



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

NEWETRITION

Feed Management Post-Scanning

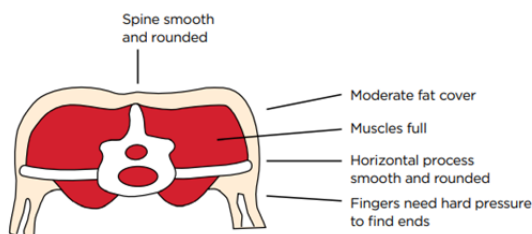
Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc (Waimate Sheep & Beef Lead)
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

It's scanning time again, and everyone wants a higher percentage than last year – even better if that can be translated into increased lamb survival and thus profit. What you do at and after scanning can directly influence this, via ewe feed management.



SCORE 3

The vertical processes are smooth and rounded; the bone is only felt with pressure. The horizontal processes are also smooth and well covered; hard pressure with the fingers is needed to find the ends. The loin muscle is full, with a moderate fat cover.



Body condition score:

- Scanning is a key time of the year to run your hand over the back of your ewes as you push them up and get some solid body condition score data.
- Ewes at target BCS will have heavier lambs and produce more milk, leading to higher weaning weights.
- The ideal BCS range is 3 – 3.5, which means the spine and short ribs are smooth and rounded, and the bones can only be felt with hard pressure. The bit you are feeling is between the end of the ribs and the pelvis.
- This is your last chance to put condition on any skinny ewes, as they won't be able to gain weight in the last 30-40 days of pregnancy.

Multiples:

- In later pregnancy, most twin or triplet bearing ewes struggle to eat enough to

meet their needs, so they take it off their backs as well – make sure they have some condition there to take off, and plenty of high-quality feed in front of them leading up to lambing.

- Picking out skinny multiple bearing ewes at scanning for priority feeding should be a priority.
- Take care with over-feeding too – the risk of bearings can increase.
- Any feed changes should be slow and managed carefully as these ewes are vulnerable to sleepy sickness.

Early/Late/Dry ewes:

- Use this information at set-stocking to save feed – keep 2nd & 3rd cycle ewes on rotation initially – some of them will still be well over 6 weeks from lambing, with a much lower feed demand.
- Get rid of dries and reduce winter feed demand.

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Selecting paddocks for lambing:

- Set-stocking multiples into paddocks with better covers will have obvious benefits for milk production and thus lamb survival.
- Poorer conditioned ewes with multiple lambs will also benefit from higher feed allocations, as they can begin to regain condition as their lambs' feed demand drops later in lactation.

Winter magic in the Maniototo



Shearing Cut Management Guidelines

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

As shearing is a highly skilled and dynamic process, skin cuts will always occur. Shearing cuts can be an animal welfare issue and may have significant consequences for the animal functions and when it can be processed. In addition to this, the issue of shearing cuts is becoming part of the consumer and marketing bodies consciousness. With this in mind, there is a push to ensure shearing wounds are taken seriously and treated appropriately.

Below are some concepts that you may already have set up to manage shearing related wounds, other proposals you will have some logistical and hassle-factor reluctance to implement.

- Get organized before shearing: Get supplies for managing wounds. Discuss/consult with your vet. Set up shed with area for separating cut animals (grade 2 and greater – see below) .
- Make up cuts board in shed with stand No. or names. This is a very effective way to record and reduce cuts that occur

during a run, more effective than a note book. This small bit of psychological incentive does apparently reduce cuts significantly. With the shearing cost going up, so to do the expectations of the farm/ sheep owner to achieve a good result.

- Discuss with gang before starting the protocol of marking and recording cuts, explain grading system. Make sure everyone is on-board with how they are prevented and managed.

Explain and agree on the division of responsibility:

Shearer identifies cut sheep with spray and drafted out. Records on cuts board.

Farmer/Animal manager

- Responsible for decisions around management of cuts.
- Consult cuts board numbers and what is coming through catching pens.
- Examine sheep separated into triage area.
- Provide first aid and pain relief if required.

See table. Triage into those that need treatment or not, those that need euthanasia, those that can be released after first aid etc.

- Monitor healing and response to treatment. Do not send animals to slaughter until wounds have healed completely.

Veterinarian

- Advice of treatment options at annual RVM/ PAR consult or as required. Discuss and prescribe antibiotics, pain relief, first aid. Provide training in managing wounds.

Example of a Cuts Board

Grade	Dan	Don	Doug
1			
2			
3			
4			

Grade	Description	Action
1	Skin grazes less than 10cm x 2cm	Leave to heal. Apply fly dip if appropriate.
2	Skin and 1st muscle layer	Clean out debris and apply topical antiseptic and fly dip +/- NSAID/ pain relief if appropriate.
3	Larger skin wounds >10cm x 2cm and/ or through muscle layers or on mobile areas (groin, shoulder)	Trained operator to clean out wound of contamination with saline. Close wound with appropriate suture pattern. Apply topical antiseptic and fly dip +/- appropriate antibiotics + NSAID/ pain relief.
4	Pizzle and scrotum Udder Tendons Major veins /arteries Eyes/head Deep into muscle layers or viscera	Seek veterinary advice on specific treatment if appropriate. Control bleeding with appropriate pressure dressing. Apply appropriate pain management and infection control if treating. Severe cases euthanase forthwith humanely.

Prescription drug	Use	Dose	Meat withhold
Intracillin LA <small>ACVM A006308</small>	Grade 3 – 4 wounds (Systemic injectable penicillin antibiotic)	1mL/10kg IM in neck Repeat 48hrly as required	30 days. Record treated animals
Metacam 20mg/mL injectable <small>ACVM A007982</small>	Grade 3 – 4 wounds Non steroidal anti-inflammatory for managing inflammation and pain.	1ml/20kg under the skin. Single use only.	11 days
Tetravet Aerosol (oxytetracycline spray) <small>ACVM A007453</small>	Grade 1-4 Topical antibiotic spray for wounds	Apply to wound once as appropriate	0 Days
Trisulfen gel (topical anaesthetic)	Apply to wounds getting stitched	2-3ml per site	
Saline (0.9%) and swabs	Flush wounds prior to stitching	As required to remove debris.	
Record all treatments and withholding times			



Winter Footrot Management



Anna Macfarlane BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

With the warm and moist conditions we had over late autumn we've seen an increased amount of footrot in flocks. However the drop in temperature over winter means a decreased spread of infection from sheep to sheep, hence an opportunity to control the level of infection in your flock before we head into the spring high challenge period.

Scanning/ shearing are great times to assess and manage the spread of footrot in your flock;

- Tip sheep and examine type and stage of infection also ruling out other causes of lameness such as abscesses, frosted mud burn.
- Remove and treat infected sheep. Treatment options include: Tenaline (ACVM A007843) or Tilmovet antibiotics (ACVM A011195) - get in touch with your vet to discuss options. For mild early-stage infections Tetravet (blue) spray may do the job. Dave has been experimenting with a "new spread-phase brew" that has shown promise if anyone is interested...
- The "clean" mob can be foot-bathed which will cure grade 1-3 lesions. Ensure sheep are standing in the bath for at least 15 minutes if any under-run type footrot is present.
- Put the "clean" mob onto pasture that hasn't been grazed by sheep in the past 4 weeks.
- Re-inspection of the "clean" mob is best practice, but difficult to achieve at this stage of the production cycle. So aiming for one last crack at removing footrot from the mob is the best you can do.

Foot work can be a time consuming process but getting on top of the infection in your flock whilst it's not spreading is a great opportunity to reset the clock on your flocks footrot status. Often management programmes tend to start at the height of an outbreak when the disease is already spreading, but intensive effort when the number of new infections are at their lowest will have the best success.

Vaccination

Footvax will reduce the amount and severity of footrot during the high challenge periods by approximately 50% depending on the season. Protection from the booster lasts for 2-4 months (less for fine wool, more for strong wool breeds), therefore timing's important so immunity is highest over spring when the challenge is greatest. For first time users, a sensitiser shot will be required at least 6 weeks before the booster shot.

- 1st time users: June/ July sensitiser and 6 weeks later booster dose
- Annual users: timing varies from farm to farm depending on risk period, pre lamb shearing and tailing are common times to give a booster shot
- Don't vaccinate within one month of lambing

Contact your local Veterinary Centre for any advice and to discuss a footrot management plan for your farm.



FootVAX ACVM A001992

Lice in Sheep



**Vanessa Love BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly**

Bovicola ovis is the main sheep louse in New Zealand. A female lives for 4-6 weeks and lays 30 eggs in her lifetime within 12mm of the skin surface. The egg to egg lifecycle takes just over one month and is spent entirely on the sheep.

Lice numbers are highest in winter and autumn, and are spread by close contact between animals. Spread is faster in poor condition sheep. For strong wool farmers, lice are more of a nuisance; for fine wool breeders, wool quality and pelt degradation can have significant financial impacts.

A ewe will spread lice to her lamb within 24 hours of its birth, therefore prelamb treatment is important. For ongoing challenge the best time to treat is when lice numbers are at their lowest-summer and at pre-lamb shearing.

The main lice treatment families:

- Spinosad- eg Expo, Extinosad. Effective lice knockdown with no known resistance and no residual activity.
- Insect growth regulators (triflumuron, diflubenzuron) eg Magnum. This group controls nymph stages, but don't kill adults which can survive for weeks after treatment. There is a prolonged residual effect. Widespread resistance exists in Australia and likely to some degree in NZ.
- Organophosphates (propratephos) eg Seraphos. This group is an important option with no known resistance in NZ
- Synthetic pyrethroids (Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin) eg Wipe-Out. This group are low dose pour-ons, often in combination with an OP or IGR chemical. There is known widespread resistance in NZ and Australia to this group.
- Neonicotinoid (Imidacloprid). Provides lice knockdown, mainly marketed as Zapp Encore with triflumuron. No recorded resistance in NZ.

Things to remember:

- If winter shearing, up to 80% of lice will be removed depending on closeness of the cut.
- For fine wool breeds with lice shorn with a cover comb, the most effective treatment options for lice are full saturation methods (shower or plunge), or a double dose of Expo pour on (read product guidelines)
- Rotate treatment chemicals, ideally that target different parts of the lice lifecycle over the seasons.
- A shower or plunge dip will provide better saturation and treatment outcomes
- Don't mix treated and untreated sheep
- No long wool treatment will eradicate lice, it will limit fleece damage and reduce spread to lambs. Expo has an emergency long wool claim but still assume they are infected. Treatment will still be needed off shears with a different chemical group.
- Check for lice at key times: pre-tup, scanning, pre-lamb and shearing.



Expo ACVM A010305



Magnum ACVM A007704



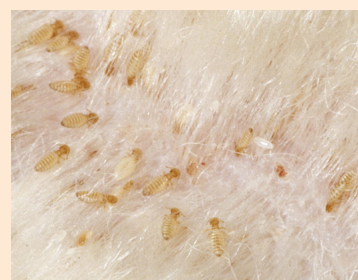
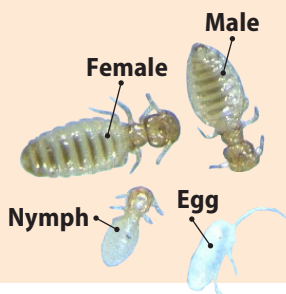
Seraphos ACVM A004365



Wipe-Out ACVM A004558



Encore ACVM A010400



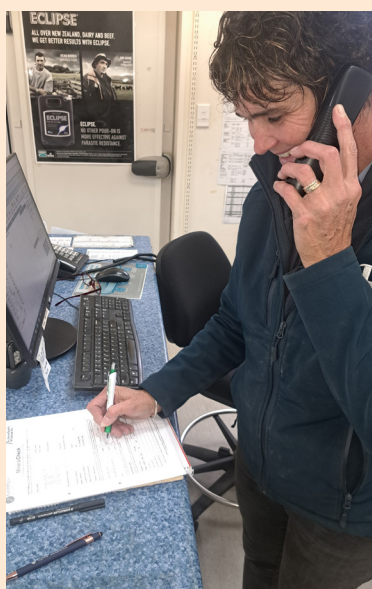
Mineral Check

Catherine Nelson BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Trace elements are the talk of the town at this time of year, when everyone is checking the herd and flock levels prior to winter. One very simple option for monitoring those mineral levels is checking the liver stores at the meatworks, with the help of a single piece of paper- the Mineral Check form- that goes with the truck driver. At least 10 animals are required to get a gauge of copper stores in the mob, as it can be variable, but just 5 samples are needed to establish selenium, cobalt and zinc levels.

One limitation of the Mineral Check option is that the cull animals are likely to be the worst-performing of the mob, so may have disproportionately low trace element stores. But it can be followed up by liver biopsies and/or blood tests for trace elements in live animals, to establish the average herd level. Mineral Check is an excellent starting point for establishing the lowest trace element levels and the process is very straightforward. Simply give us a call and we'll send you the paperwork. This includes your farm details, the name of the trucking company and the name of the meatworks the animals are going to. Then email a copy to the meatworks, give the paper copy to the stock truck driver with the ASD form, sit back and wait for the results!



Jo Sutherland filling the details on the Mineral Check form before sending back to Dan Thurlow, Ranfurly.

- Stock class
- What to test
- Which works destination
- Prime Veterinary contact



Dan Thurlow handing his filled in Mineral Check form with the ASD docket to the truck driver. Pretty easy way to get some useful information on cobalt, copper and selenium levels this winter.

Constipation in Working Dogs

Sarah Boys BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Constipation is very common in our working dogs, especially Huntaways.

Potential causes

- Diet: working dogs are typically fed a high proportion of meat in their diets with a low fibre content with predisposes to constipation.
- Enlargement of the prostate: commonly seen in older, entire male dogs
- A narrow pelvis following abnormal healing of pelvic fractures.
- Arthritis and stiffness. Hardworking huntaways are predisposed to a condition of the back known as spondylitis deformans which is when the body has attempted to form a bone bridge between vertebrae. This condition can result in reduced flexibility of the back and can make lifting the tail and posturing to defecate difficult.



Signs of Constipation

- Straining to defecate and only passing small amounts of liquid, mucous or nothing at all.

- Appearing generally uncomfortable
- Being off food
- Vomiting

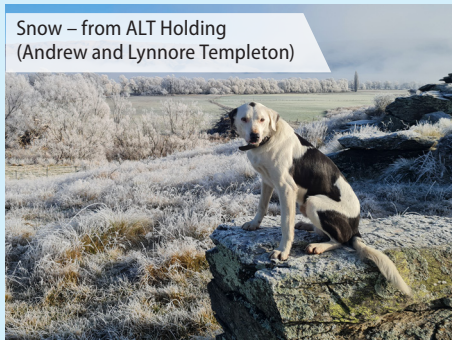
Management

Early treatment is key to avoid the need for procedures under general anaesthetic and reducing the risk of long term damage to the rectum and colon. Untreated or repeated episodes of constipation can result in obstipation requiring surgical removal of much of the colon.

Preventing Constipation

- Provide a diet high in fibre with unlimited access to water such as Royal Canin 4800
- Castrate male dogs once fully grown or no longer required for breeding to prevent benign enlargement of the prostate gland
- Avoid feeding bones that can splinter or be swallowed

Snow – from ALT Holding
(Andrew and Lynnore Templeton)



Merino Awards



Congratulations to the winners at this year's Merino Awards held in Wanaka on June 9th held by the Otago Merino Association.

It was great to see so many clients prominent in the results across the various categories. Benmore Station (Top Stud Clip) and Foulden Hill (Top Commercial Clip) took out the premier awards. Congratulations to Shane and Lindon Flanders of Little Valley Station who took out the Veterinary Centre sponsored superfine section of the Child Cancer Fleece competition.



Shane Sanders, from Little Valley Station, and the winning fleece in the Child Cancer Foundation fleece competition.
PHOTOS: NATALIE SYMONDS/RUN IN THE SHADOWS

Introducing

Kristina Gee BVSc BS VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I was born and raised in the mountains of California, I have always loved the mountains and sea. I attended Lincoln University in 2015, and returned to pursue my passions in the Veterinary Degree. I have a Bachelors degree in Meat Science, which drives my passions towards beef genetics around carcass development and muscle to fat ratio. I love New Zealand's fine wool sheep and the aspects of management across the country.



Outside of work, I love everything outdoors rain or shine, which made New Zealand the perfect place to call home. Scuba diving, snow sports, rock climbing, mountain biking and multi-day tramping are just a few of my hobbies outside of work. The most rewarding trail I recently completed was the Dusky Sounds Track in Fiordland!

Jin Tan BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

I grew up in Malaysia and arrived in New Zealand in 2018 for vet school. I always grew up with animals, especially dogs. I found my interest in production animals while doing a variety of placements in vet school.

Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, tramping and other outdoor activities. I like playing music for my own entertainment as well.



I am passionate about flock health management and maximizing ewe efficiency in sheep and beef industry. I am looking forward to learning more about sheep and beef farming in this region



Veterinary Centre EwesNews EXTRA

Should you drench ewes mid pregnancy rather than pre-lamb?



Aroha Te Hiko BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



This autumn has been very favorable for parasite development and large numbers of infective larvae have established on pasture. Drenching adult stock, in light of the emerging resistance issue, is a decision that should be given careful thought. With the loss of long-acting capsules, and increasing drench resistance, utilising ewe body condition as a farm management tool will be key for maximising farm system productivity. Scanning is the last chance to target your low body condition ewes and improve their status before lambing.

Best practice involves understanding your current situation, both in terms of egg counts, and resistance status so you can make an informed decision. Will ewes benefit from removing an active worm population now (mid pregnancy/before shearing) rather than leave it to set stocking/pre-lamb?

Shearing and Pre-lamb Composite Faecal Egg Count (cFEC) initiative

A new concept the Veterinary Centre is running this winter is to assess the active worm burden at the mob level. Rather than taking 10 samples for individual counting, this consists of collecting 15–30 fresh samples from each mob (still in separate bags). At the clinic we combine a sample from each to generate 3 counts as an estimate the FEC of the mob. This method has been validated and correlates well with 10 individual counts. The object is to:

- Widen the number of sheep and mobs sampled. For 9 counts you can sample up to 100 sheep
- Reduce the cost and time of FEC counting.

Out comes from mid winter/pregnancy Composite FEC (considering BCS and other history):

- Drench everything (leaving fats)
- Prioritize light ewes (as above) +/- younger ewes i.e. 2ths to clear out parasites picked up over autumn to help improve BCS at lambing.
- Not drench ewes and reassess pre-lamb.

We will still use the individual FEC (iFEC) counts for post drench checks to increase sensitivity.

What drench to use?

The best answer to this is use a product that works. This will vary for each farm so it is best to discuss your options with your vet and put in place monitoring plans.

Catch up and Make a Plan

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



There is a great deal of benefits for all farm systems to review their animal health investments with a veterinarian this winter. Like a meeting with the bank or accountant, an Animal Health Planning session is core to the farm financial system.

Pre-lamb is a good starting point for a discussion, the landscape of drenches and effectiveness has moved considerably. The worm control world is less certain and requires focus and planning to navigate these days. The decisions made for capital stock have consequences for the lamb worm control system – not just yours but whoever purchases stock from you...

For sheep/lamb traders, the need for interrogation of quarantine practices has never been greater. Thought into how drench efficacy is maintained is not straight forward.

Prescription drug supply and review is part of most animal health discussions these days, and is a requirement for most audits. Antibiotics are an important and finite resource. They require stewardship and guidance on their use. Pain management is gaining consciousness and there are interesting discussions within this space.

Application of prescription vaccines such as Footvax (ACVM A001992) ... takes some planning to get the best out of it. Johnes vaccine and BVD are other areas that require rationale and planning. Good old 5 in 1 still needs dusting off and improving sometimes.

An animal health plan and RVM (Restricted Veterinary Medicine) catch up will help you budget correctly, feel in control of the health of your main asset and is a chance to challenge established practices and improve performance. Book one this winter before we get busy with...everything else.



Do my Ewes need Vit B12 Pre-lamb?

Luke Smyth BVSc –
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



There is logic to supplementing ewes with Vit B12 prelamb, but this is more for the sake of the lamb. B12 uptake is variable and deficiency is harder to predict in adult stock.

Dietary cobalt is converted to Vit B12 by rumen micro-organisms. Vit B12 is involved in energy and protein metabolism, so it is essential for growth and health.

Pasture Cobalt levels are lower in spring & summer pasture and higher in the autumn and winter pasture. Young growing lambs are the most susceptible to cobalt deficiency as they have the highest Vit B12 requirements of any stock class. Vit B12 deficiency in lambs tends to be associated with lush spring pasture.

While Vit B12 is transferred across the ewe's placenta and deposited into the lamb's liver during pregnancy, milk is not a particularly rich source of Vit B12 for suckling lambs.

Data shows that any benefit to the lamb of increasing the Vit B12 status of the ewe is unlikely to last much beyond 5 weeks of age, especially as by 8 weeks of age half the lambs energy intake is from herbage.

The best way to improve the long-term Vit B12 and selenium status of lambs is to supplement the lambs directly at around 3-4 weeks of age. This is a critical transition period during which time the lamb's liver source of B12 becomes depleted and rumen function is becoming established.

Tailing is the logical time to give a long-acting Smart Shot plus Selenium injection to lambs.

Lambs for slaughter	0.5ml will maintain Vit B12 + Se levels for 3-4 months.
Keeper lambs	1ml will maintain Vit B12 + Se levels for 6-8 months.



SMARTSHOT ACVM A009402



Veterinary Centre

- Oamaru Ph 03 434 5666
- Timaru **COMING SOON!** Ph 03 684 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

FREE PHONE 0800 838 111



FREE Faecal Egg Count

If you purchase your Long Acting Drench Injection from any of our Veterinary practices, you automatically receive a FREE Egg Pack to check efficacy of the product after use.

