



EWES NEWS



Zapp Encore

Gold standard, Dual active Lice Treatment

Containing

- Imidacloprid for Fast knockdown
- Triflumuron for Long term protection (IGR action for 20 weeks).

Rainfast label claim -

- sheep may be treated when wet
- rainfall 2 hours after treatment will not reduce product effectiveness.

And Zapp Encore also has a label claim for up to 6 months for course wool

Note - 56 Days Meat withhold

- Price \$639 each for 2 or \$659 for one
- Promotion with Victorinox Boning knife and steel

Finewool 65kg dose = 25ml = \$0.69
Course wool 75kg dose 23ml = \$0.63



Horse drench, food and supplementation in winter time



Babiche Heil DVM, MSc., DipACT, MANZCVS
Ranfurly Veterinary Centre

Drenching horses is as important as the sheep and cattle on the farm and correct management can save you lots in the long run. This time of the year all horses should receive Ultra-mox appropriate for their weight, a large horse may need 1.5 tube. Please contact us for a farm specific drench plan for the horses year-round. Winterfeeding horses is often done on an individual basis.



Weanlings and yearlings benefit from a complete feed containing all the vitamins, minerals and trace elements to ensure healthy bone development and reduce the incidence of bone fragments.

Pregnant mares should be started on a commercial broodmare mix 3 months prior to foaling to ensure adequate intake of calcium, phosphorus, copper, iron, Vitamin A and E. Once

on a broodmare mix, selenium supplementation is no longer needed. If you don't feed your horse a complete hard feed during winter, selenium supplementation can easily be achieved. Start with a blood test to establish a base level of selenium through the horses' main diet. Supplementation to reach the total amount of selenium in the diet of 1 – 10 mg per day can be done by giving oral Selenium Drench 1mg or 5mg as required. Be aware: a total intake of 20 mg or more per day is toxic to horses.

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- Which of these bulls is sound for breeding?
- Over the last 2 weeks 20% of service bulls tested by the Veterinary Centre have failed a routine Mating Ability Test (M.A.T.)
- Nationally 45% of ineffective bulls from the previous season go out with cows the next year...
- Are all your bulls good to go for another season? A M.A.T. can help objectively answer this question. Call a Veterinary Centre vet to discuss.

Dave Robertson
BVSc, BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Pregnancy Scanning Hinds



Luke Smyth BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Pregnancy scanning of hinds is highly recommended if you want to get the most from your fawning.

It can be used as a tool to:

- Remove empty hinds to save feeding them over the winter. A hind can eat up to 200kg's of dry matter over a 90 day period.
- Identify early and late fawners. This allows preferential feeding based on likely fawning date. Well-fed hinds prior to fawning have better mammary development and consequently increased milk production. Early born fawns have higher weaning weights.

- Identify potential stag failures early.
- Provides valuable information if you need to investigate a low fawning to weaning percentage - were they ever in fawn to begin with?

To get the most out of your hind scanning it is essential that you plan carefully to ensure that it is carried out at the appropriate time.

Hinds can be diagnosed as pregnant from about 30 days of pregnancy onwards. After about 120 days of pregnancy, it may still be possible to scan a hind and pick up a pregnancy however they can be missed and incorrectly diagnosed as empty because an advanced pregnancy has a tendency to fall deep into the abdomen. In deer, we do not have the luxury of inserting an arm to check!

In other words, scan your hinds at least 30-35 days after stag removal and before



120 days after he was introduced.

For example, with a three cycle mating, there is only a three-week window for optimal scanning. If your stag goes in on March 10 and is removed on May 13, the window for scanning is June 13 to July 8.

If you are going to scan your hinds this year please book in early to optimise your timing, and feel free to discuss the timing of scanning, suitability of your facilities and the help required.



Feeding Fodder Beet to Sheep & Beef



Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc & Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Beef: Fodder beet can be a cheap source of energy dense (12MJME/kgDM) feed during late autumn and over winter for R1, R2 and adult cattle.

The principal risk of fodder beet feeding is ruminal acidosis. This almost always occurs during the transition period or when animals are being held at feeding levels below maximum intakes and breakouts occur. As such it's recommended to **carefully transition animals** until they are eating ad lib/maximum intakes of FB. This will maximise LWGs and be the most profitable use of feed. It also greatly reduces the risk of acidosis if there's a breakout (because they're already used to eating the maximum they can). During this period always feed fibre first so stock are not going on hungry.

R1's:

Day 1 - ½ kg of FB + 4 Kg of supplement
Next 2 weeks - Increase FB by ½ kg every second day, slowly reduce supplement
Day 14 - Should be eating 4-5 Kg FB + 2 Kg supplement
Day 21 - Feed ad lib + 1 Kg supplement

R2's:

Day 1 - 1-2 kg of FB + 6-8 Kg of supplement
Next 2 weeks - Increase FB by 1 kg every second day, slowly reduce supplement
Day 14 - Should be eating 8 Kg FB + 2-4 Kg supplement
Day 21 - Feed ad lib + 2 Kg supplement

Sheep are far less prone to rumen acidosis than cattle are due to their grazing behaviour. As such transitioning sheep is a more straightforward process usually involving running onto beet for a few hours a day for several days before then shutting them in there with supplement available (100g/h/d). Lambs won't fatten on a fodder beet only diet because the protein level is too low. To get young stock to perform 50% FB and 50%

quality grass is recommended. Quality lucerne baleage is the other option.

Clostridial disease – All animals should be vaccinated against clostridial disease before going onto fodder beet, particularly R1's, R2's & sheep. Sheep are significantly more susceptible to clostridial disease than cattle and it is critical they are fully vaccinated. For lambs this should consist of a course (2 shots) of 5-in-1 or Covexin 10-in-1. Adult animals should receive a booster at least 2 weeks before going onto crop as well if they have been routinely vaccinated pre-lamb.

Jerry Hurst, sheep & beef farmer near Waihao Downs has been growing fodder beet for about 6 – 7 years. It fits in well with his system with an excellent yield from a small area, and it will hold its quality over the season so has the flexibility to be fed over an extended period of time. This year it's probably just going to the R1's, with maybe some to the hoggets later on – "if there's enough – the yield has been back a bit this year with the lack of moisture this autumn".

Jerry has always grown Brigadier, the youngstock utilise it well and are able to roll the beets out, with no chips left in the ground. He's feeding it with a higher protein grass & clover baleage, plus some straw. He drives the tractor over the bulbs initially to break them up, and builds allocations up slowly over 2 weeks, with access to supplement and a grass headland. "The calves have done well every year we've had them



Pre-lamb Drenching

Dave Robertson BVSc, BSc

We sell quality products with sound advice, supported by a commitment to monitoring effectiveness. This pre-lamb we want you to maximise your return on investment by making sure you target the sheep that are going to need it most.

The sustainable worm control message is a targeted approach. Long acting drench to give the best return on investment in ewes under nutritional stress, multiples and in hoggets and 2 tooth. Managing an un-drenched population of ewes on farm is also best practice for delaying the onset of drench resistance. This undrenched population is generally better condition ewes and/or singles. Tagging undrenched ewes is important for monitoring. These ewes can be drafted at weaning to supply refugia to lamb finishing/hoggets. Ask your territory manager or Jeff

Spillane for some refugia tags with your order.

The fact is parasitism is always going to be a cost to production, so we need to ensure the drenches we have now continue to work in the future.

I do encourage farmers to discuss with our Veterinary team how best to manage parasitism this pre-lamb.

To Do:

- Get a plan for worm control. It is also a good opportunity to develop a general animal health plan and rationalise prescription medicines.
- Work some refugia into your plan.
- Long acting drenches have worked well, but it is essential now to plan their use with application of sustainable management principles.



“Newetration”

Lucy Cameron BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Feed quality & fodder beet

When doing your feed budget remember to allocate based not just on **feed quantity** (i.e. meeting dry matter/energy requirements) but also on **feed quality** (i.e. what nutrients do your stock require in addition to energy).

After energy, the next most common limiting nutrient is protein. Without sufficient protein animals will struggle to grow lean tissue and support the demands of pregnancy and lactation. On a leafy grass based diet protein will not be an issue, but at this time of the year with crops being fed and silage/grain fed out, protein levels can be lower than ideal for some stock.

Young growing animals, and pregnant & lactating animals need more protein:

- R1 calves/hoggets need 16-17% CP (crude protein)
- R2's need 14-15% CP
- Lactating ewes need at least 15% CP
- Heavily pregnant twin bearing ewes need 16-18% CP in the diet

To find out how much protein you're feeding do a feed test. Using a “book value” for crops & grain will give you a ballpark figure, but for silage the quality can be very variable – you won't know how good it is – or isn't – unless you get it tested. Use the result to prioritise what group gets the good quality supplement and what group can manage with the more average feed.

Fodder Beet is a low protein feed, with bulbs generally 7-9% crude protein. Most of the protein is in the leaf, but depending on the stock class being fed this is often not enough to balance the bulbs especially as leaf reduces later in the season.

In a recent study by AgResearch twin bearing ewes in mid to late pregnancy were grazed on either fodder beet OR ryegrass. The lambs born to the fodder beet ewes:

- were smaller than those born to the grass fed ewes
- had a higher death rate (31% lost from scanning to weaning vs 14%)
- had lower growth rates pre-weaning

The ewes on the FB gained less weight, had a lower BCS & needed iodine supplementation. Fodder beet may be not only

short on protein, but also specific amino acids important for fetal development.

If you're grazing your ewes on fodder beet this winter:

- feed additional protein & fibre – a good protein supplement such as grass or lucerne silage/baleage
- shifting ewes daily means they get access to the higher protein leaf every day
- consider a lower dry matter variety with more leaf e.g. Brigadier
- supplement ewes with iodine e.g. Flexidine or LSD
- vaccinate for clostridial disease (5-in-1/Covexin)



Fred & Olive Cameron enjoying their time in fodderbeet

OUR CLINICS

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Veterinary Centre Ranfurly

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Dermatitis - Lumpy Wool

Bridget Roulston BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Lumpy wool/'Dermo'/Dermatitis in sheep is caused by a bacteria (*Dermatophilus congolensis*). This bacterium is normally found inactive on the skin of sheep or in small scabs when the skin is dry. When skin becomes moist for a period of time (think prune like fingers after a long bath) the bacteria can proliferate and cause the skin to become inflamed, release an exudate (goo) and form scabs – making the wool lumpy. The disease affects young animals (or naïve older sheep) as once immunity is gained it is long lasting. Yarding (close contact), of young sheep (low immunity), following persistent rain or after dipping (wet sheep), increases the likelihood of cases. Animals generally are not itchy, but can have significant wool loss particularly over their back. Sheep develop some immunity, and the infection heals up over 4-6 weeks, some animals may not gain immunity and become chronically infected. Animals can be treated with a 1% Zinc sulphate dip or a three day antibiotic course. Some chronically infected animals may need to be culled. Safety First: Avoid handling sheep affected by dermatitis when they are wet, because the disease can cause a skin infection in humans.

Culling Decisions



Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Given the season we are having and the difficulties getting stock to the works or off farm, the end of mating could be a chance to de-stock if things are looking tight for winter.

Obviously nobody likes the thought of having to get rid of capital stock, but we should be flexible and if holding onto too many numbers over winter results in feed demand above feed supply, ewe body condition, lamb survivability, pre-weaning growth rates and overall farm productivity will suffer.

The decision then is obviously which ones to start with. Any animals with defects are an obvious first choice, so if not already done so after weaning, then mouching, uddering and checking feet are a great start.

Studies have shown that ewes with udder defects will only wean 50% the number of lambs, and the ones they do rear, will be 2 Kg lighter, than ewes with healthy udders will.

Beyond this or if this has already been done, then culling the lightest ewes will be the next choice. These are ewes with a BCS of 2 or below. These obviously will not have been scanned yet so some that do get culled will be in lamb. Whilst this may seem unpalatable to most, it has been shown that a ewe in BCS 2 or below has a 16% chance of being dead or missing by weaning, meaning a cost of loss of the ewe, her lambs and the pasture she ate over winter. By culling early you save on winter feed and better performance from the rest of your flock.

You will need to account for the fact that you will have some a percentage of dries at scanning that will need to be culled to get to final wintering numbers.

Doing a farm walk, stock reconciliation and a feed budget will give you a lot of information to see where you are placed for winter and to base culling decisions on.

Keeping Working Dogs Fit and Healthy over winter

Sarah Boys BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



As we head into winter the working dogs are due for a well-deserved break. However, too much rest is not always a good thing. It is important to ensure that

these 'farm athletes' get daily exercise to maintain a base level of fitness. It is common for us to see an increased number of working dog injuries in the spring as dogs don't quite manage to clear the fence as easily as when they were fit or are a little slower getting out of the way of a kicking cow. Maintaining a base fitness may simply involve running the team down to the sheep yards once a day, instead of just letting them out for toileting

achieve an ideal body condition. An ideal conditioned working dog has a high quality coat, a slip of fat preventing the ribs from showing and an obvious waist. For many working dogs, winter is an opportunity to gain half a condition score although it is equally important to prevent over conditioning. Allowances must be made for the energy required to keep warm – dog coats are a big help here.

Now is also a great time to review the health of your working dogs – check for broken teeth and monitor for signs of arthritis or niggling lameness in the cooler weather.

around the kennels. Over winter, adjustments in feeding may be required to



Timely reminders

Beef cattle production.

- Long acting selenium and boost of copper prior to calving.
- BVD vaccine can be given as a sensitizer prior to calving, boosting again prior to mating.
- Service testing bulls is also useful information to assess how many bulls are required. We can also do foot maintenance to extend their longevity.