



# EWES NEWS



## Worm Control Options this Autumn

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

After a rain event it can take a couple of weeks for the sugars to re-establish in grass and it is also an opportunity for parasite larvae to re-emerge and have a chance to complete their life-cycle. With dewy mornings and warm day-time conditions internal parasites have much faster development to the infective stage (7 days from egg hatch to infective larvae) and much better egg hatch rate. In these conditions worm control in lambs/hoggets, 2 tooth and lighter mixed age ewes is beneficial. For the most part an effective combination oral drench is sufficient. For lambs drench interval needs to be every 28-30 days. **DON'T LET YOUR DRENCH INTERVAL SNEAK OUT TO 5 WEEKS+** unless you monitor with an egg count. The worm burden on the ground can ramp up very quickly when drench intervals are stretched out and mobs are set stocked. If lamb feed

has become "wormy" (e.g. under irrigation or constant lamb grazing since January) then persistent acting drenches can get your lambs out of a parasite rut. Trimox oral, Exodus or cydectin LA, capsules are options. For fine wool lamb traders long injectable drench is very appealing to keep them going well through the autumn.

**New product** just released is **Bionic Plus Hogget** for lambs 20-40kg. They are similar to a standard bionic capsule, just with the size and dose wound back. They will be most suited to fine wool lambs going through the winter, especially if on irrigation. Refugia is important I would recommend 50-100 undrenched ewes/mob to supply parasite turn-over without exposure to drench. Egg count monitoring at 60-80days essential.

**Using a novel active drench** on lambs/hoggets at some stage through March – May is recommended to clean out any resistant

parasites that have accumulated. This practice is becoming mainstream as farmers realise we cannot keep hammering our existing drench families. Zolvix plus and Startect are the two options. Farms where certain drench resistance has been diagnosed then targeted use of novels on ewes pre-tup is advised (e.g. Startect to 2 tooth, light ewes). In these conditions using adult cattle behind lambs, or ewes behind calves is a very good way of maintaining lower levels of parasite burdens through a "wormy autumn".



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## 2021 SHEEP & BEEF ROADSHOWS

Join us for our informative & entertaining roadshow!

### Veterinary Centre Road Show is back!

An action-packed hour of practical, relevant animal health info. Plus a good chance for a catch-up with neighbours.

#### 3 TOPICAL TALKS

- **The Beef fertility equation.** What is the ideal cow? Why are fertility aspects of beef cow production 10x more profitable than beef characteristics? What can you do about it?
- **Veterinary Centre footrot research.** A preliminary update on custom vaccine trials and fielding your questions.
- **Autumn worm control.** Monitoring and navigating drench resistance build up.

<b>Ranfurly</b>	Thursday March 18	4.30pm	Lion Hotel Ranfurly
<b>Middlemarch</b>	Wednesday March 24	4.30 pm	Middlemarch Bowls Club
<b>Omarama</b>	Thursday March 25	2.30pm	Omarama Hotel
<b>Kurow</b>	Thursday March 25	5pm	Kurow Hotel

### OUR CLINICS

**Oamaru** Ph 03 434 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



# “Newetrition”

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc  
Waimate Veterinary Centre



## Flushing ewes – is it worthwhile?

It really depends on what body condition score your ewes are in to start with, and how much extra feed you have:

- Focus on **lower BCS ewes** – 2.0-2.5 – for the best response
- Feed these ewes well for at least 3 weeks and **ideally 4-6 weeks** prior to mating
- Ideally all ewes will be on a rising plane of nutrition as they go into mating
- Using **high quality leafy green feed** (if available) rather than supplement will be more economic
- Consider whether this feed would be better utilised for finishing lambs

It is **more efficient to hold ewe BCS from weaning to mating than it is to regain this liveweight** – a ewe gains 17 MJ ME when she loses a kg LW, but needs 65 MJ ME to gain a kg LW – a difference of **48 MJ ME!!** Roughly **4 kg DM** top quality feed.

### What feeds are safe to use for flushing ewes?

Phytoestrogens found in red clover, subterranean clover and lucerne are

known to cause issues with fertility and reproduction. However, many farmers successfully flush and mate their ewes on lucerne with no issues, and in most cases the advantages of the high quality feed will outweigh any potential decrease in fertility. Some precautions to take:

- Never feed fungal affected lucerne (e.g. after dull wet weather) as this increases the oestrogen levels in the plants
- Don't feed lucerne under aphid attack or affected by leaf diseases – stressed lucerne produces more oestrogens
- Don't feed pure stands of red clover, instead fed as a mixed sward (newer varieties are available with lower levels of oestrogens)
- Switching from an oestrogenic feed back to grass/green feed 2 weeks prior to mating should reverse the effects
- Hoggets are more sensitive to the depression in ovulation than ewes
- Remember to give ewes time for their rumen bugs to adjust to any sudden changes in feed at this time, especially if going on to high quality tucker such as lucerne



Dave Robertson pictured with Charlie and her pet sheep 'Ellavetta' at the recent Palmerston A and P show

## Product of the Month

### Key points

- A double combination capsule for young stock containing both abamectin and albendazole drench actives
- Also contains long acting delivery of selenium and cobalt
- Suitable for 20-40kg weight range
- 100 days protection against internal parasites.
- 126 day meat with hold
- We insist on doing a drench check 60 to 80 days post insertion at no charge.

### Sustainable Use

- Capsules used wisely can significantly boost profit.
- Every drench used selects for resistance.
- On certain farms there is an opportunity

to use capsules strategically to boost production whilst mitigating the risks involved.

### Comparison to Extender Junior

- The Bionic Hogget is comparable to the Extender Junior Seco capsule. The important differences are that the Bionic Hogget contains 2 drench actives giving it double combination power.
- This presence of abamectin in the Bionic Hogget does result in it having a significant 126 day meat (and milk) withhold compared to the extender Seco Junior which has Nil meat withhold.



Tim Anderson and sheep conveyor team giving 2 toothed "the works" at Otematapaio Station.



## New Vet for Ranfurly



### Raechel Parker BVSc

I worked mostly as a farm vet in the UK for two years, servicing the sheep, beef and dairy farmers of the south west. I came out for 'just a calving season' on the Canterbury plains, but I saw the light and moved south to chase the sheep, beef and deer dream in Otago. I'm especially interested in parasites, foot health, reproduction and genetics. Outside of work I can be found tramping, mountain biking and trying out some southern-hemisphere sports! After a few weeks in Oamaru I'll be heading inland to set up house in Ranfurly. I'm looking forward to exploring the beautiful Maniototo and meeting you all there.



# Sheep & Beef Production

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



## Footrot management

If you have put the time into removing footrot infection from your flock this summer, don't let the hard work be undone. The "clean mob" will need re-checking prior to winter. Left unchecked in these conditions <1% footrot can again become >10%. Troughing every week will keep a lid on transmission. 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).

## B12/Cobalt

Smartshot (long acting B12) for keeper hoggets and winter lambs is a sure way to sustain adequate B12 levels through the autumn. It seems to be later autumn when B12 liver reserves run-out of young stock. B12 supplementation can provide an extra 2kg/month with lambs in the autumn, which more than justifies the investment. Short acting B12 each month is the other alternative.

There can be merit in supplementing ewes with B12 prior to mating also. Optigrow monitoring of stock sent to the works is a convenient way of getting some data on B12 requirements. Just ring the clinic when the stock are being transported to the processing plant to request an Optigrow.

## 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	toxovax and 1st campy Bionic capule (or matrix monthly)
April 10	38kg	2nd Campy + Flexidine Teaser (April 19)
May 5	42kg	Rams out 1:50-100 (25-35days)
June 1	46kg	
July 1	50kg	

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

## Beef Cows

March and April are our peak periods for contact with our beef clients.

- Book your pregnancy testing with the Veterinary Centre. We have 3 levels of information that you can collect.
  - ♦ **Basic yes/no test.** Taking out dries.
  - ♦ **Identify late calving** cows + dries.
  - ♦ **Foetal aging** + herd BCS profiling. We can provide a data entry assistant for these jobs.
- **BVD** and **mineral** check 10 cows.
- If you have **cows to dehorn** it is a good time to sort them out. Ensure this is included in the booking so we can allocate some extra time.



**Will Gibson, Foulden Hills, Middlemarch.**



# Meg's Woof W.O.F Check Up

Ryan Philips BVSc  
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Sienna Hawke, Hawke Partnership, Waimate with (from left) dogs Pip, Lola, Meg and Jazz

Meg is a valuable member on one of our farms in a working dog team. So, to ensure that she and the rest of the team are fit and healthy, a routine WOOF W.O.F was completed. The W.O.F was created to help identify any problems in our working dogs before critical periods of the year, such as lambing or weaning. Luckily for Meg, her owner could see that she just wasn't performing as well as she should. So, after a few ram palpations on farm, the Veterinary Centre team quickly inspected all the working dogs on farm, including Meg. Along with the usual routine maintenance of vaccination, flea and worming, Meg's 'tyres and tread' were just not up to scratch as Meg seemed to slow down after a day of work. Meg had started to develop arthritis in her hips and after a quick blood test, she

was started on long term medication that allowed her to continue to work and move around a bit more freely. Along with this, our team found a few suspicious lumps on Meg's mammary glands. This can be a dangerous as nearly 50% of mammary masses in dogs are malignant, meaning they can easily spread and shorten the working life of a dog. Luckily, the Veterinary Centre team were on top of it quickly and after a few further tests these mammary masses were removed, with minimal indication of spread. This allowed Meg to return to work quickly and will allow her to work long into the future. So, if you are wanting your working dogs in top condition, please get in touch with the Veterinary Centre Team, a quick annual WOOF W.O.F can be lifesaving.



Emmy Armon performing a FECRT in the Waitaki Valley

# Timely Reminders



Finja Schmidt BVSc

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to make sure your lambs are all covered for Clostridial diseases. They require two

shots 4 to 6 weeks apart. Whilst Multine (5 in 1) is commonly used, if you are grazing lucerne and red clover, then Covexin (10 in 1) will ensure that you get that added protection.

**CONCLUSION: Only need to save 1 lamb out of 300 to justify the use of Multine (5 in 1).**

The other animal health area to consider is iodine supplementation to your ewes. Lamb survival is the biggest area of potential gain in sheep production. For a 3000 ewe flock scanning at 160% and tailing at 130%, it 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: Flexidine can be justified financially very easily with less than 1% lift in lamb survival.**



# Drench Check & FECRT

Essential monitoring of drench effectiveness

Invest in your farm's future.

Know your drench status.

Do a reduction test.



Ranfurly team doing FECs

Now is the time to do a FECRT.

Call your local Blue Cross Veterinary Centre to book one today!