



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Beef Cow Pregnancy Testing Action Month



Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

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, identify twins for special management, bull conception rate checks and cycle grp conception-rate graphics. 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.

Bull Removal Date	Optimum Scanning Time for Foetal Aging
Jan 20	March 1 – 20
Feb 1	March 10 – 30

We can obviously Preg test later than this, but passed 110 days (3.5 months) estimation of calving date is harder to do. Ring the clinic to book in, or discuss with your vet about this all important monitoring step in beef production.

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Blair & Jane Smith FOSSIL CREEK ANGUS

“We have been utilising the Veterinary Centre’s pregnancy date scanning and data analysis ever since it became available. It is quick, efficient and helps build a picture on the efficiency of our cows and heifers. Utilising date scanning is also an incredibly powerful tool at calving – allowing us to only bring cows in from out the back of the hill block in their weekly scanned calving date mobs. With 350 stud calves to tag at birth, this helps with paddock logistics, saves feed in a tight Spring, utilises the lower quality feed in the wintering blocks right up until calving and is another tool to help maintain a tight calving pattern. Identifying twins and condition scoring are added bonuses along with the graphs that this programme produces. As we are tagging at birth, we are able to audit the date scanning right down to the exact date and we can say that the accuracy of this technology and expertise is 100% - meaning that the exercise and morning smoko for Dave are a bloody good investment”.



Date scanning allows the heifers to stay in their Wintering blocks for longer



Fossil Creek cows coming in to be sorted into their calving dates



Date scanning at Fossil Creek helps time the calf tagging round perfectly



Dave Robertson scanning March 2020

Is your drench working?

The QDC a quick alternative to FECRTs



Dave Robertson BVS BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

“There is nothing more costly to a lamb trader than a drench that isn’t working...” maintaining growth rates and stock health is key to any lamb finishing business. It is frustrating to see scouring lambs a week or two after a drench. Did the drench fail? Did you drench them at all? Was the gun playing up? These thoughts all whirl around.

The reduction test data is very useful and is still the benchmark for monitoring drench sustainability and guiding future drench use and parasite control. They do take a bit of planning and organising to get up and going though.

An alternative for the busy farmer wanting to know if a drench has worked is a Quantitative Drench Check. This is where we get a base line egg count at the time of drenching (pre-count) and then do a 10 day FEC after drenching. It is less precise and less detailed than an FECRT, but easy to do and provides useful, practical information.

In this example (right) we have quickly identified that this season the Arrest double action drench is not fully effective and can address the situation before an animal health issue arises. The FEC 28 pre-count confirmed there was a need for drenching, the FEC 10 showed that a more effective drench is required.

QDC Example

Mob: trade lambs, top view paddock				
Drenching and sampling history	Weaning drench: Matrix Date: 1.1.22 Samples collected 29.1.22		2nd drench: Arrest Date: 30.1.22 Samples collected 9.2.22	
Days since drench:	28		11	
Sample ID	Strongyle (eggs / gram)	Nematodirus (eggs / gram)	Strongyle (eggs / gram)	Netmatodirus (eggs / gram)
1	100		0	
2	300		0	
3	50		0	
4	350		0	
5	100		0	
6	300		0	
7	250		50	
8	100		50	
9	250		50	
10	200		100	
Average	200		25	
Total drench reduction for Arrest drench 30.1.22 25/200 = 88%				



Miles Anderson drenching lambs



Introducing our New Vets in Oamaru



Introducing Con Ten Cate

I was born in The Netherlands, at 4 years old my family decided to make the move to NZ. Since then I have lived around the North Island, spending most of my time in Tauranga where my family is based. I’m excited to spend time on the extensive sheep and beef country in this region, and be involved in improving animal health and productivity where I can. Living in Oamaru I plan to spend my spare time finding powder, ticking off tramps, getting involved in the local golf and squash clubs, and indulging in the occasional Scott’s beer.



Introducing Pearl Vesty

After graduating from Massey I have made the move down south. From growing up on an orchard and deer farm in sunny Hawkes Bay, to Massey in Palmerston North, Oamaru is my next adventure and I’m so far loving it.

I’m looking forward to getting more involved in the sheep and beef industry, meeting farmers in the district and getting to know their different goals and motivations for their businesses.

Outside of work I love to get out and do sport, exercise and dancing. I’ve recently joined the Crossfit team so giving that my best go and otherwise love spending time with family and friends.

Ewe Hogget Target Weights

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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 CampyVax4 are essential for the generally naive 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 CampyVax4 Bionic Capsule (or matrix monthly)
April 10	38kg	2nd CampyVax4 + 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.

Dog Trials & A&P Shows

Once again COVID has meant many cancellations in the A&P calendar, but we are proud to be supporting our local dog trials and A&P shows that are still going ahead.

This year we will again be donating major prizes to each of the local 13 dog trial competitions.

We will also be in attendance and supporting the dog trials and A&P shows where we can. We look forward to bumping into a few of our clients at these events over the next couple of months.

Dog Trial Dates (correct at time of print)

Tokarahi CC	13-14 Feb
Strath Taieri CC	18-19 Feb
Waitaki CDC	27-28 Feb
Patearoa CC	1-2 Mar
Omarama CDC	6-7 Mar
St Bathans CC	14-15 Mar
Palmerston CC	19-20 Mar
Kyeburn DTC	22-23 Mar
Omakau Earnsclough CC	27-28 Mar
Macraes Flat CC	1-2 Apr
Waihemo CC	3-4 Apr
Waimate CC	8-9 Apr
Oamaru CDC and CHAMPIONSHIPS	22-23 Apr



Willy Jones winner of our Honest Wolf Bag at the Strath Taieri Dog Trials

Problems with the Prostate

Anna McLeod BVSc - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Enlargement of the prostate is likely more common than you have thought, affecting >80% of entire male dogs over the age of 6 years.

The most common disease of the prostate is Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia - and though a benign form of enlargement, due to the influence of testosterone, BPH can still have significant effects.

Pressure on the colon above may result in straining to produce poos that is flatter than normal, and can progress to constipation. Often when a constipated older male dog with an impacted blockage visits at the clinic, enlargement of the prostate is exacerbated by underlying spinal or hip arthritis, and a diet high in meat or bone and lacking fibre.

Other diseases of the prostate, such as prostatitis (inflammation and infection), prostatic abscess, cysts, and cancer; may also cause blood in the urine, as well as difficulty and discomfort urinating. Infections can make a dog very unwell, requiring immediate treatment.

Stan's Success Story

Stan, a 9 year old Heading Dog, presented to the Waimate Clinic off-colour, uncomfortable, and with blood in his urine. He had a high temperature, pain in his abdomen, and the prostate felt larger than normal on rectal exam.

An ultrasound showed the prostate was enlarged, and also contained pockets of fluid - confirming prostatitis and prostatic abscesses. Stan was treated with supportive IV fluids, antibiotics and pain relief, before being castrated.

Following his surgery and recovery Stan bounced back to full health. He has since placed 5th at the Tux NZ Yarding Challenge in

January, and recently qualified to compete at the South Island Dog Trial Champs! Well done Stan and Neville Powell

Take home points:

- Prostate enlargement is common, but often treatable
- Visit your vet immediately if signs of straining to toilet, blood-tinged urine, or abdominal discomfort
- Consider castration for any dogs not or no longer breeding



Stan and owner Neville Powell in action at the Tux NZ Yarding Challenge in Taupo



Abortion Storms

Two Diseases Two Vaccines



Toxoplasma is present on 100% of New Zealand farms, and Campylobacter on 88%*¹ – but both are equally important. These two diseases can cause abortion storms with losses up to 30%, or more, of lambs^{2,3}.

Preventing them takes two vaccines. Maiden ewes require 1 dose of ToxoVax and 2 doses of CampyVax4 ahead of mating.

An annual booster of CampyVax4 is recommended in subsequent years, and completed before mating.

ToxoVax

- ✓ Controls the risk of Toxoplasma. **Live** vaccine.
- ✓ Up to 8% higher lambing percentages (3% national average).
- ✓ Vaccinate at least 4 weeks prior to first mating.
- ✓ One shot gives a lifetime immunity.
- ✓ **MUST BE ORDERED AT LEAST 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF TREATMENT** to ensure availability.

CampyVax4

- ✓ Controls the risk of Campylobacter.
- ✓ Increase lambing by an average 9%.
- ✓ Protect maiden ewes with TWO shots 4-6 weeks apart, and one booster shot in previously vaccinated ewes.

*Example: Early April Mating Plan

MAIDEN EWES (Two Tooth)

Require 1 dose of ToxoVax and 2 doses of CampyVax4 4-6 weeks apart and 4 weeks prior to mating. We recommend a dose of Iodine Supplement at 4 weeks prior to mating to prevent Iodine deficiency.

VACCINATED EWES

Recommend 1 Annual Booster dose of CampyVax 4-8 weeks prior to mating if previously vaccinated. We also recommend an annual dose of Iodine Supplement at 4 weeks prior to mating to prevent Iodine deficiency.

5 Jan • GET ORDER IN ToxoVax	5 Feb • CampyVax4 First Sensitiser Shot (1ml/subcut) • ToxoVax 2ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Mar • CampyVax4 Second Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Apr • Put the Ram out!
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5 Mar • CampyVax4 Annual Booster Shot (1ml/subcut) • Flexidine 1.5ml Dose Intramuscular	5 Apr • Put the Ram out!
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Iodine for mating

Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly



The trace element status of ewes pre-tup affects:

- Ovulation rate
- Implantation and survival of embryos
- Health of the newborn lamb.

Iodine is an essential trace element required to make the thyroid hormones which control the metabolism and temperature of the ewe and is required for bone, brain and wool development of foetuses. A very iodine deficient ewe may abort in late gestation or at full term, while a live lamb deficient in iodine frequently will have an enlarged thyroid gland, and may be born small or weak and have little or no wool. These lambs are very susceptible to starvation/exposure. Farms that benefit from iodine supplementation frequently report similar scanning rates but improved lamb survivability. Iodine deficiency may be a primary deficiency where the diet lacks iodine (eg some pastures and most winter root crops), or more commonly in NZ, a secondary deficiency, where plants producing goitrogens such as clover or brassica crops are fed which prevent the thyroid gland from utilising the iodine in the diet.

There are two main methods of supplementation:

- Oral drenches eg LSD-short acting. Given pre-tup, 8 & 4 weeks pre-lamb
- Iodised oil injections eg Flexidine. Single injection of 1.5ml 3-4 weeks pre-tup. Increases iodine status for up to 200 days, label claim is to supply sufficient iodine for one year.

Flexidine is our most popular iodine supplementation method due to its length of action and easy administration. It is usually given at the same time as CampyVax4. A 1% increase in lamb survival easily justifies the cost and time to use it.

If you miss the boat pre-tup it can be used up to two months before lambing, and at weaning.

If you're on the fence about Flexidine or other iodine supplementation call into your local Veterinary Centre clinic and discuss your specific farming system with one of the team.

Product of the Month

Flexidine

Increase your potential for more lambs

1.5ml Sheep
Dose Rate

84c
Excl GST



Active ingredient

- Iodine in oil solution
- Up to 8 months sustained supplementation.

Application

- Intramuscular Injection in anterior half of the neck
- 1.5ml in sheep (all ages).

For prevention of primary iodine deficiency

- EWES: Treat 1 month before mating, or not less than 2 months before lambing.
- RAMS: Treat 1 month before mating

Withhold

- Meat/Milk – Nil

Only available under veterinary authorisation.



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1. Dempster et al (2011), NZ Veterinary Journal, 59:4 155-159.
2. Wilkins et al (1992) Surveillance, 19:4, 20-23.
3. Sahin et al (2017) The Annual Review of Animal Biosciences. 5: 9.1-9.22.

Footrot Marches on ... a review of some basics

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Veterinary Centre **EwesNews** EXTRA

Dealing with lame sheep is a priority for many ewe flocks this month. It is potentially one of the biggest animal welfare things that faces sheep farming at certain times of the year. Lame sheep do need addressing.

Getting a diagnosis of lameness is the starting point. The key is looking at some feet and knowing the difference between scald, under-run footrot and abscesses and joint infections. It is hard to get on top of

lameness at the mob level by just drafting off limping sheep. In the last few weeks I have fielded more questions about sheep lameness from non-fine wool producers, hence this article on some of the basics.

Foot Scoring Chart

Footrot scoring is important to determine when to inspect feet. Scores 1,2,3 indicate footrot is spreading. Scores of 0 or 4 indicate footrot is not spreading. This is the time to inspect feet.



Score 1- Water maceration/OID



Score 2 – OID
(Ovine interdigital dermatitis /scald)



*A toe abscess. Not contagious.
Very painful*



Score 3 OID – Early footrot
Starting to lift at the heel bulbs



Score 4 – Active footrot
Advancing under-run of hoof



*Footrot. Grade 4 lesion with
under-run exposed*

This foot scoring indicates footrot is spreading on this farm.

Date	Mob	0	1	2	3	4	Comment / Action
14/8/21	M/A Ewes	HHH HHH HHH HHH HHH HHH	HHH	HHH	HHH	HHH	Spread phase.
	No. Sampled 50/500	60% 30/50	10% 5/50	10% 5/50	10% 5/50	10% 5/50	Trough weekly

Finding infection

Tipping sheep is the way to find infection. Conveyors are a practical way of getting through-put, or a specialised sheep handler. Make a call about how much trimming to do and what you are trying to achieve. Trimming for diagnosis rather than cure is my advice. Blood is bad. If you are finding a lot of early stage scald-type lesions then making a clean mob is going to be difficult and your "dirty" mob will be large. It maybe better to continue troughing cycles until they are either clean (score 0) or footrot (grade 4) - not all the in between stages. **(See Footrot Scoring Chart above)**

Footrot Marches on ... a review of some basics

<p>Troughing</p>	<p>Very important tool when in footrot, is spreading in dewy, green grass conditions. Progress is made with troughing when done in weekly cycles. Standing in zinc 10% for 10-20 minutes 3 times 1 week apart will break the cycle and treat footrot lesions (50-70%). Penetrants such as SLS (sodium lauryl sulphate) and standing on grating overnight will further improve troughing cure rates.</p> <p>A run through once may help with early skin lesions, but will do little to treat footrot. Formalin is a reasonable preventative that will harden the skin and hoof. It will treat early skin lesions, but make subsequent inspection difficult by over-hardening hooves and in-casing chronic under-run.</p> <p>Building a decent trough – even for cross-bred flocks – is a key bit of infrastructure that enables feet issues to be dealt with effectively and stop this situation from snow-balling.</p>
<p>Treating Cases</p>  <p><i>Foot inspection: conveyor and sheep handler methods. Both have pros and cons.</i></p>	<p>When and what. Injectable antibiotics are the most effective and quickest way of curing footrot infection in sheep (that are not culled). What sheep you treat depends on your ability to cull and ability to treat more simple lesions with good troughing.</p> <p>Farmers can be prescribed for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenaline (ACVM A007843) or Bivatop (ACVM A006867) 1mL/10kg IM. 35 day meat with-hold. This drug is good for abscesses also. <p>Tilmovet (vet only - ACVM A011195) has been in short supply, but is available mid March. It is longer acting than any other treatment for footrot, so can break the cycle of infection better.</p> <p>Keeping feet dry straight after treatment is key to getting a good result. Wet/damp feet lose the drug faster from their skin.</p> <p>Follow-up inspection (10 -20 days after) of any animals treated with antibiotics is essential for achieving a good result and ensuring the whole cycle doesn't start off again in the same season. Expect 80 – 95% cure rate with 1 treatment.</p> <p>Permanently identify treated sheep with an antibiotic treatment tag. Will help with culling decisions next year. Keep treated sheep separate and mate to terminal sires where possible.</p> <p>Topical treatments work also. Tetravet blue (ACVM A007485) spray is effective when used in conjunction with paring lesions or zapping scald. Stockholm tar mixed with zinc or copper sulfate is also good, but messy.</p>
<p>Footvax</p>  <p>ACVM A001992</p>	<p>Footvax is a 10 strain footrot vaccine that is a useful preventative measure. It is part of a medium to long term footrot management strategy. It will not do much for your situation now. Starting a programme in the autumn is more to set your flock up for spring. Example programme: March 15 Footvax 1, Mating May 1, Aug 15 Footvax 2 (off shears) . Lambing Oct -Nov. This will give protection from September to December, after which a few troughings will keep a lid on flare-ups until weaning when an annual inspection can be done.</p> <p>If you are already in a Footvax programme then you can give a booster shot in March to give late Autumn protection. This is a six monthly footvax programme.</p> <p>There are some details about footvax that are best discussed with vet before committing to it. Overall it will halve the amount of footrot and reduce the severity of lesions seen.</p>
<p>Strain Typing</p>	<p>We do have farms strain-typing their footrot in their flocks to access customised footrot vaccine options that are more potent and targeted at preventing the footrot that exists. It can work very well if there are only 1 or 2 strains of footrot present.</p>
<p>Culling</p>	<p>When sheep have multiple feet lame and incidence is low in the flock then culling is the ultimate way of removing infection from the farm. There are transport regulations that require sheep to be able to bear some weight on all four feet. If you are sending lines of lame animals to the works, tidy up long toes and trough to reduce the severity. It is recommended to get a veterinary certificate for transport.</p>