gastropexy if you have an at-risk dog. In the right hands, this is a straight forward procedure that may save your dog's life.

Best practice when using Long Acting Anthelmintics

- Don't use long acting drench products in all your stock. Use minimal drenching in a proportion of your ewe flock to act as a source of refugia.
- Don't use any drench product unless you expect a significant production advantage.
- Check if capsules or long acting injections are performing by doing a faecal egg count (FEC) 60-80 days post insertion/injection.
- Check if Eweguard or Cydectin injections are performing by doing a faecal egg count (FEC) at around 30 days post injection.
- Be sure to use a triple combination drench in the lambs to avoid them "multiplying up" resistant worms.
- Seek sound veterinary advice and keep monitoring results.

IMPORTANT



NEW TRITITION

Winter Roundup



Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

As I write this, we're in the midst of a few very cold days after a pretty mild winter so far. The weather has certainly been kind, and coupled with a good growing season for crops, stock are in pretty good nick.

Crop utilisation has a huge impact on how stock will do and can really mess with your feed budget. These current dry conditions have been a dream – wastage of crop and pasture has been minimal, with good outcomes for feed intakes.

With plenty of feed around and ewes in good condition, on most places



sheep scanning results have so far been pretty good. While numbers are not up much from last year, there have been quite a few more triplets, and it's looking like it's going to be a good lambing for many farms.

Crop yields are up this season which is a bonus – as yields increase be aware of the effect on protein and energy content of the crop. For example, as fodder beet yield increases its energy content rises (as bulbs get more sugars) but protein levels drop (as proportion of leaf decreases). However, kale is lower in both energy and protein at higher yields (more stalk and less leaf). This is generally not an issue – with plenty of feed available – feed to requirements – just be aware of those classes of stock that need more protein or energy than others e.g. young growing animals may not do well on high yielding kale and late pregnant twinning ewes may not do well on high yielding fodder beet crops.

No one wants to predict what the rest of winter will hold, but if you're heading into it with plenty of feed and well-conditioned stock that's a pretty good place to be.

Look out for Slipped Lambs



Ella Swann BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

It is worthwhile to monitor for abortion occurring within your ewe flock over the winter.



On most farms a pregnancy loss of around 1-2% from scanning to birth is relatively normal. Any higher than this and would be worth investigation. Especially when clusters of abortions are noted.

Abortion in ewes can be a multifactorial involving stress, nutrition, metabolic or hormonal abnormalities. Although in New Zealand infectious causes are the most common. Most of you are familiar with *Campylobacter*, *Toxoplasmosis* and *Salmonella* Brandenburg, for which there are vaccines available. Other causes may be *Hairy shaker* disease and *Listeria*. There is also a new emerging cause of abortion caused by *Chlamydia pecorum*, first identified on a Canterbury farm in 2018. Over the last three years it has also been found in a further 5 flocks across the country. Due to its recent identification as a pathogen in New Zealand ovine abortion MPI is continuing to investigate *Chlamydia* and carry out commercial testing for this pathogen if clinically suspected in a case.

When it comes to sample collection, fresh is best. If you are concerned about abortions occurring on your farm, it would be recommended to bag aborted fetuses, with the associated placenta, label it with the date and which mob the aborted fetus came from. Fresher samples are most likely to yield a diagnosis. If at any point you are concerned about abortion on your farm, give your local clinic a call and we can start the discussion the best next steps.

Dehorning Cattle

Ella Swann BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Horned cattle are at risk of causing injury to other animals and to handlers. There are also transport limitations for horned animals. The general requirement from meat processors is that horns need to be within the tip of the ears to be able to pass through processing facilities, that is a maximum span of 550mm from tip to tip. In-grown horns are also an infringeable offence and must also be addressed on farm prior to transport.

As of the changes in Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations in regards to disbudding and dehorning of cattle that came in to effect in October 2019, it is a legal requirement that all cattle, of any age, must be under the influence of appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic throughout the disbudding/dehorning procedure.

We have recently been attending some



farm calls to dehorn cattle in anticipation of being ready for transport. In general, it is recommended to dehorn at least 2-3wks prior to transport to allow healing and reduce the risk of bleeding during transport if fresh edges are knocked. If you have any cattle requiring dehorning give one of our clinics a ring to arrange a visit, or to discuss getting started with an accreditation process so you can become authorised for the use of local anaesthetic for the dehorning procedure. This accreditation process does require annual re-accreditations in order to continue purchasing local anaesthetic.



Feet Update

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc

The main message is to not leave chronic footrot cases to "sort themselves out" this winter. The dry frosty conditions present an opportunity to have a look at feet and remove the pool of infection as much as possible. It is the last chance to REMOVE AND TREAT chronic footrot cases before set stocking.

Our tilmovet system has been in-place for over five years now. Recently a farm treated half the infected animals with oxytetracycline and the other half with tilmicosin. They achieved 85% cure with oxytet and 97% cure with tilmicosin. It still does appear that increased cure rates are achieved when feet are dry. Re-inspection 2 weeks later is essential to getting the best out of it. Please contact the Veterinary Centre about options for sorting out lame sheep before lambing.