



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

I hear there is no capsules this year – what do I do?

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

“So no Bionic capsules this pre-lamb, what do we do?” This is the most common question for a vet that has just walked in the door of a country pub at present.

Notwithstanding “you don’t need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows”, this is my attempt to address the question.

Two pathways exist.

1. The “Fatter ewes and prioritise quality feed at key times” option.

Plan to feed twinning ewes quality protein and energy post shearing to set stocking. This is the time to line it up. Is there time to spray out and drill some Autumn rape, Italian or ryecorn for twinning ewes? Is now the best return on grain feeding? The buffer that fat and muscle storage provides ewes pre-winter is considerable with respect to...everything health and production wise. Light ewes in May often go away - to a non-productive land, a dog freezer in August, and/or hand in one scrawny orphan lamb at weaning.

Lighter ewes take more feeding to get back on track. The extra energy required to lift a 2 body condition score (BCS) ewe to 2.5 BCS is around 71 Megajoules of metabolizable energy. In practical terms that is ~7.5kg of barley or 300g of barley over 25 days + maintenance grass. To fatten a BCS 2.5 to optimum BCS 3.0 takes and extra 14 MJME = 1.5kg of barley or 100g over 15 days + maintenance grass. (Incidentally the cost of the barley for lifting ewe condition is about the same price as that plastic pill thing we used to give them). So it is much more cost effective to get ewes up to weight from weaning to mating with a good rotational pick of quality grass. Take out the light ewes for a late summer holiday on 4cm of green leafy grass or a daily golden figure 8 of grain...very helpful imagery. Targeting lighter ewes will make the best use of feed. The BCS 3 ewes do not need the extra feed and can be held on drier summer feed.

2. Option “two jabs”- instead of a capsule

Use long acting moxidectin and smart shot B12-Se this year as an alternative to capsules. If moxidectin has good efficacy against your

worm population the drench response with respect to less dags, better condition ewes and heavier lambs at weaning will be the similar to capsules. Half of the benefit of a capsule comes from the cobalt and selenium in some cases, so using 1.5mL dose of smart shot B12+Se will deliver what a capsule does.

To work out if LA injection is going to work for you this year you can do some drench checks with some moxidectin injection on lambs this autumn. Do a pre-count, inject lambs with cydectin, do an egg count 10-14 days later. If the results show leaking eggs post drench, you are probably not going to get good efficacy out of LA injection in ewes pre-lamb.

Targeting twinning ewes and 2 toothers with LA injection would be the way to go. It is just for this year that the capsules are out so this will not wreck your farm drench status. Capsules will make some sort of come back next year...

The January and February dry conditions do mean there are potentially some “ordinary” ewes out there. They don’t always bounce back that quickly on a resurgent grass growth following the rain. Ironically worm larval challenge may spike this March. Oral drench to light ewes and 2 toothers will be beneficial this pre tup period if that is the case.

Summary of no capsules

- Great opportunity to feed ewes better.
- Improve animal health and reduce spending on chemicals and more on feed.
- Use LA injection and Smart shot instead. Monitor moxidectin efficacy first this autumn.
- Practice worm avoidance farming with more cattle integration, forage crops for winter and legume-herb mixes for milking ewes. Can you avoid set stocking on Autumn lambing finishing blocks? if not run the cattle through first.
- Culling light ewes that don’t respond to TLC.
- Start the genetic journey of selecting for health traits and worm tolerance.
- Look up the lyrics to *Subterranean Homesick Blues* for more insights.



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GUN AVAILABILITY

Simcro Drench Guns are now made off shore and supply has been interrupted! Veterinary Centre has sourced the **Prodigy 15ml Oral Drench Gun** for Sheep and Lambs

- **Prodigy 15ml Variable Drench Gun** is excellent value for money and provides an option where the Merial and Coopers 15ml Simcro oral drench guns are not currently available.

- Interesting fact - Prodigy Instruments is owned and operated by the grandson of the original Norman James Phillips – founder of the Phillips drench guns.



EACH
\$69.90
Incl GST

Barley Grass

Aroha Te Hiko BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

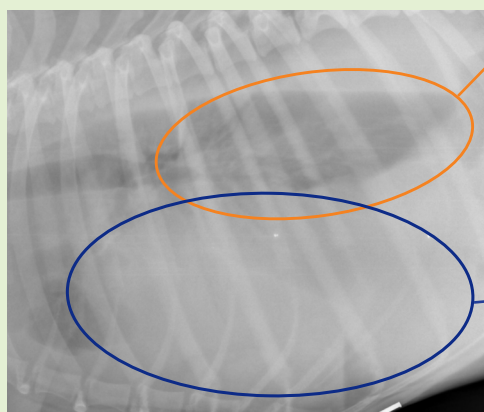
With 2023's barley grass seed season in full swing, this year has been particularly bad especially for our working dogs. With seeds found not only in feet, under arms, and in ears but also in eyes and even in the lungs which can cause the chest cavity to fill with pus (pyothorax).

Barley grass plants are dangerous for dogs, the spiky seed awn gets stuck in the dogs coat or between the toes and has barbs like a fish hook that allows it to only move in one direction. This causes them to work their way through and puncture the skin creating an infection at the site they lodge. Once the seed penetrates the skin it can continue to migrate through the tissue causing further damage.

In the unfortunate event the seed is inhaled the seed can get

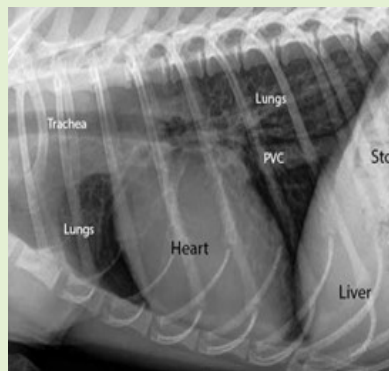
lodged in the lung where it then tracts through the tissue and into the chest cavity causing the infection leading to a pyothorax. The pus occupies the space of lungs and heart making it hard for the animal to breathe. Dogs often present unable to keep up with the pack, lagging behind, lethargic and breathing harder and faster than normal or if it is very severe can be collapsed. Pyothorax is often very costly to treat and can be fatal.

It is important to check dogs regularly for grass seeds in their coats and ears. Any eyes that become gunky and swollen should receive medical treatment urgently. Care should be taken when running dogs through bare grass. Dogs that are lagging behind and breathing faster than normal should also be taken to see a vet for examination.

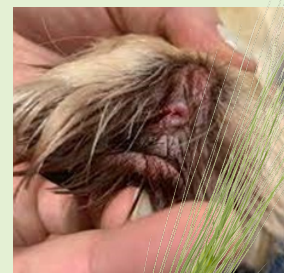


Lungs displaced by pus. Only using 1/3rd of the space they normally would occupy.

Pus taking up 2/3rds of the normal space the lungs occupy.



Normal chest xray for comparison



NEWETRATION

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Priortising feed pre-tupping



Many areas had some long-awaited rain recently, which has taken off some of the pressure in the lead up to mating. Other areas will still be a bit tight at this critical time of the year. Not only are ewes about to be mated – hopefully in good condition, achieving high conception rates – but in the bigger picture, for both ewes and cows, the end goal of an adequate pasture cover in spring must be kept in mind.

In the long-term picture your winter feed budget will account for feed supply and demand. In the short term this will involve:

- **Ewe body condition score** – I might seem to be going on about this a bit, but it's the best way to assess the nutritional status of your ewes. Put your hands on and condition score them, or get someone else to. It doesn't have to be accurate, just know who the 10-15% fatter ones and 10-15% skinnier ones are. Then take feed off the fat ones and give more feed to the skinny ones. If you have any feed to spare, the most effective thing to do right now is stop any ewes already at BCS 3 from eating it when they don't need to.
- **Feed supply** – what feeds are higher quality e.g. for finishing growing lambs vs feeding ewes already at target BCS on maintenance feed over this time.

- **Lambs** – need higher quality and high protein feed to grow quickly and well. Is there enough feed to finish lambs – what pressure is this going to put on feeding ewes over mating? And average pasture cover in spring? Can you make any different decisions here.

- **Flushing** – focus on lower BCS ewes (2-2.5) for the best response, and feed well for at least 3 weeks and ideally 4-6 weeks prior to mating. If possible, all ewes will be on a rising plane of nutrition as they go into mating.



6 Aspects of Beef Cow Performance

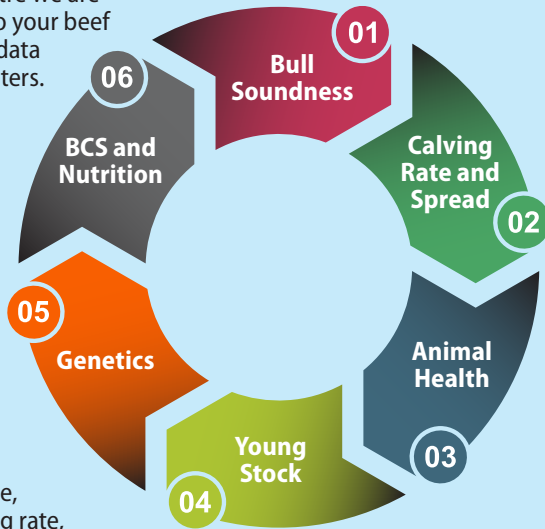


Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

At the Veterinary Centre we are about adding value to your beef system by gathering data around these parameters.

- Quality pregnancy testing data is a key part of monitoring bull performance, cow conception rate, calving spread and identifying non-productive animals.
- We encourage discussions around animal health
 - BVD programme, minerals, calving rate, metabolics, Johnes, parasitism etc
 - Blood testing is key part of this.
- We sort out the other stuff: horns, anaesthetic audits, minor surgery (eyes), works certs etc. Just book it in with your PD call so we can make time to do these extra things.
- Condition score profiling is a great way to see trends that may influence your results and start a conversation around matching feed demand and supply dynamics.

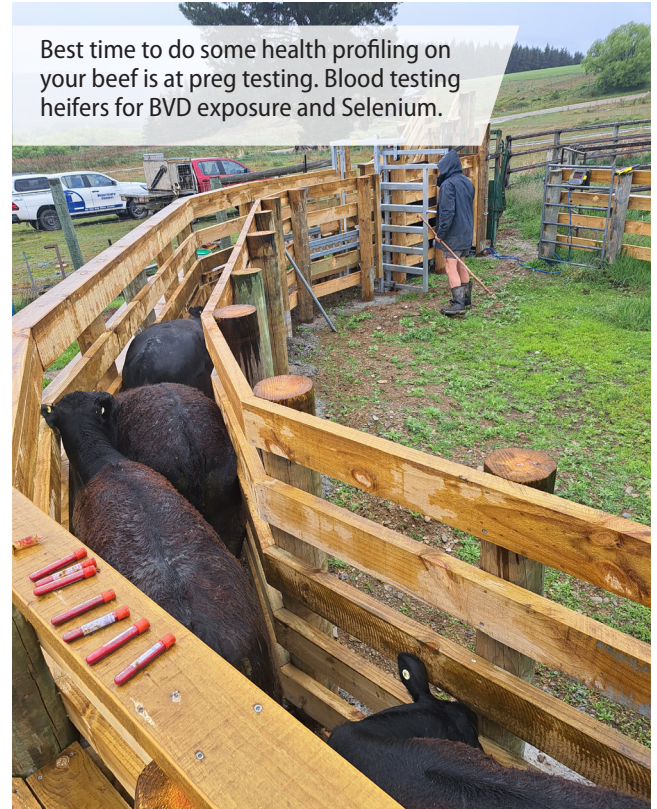
100 days after joining and 40 days post bull removal are optimal times for getting you pregnancy testing visit done.



Nicola Dennis helping her brother Croy Dennis do the data entry this preg testing out at their family Seacliff property. Both very happy with a good rain and an exceptional conception rate with their 500+ beef cow herd.



Best time to do some health profiling on your beef is at preg testing. Blood testing heifers for BVD exposure and Selenium.



An epic day preg testing for our vet, Gwyneth Mark in Omarama.



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.

Footrot – Prevention for the Future

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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.

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.

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.



Footrot. Grade 4 lesion with under-run exposed



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



Score 4 – Active footrot Advancing under-run of hoof

Selovin LA

Long acting selenium injection

Selovin LA ACVM A009509



- For prevention and treatment of selenium deficiency, ill-thrift, white muscle disease and all other selenium responsive diseases in sheep and cattle.
- A single injection guarantees selenium levels for 12 months.

DOSE RATES

Lambs at Weaning 0.5ml
Sheep 1-2ml

1ml Sheep Dose (excl GST)
76c

Product Change

There will be a supply disruption on Matrix Hi Mineral this year but we have selected Troika, an alternative high quality product to replace it ... same actives, same dose rate, same great price!



Troika

Mineralised Combination Drench for Sheep

Troika contains an oral dose of Iodine, a frequently supplemented trace mineral going into winter.



Actives:

- Albendazole
- Abamectin
- Levamisole

Minerals

- Iodine
- Cobalt
- Copper
- Zinc
- Selenium

Dose Rate

1ml/5kg

WHP Meat 14 Days

20 Litre
\$669.00
Incl GST

30kg Lamb Dose (excl GST)
17.5c

Anna Macfarlane BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I grew up in Rotherham, North Canterbury on a sheep and beef farm. Through growing up being very involved with farm work as well as spending much of my time competing horses, I've always been passionate about all aspects of animal health and veterinary medicine.

Outside of work I can be found getting outdoors whether that be on the water; sailing or fishing, or getting up the mountains for a bit of hiking or skiing.

I'm hugely passionate about the sheep and beef industry especially aspects such as parasite management and maximising ewe efficiency along with beef reproduction. I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and more involved with the sheep and beef industry in the region.



Claire Lin BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I grew up in Taiwan and came to New Zealand to work on a dairy farm in 2014. Since then, I have found my passion in large animals and decided to pursue a veterinary career in a rural practice. Outside of work, I like being outdoors and enjoy hiking, biking and water activities. Spending time with family and friends also plays a big part in my spare time.

In the sheep and beef industry, I'm interested in parasite control and flock/herd investigations. I'm keen on getting stuck in and learning more about sheep and beef farming, especially the reproduction aspect.



Introducing