



It's Time to Use Novel Active Drenches Dave Robertson BVSc, BSC

There are a number of reasons to use novel active drenches and March - April seem to be the most logical time to incorporate them into a lamb drenching program. The theory is, it will clean out any resistant worms that may have accumulated and ensure they are not carried through into the winter. We are starting to see triple drench resistance emerge around the country. It may only be a matter of time before it ends up on your place. So we need to do everything to prevent this happening. The way we move stock around farm and the decisions made around refugia

will have a large influence on whether resistant worms are selected.

- Monitor more with Faecal Egg Count (FEC). It is dry at the moment so in some situations a FEC at 5 weeks post drench may be more appropriate than a standard drench.
- When drenching have a refugia plan. "Today we are only going to drench BCS 2 ewes" or "we are going to leave 10 ewes every race" or "we are going to follow lambs with un-drenched ewes" or "we are going to run 100 un-drenched refugia ewes with ewe hoggets".

- Quarantine drench practices. Triple drench may no longer be the safeguard against resistance it used to be. Make a decision to use a novel active if bringing in new lines of animals. Have a quarantine area.
- After repeated triple drenches make it a policy to use Startect or Zolvix Plus once in the season prior to winter.

Drench resistance is going to become more of an issue. Those that have adapted their policies with more targeted treatments, have a refugia plan and know their status with doing an FECRT are in a much stronger position.

Autumn is the most effective time to use novel active drenches to delay the onset of drench resistance



Triple drench resistance has been detected in our district. Celia helping Jeff out with an Autumn Startect order.

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Fine Wool Trading Hoggets

Footrot Management

Don't waste a good dry period. NOW is the time to put the work into removing the source of infection. This also applies to cross-bred farmers.



summer, don't let the hard work be undone. The "clean mob" will need re-checking prior to mating. Left unchecked in these conditions <1% footrot

can again become >10%. Troughing can help keep a lid on transmission when it is spreading, but tipping over and inspecting is really what is needed when it is dry. The aim is for 2 clear inspections 60 days apart.

With transport regulations tightening around sending lame sheep and the shortage of capital stock, treating lame ewes with antibiotics is a viable option. In dry conditions cure rates also improve and re-infection rates drop.

Do I Footvax? Sensitisation can begin in the autumn in preparation for a spring booster to give protection

over lambing. Those farmers investing in footvax do so to safeguard against a wet season blowing feet out. Footvax will at least halve footrot rate and reduce severity through periods when not much else can be done (mating and lambing).

SHEEP GENETICS AND FEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY meeting KUROW March 26
Venue and time to be arranged. Mark Ferguson speaking and Dave Robertson facilitating. Please contact Dave Robertson to register interest.

Ewe Hogget Target Weights

Enquiries about hogget mating have begun. It has been very profitable for farmers in the last 2 seasons, especially when well managed. March is the time to make the "go or no go" call. Abortion prevention with toxovax and campyvax are essential for the generally naïve hogget, so too is worm control and B12 - Se - Iodine supplementation.

Designing yourself a weight target program will help keep you on track with building the all-important frame size up to the 1st of July. For example:

Month	Target min wt	Animal health
March 5	35kg	Toxo and 1st Campy Bionic capule (or Matrix x2 then Startect)
April 10	38kg	2nd Campy + Flexidine Teaser (April 19)
May 5	42kg	Rams out 1:50-100 Startect drench (25-35days)
June 1	46kg	
July 1	50kg	

Teasers will help concentrate more pregnancies in the 1st cycle of hogget.

Flexidine Return on Investment



Can you justify an investment in Iodine? Lamb survival is the biggest area of potential gain in sheep production. For a 3000 ewe flock scanning at 160% and tailing at 130%, only needs to save an extra 20 lambs to get a return. That is only 0.5% increase required. If you close the lamb loss gap by 5% due to Iodine supplementation that is another 150 lambs. At \$120/lamb that is another \$18,000 income from a \$2,400 investment. There is enough evidence to show Iodine is an issue in high country areas and when ewes are wintered on brassicas. Iodine deficiency has a part to play in the lamb birth weight and survival complex. **CONCLUSION** Iodine can be justified financially very easily with less than 1% lift in lamb survival.

Fly Prior to Mating

By March - April CliK applications or weaning jetting products are starting to wain. Ewe hoggets and ewes will need a crutch and fly treatment to avoid the late Autumn fly strike challenge.

Cyrazin KO is similar to Cyrex with respect to fly treatment, but has Ivermectin which is a potent lice control option. Cyrex is a very good product but we can't keep hammering this chemical and expect the same result.

Whilst laproscopically AI-ing ewes if any came through with a small spot of fly strike they would not have cycled and would not get in-lamb. This is perhaps an insidious cost of fly strike.



Ewes with even a small spot of fly strike do not cycle or get in lamb.

Developments in Drenching Deer

The past few years have seen a huge increase in studies, trials and research relating to parasites of farmed deer.

We know that both lungworm and gut worms need to be controlled in weaners. Like any young livestock they have not developed any immunity against parasites, and they rely on your management to keep parasites under control. We all know that high challenges of either lungworm or gut worms can be fatal. Lungworm challenge is typically high in late summer/early autumn while gut worms tend to build up in numbers over autumn and can be high going into winter. In spring, lungworm is not an issue generally, but gut worms can be a significant problem.

Most deer farmers are now asking what should I be using in my weaners. The question of what product to use is a simple one - an effective triple combination. But what does this look like?



Recent work using a mixture of Exodus pour on (Moxidectin) + Oxfen C Plus (Oxfendazole + Levamisole) has proven highly effective.

- Mix 2.5L Exodus pour on + 2.5L Oxfen C Plus. 50:50 ratio.
- Give the mix orally at the dose rate of 1ml/5kg bodyweight.
- Once mixed it is stable for 6 weeks at room temperature as a white suspension.
- A 39 day meat withholding has been shown to be adequate with a veterinary prescription.



Luke Smyth BVSc

Management Crucial to Parasite Control in Deer

Your management is crucial to parasite control and the amount you have to rely on drench. You need to get into the mind set of constantly evaluating the level of parasite challenge you are exposing your weaners to.

- Ingestion of infective parasites is higher the lower you force weaners to graze
- Areas of the farm that are constantly used for weaner grazing will build up higher levels of infective worms
- Utilise new pastures for weaners and "cleaner" pastures eg post-baleage/silage harvest
- Weaners that are post-rut weaned tend to need less drenching through autumn
- Use other livestock to "clean up" pastures behind weaners. Integrated farming will play a huge part in sustainable parasite control in future
- When to start drenching weaners and how often is entirely dependent on the level of parasite challenge on an individual farm. We do know that infective lungworm and gut worms will be on many deer farms in January and animal health issues can arise which necessitate that first drench being given in late January/early February. This is particularly so on the more intensive deer farming operations.

Local deer farmers who have had a drenching programme developed by the Veterinary Centre are now getting their animals away earlier at heavier weights.

Luke Smyth BVSc

Beef Cow Pregnancy Testing

Dave Robertson BVSc, BSC

March is the optimal month to capture pregnancy testing data. We have waded our way through over 100,000 aged pregnancy tests in dairy cows in the practice over the last 2 months, so we are looking forward to a change of cow type and environment!

Bull removal date	Optimum scanning time for foetal aging
Jan 20	March 1 - 20
Feb 1	March 10 - 30

We can obviously pregnancy test later than this, but past 110 days (3.5 months) estimation of calving date is harder to do.

At the Veterinary Centre we're not just about the pregnancy testing, we also can monitor mineral and BVD status of your herd.

Ring the clinic to book in, or discuss with your vet about this all important monitoring step in beef production.



A 90 day heifer calf foetus from a beef cow AI program.

FECRT Roundup

Clients getting on board with sustainable drenching principles. Below are a few of the farms that we have visited recently to complete Drench Reduction tests on.



Mark Prebble assisting Emily Sheehan complete the FECRT for his farm.



John Mathias at Omarama Station.



James Dempster - Day one FECRT done and dusted.



Euan administrating drench as part of a FECRT at Tim Camerons



A Phil Nicolson mob checked to determine the drench status on his farm



Ryan Phillips counting eggs with the help of Andrew Fisher.



Celia about to begin a FECRT at Rocklands Station in Strath Taieri.



The final act of veterinarian Bridget Roulston's FECRT at Attadale. Getting Paul Peek to change her flat tyre.