



EWES NEWS



Dave's Comments

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Theodore Roosevelt giving his "The man in the Arena" speech

man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms,

the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt, gave a very popular speech on April 23, 1910. Masculine only references aside, I think the sentiment is very apt for encouraging New Zealand farmers and what you go through. We could replace the words "in the arena" with "on the farm" ...

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong

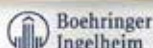
Zolvix Plus – Novel Active Oral Sheep Drench



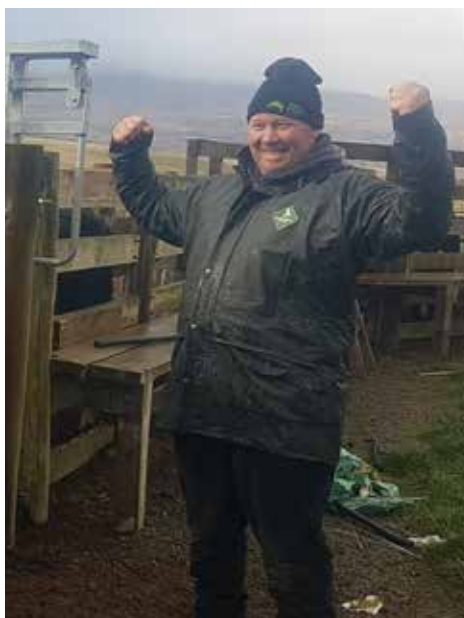
- Actives - Monepantel plus Abamectin
- Dose 1ml per 10kg liveweight
- From \$0.69 plus gst per 30kg lamb dose (5 litre pack rate)
- Meat Withhold 14 days
- Used as a knockout, exit or quarantine drench in strategic drench programs, Zolvix™ Plus provides premium parasite control and helps to protect the efficacy of other effective drenches.



CHRISTMAS HAM PROMOTION



With selected drench purchases, you get a tasty kiwi ham on the bone for Christmas



Farmer Hamish Bell "in the arena" - excited about recent rain



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“Newetrition”



Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Dry Decisions

It's an understatement to say it's been a difficult season for many thus far. Fingers crossed for more rain by the time this goes to print, in the meantime it's a case of **buying in feed**, or **reducing feed demand**. Keeping stock and losing condition will lead to reduced production next season.

- Selling stock early or grazing off farm are often more cost effective options than supplementary feeding. Hoggets requiring 1kg/DM per day could be grazed off for \$1.80/week, vs 35c/kg DM baleage – remember wastage needs to be accounted for so they need to be allocated well above what you want them to consume.
- When choosing stock to sell look at the condition each class of stock is in, and what it will require to maintain them/get them to be productive next season. Youngstock tend to be more expensive to maintain than older stock, requiring more energy and protein for growth. Or selling older ewes

all counted at \$80-85 will free up some feed so that future performance of remaining stock is not compromised.

- If there's some decent tucker available for lambs, weaning early will reduce feed demand – ewes and lambs run together eat more feed than when separate.
- Cheapest is not always best for supplementary feed options. Take into account likely wastage, quality and practicalities of feeding out. Very poor quality high fibre feeds will limit intakes. Sheep nuts are expensive, but utilisation is good, and protein levels often better for younger stock. PKE needs a feeder and should not be more than 30% of the diet for ewes, it has no effective fibre for healthy rumen function, and potentially dangerous levels of copper.

When the rain comes give growing pasture a chance to recover energy reserves – delaying grazing until it's reached at least 3cm will mean better pasture persistence after the initial grazing.



Worm control

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

It's a bit of a knife edge out there, we understand. As I am writing this it's raining. So let's hope we get the follow-up rain next week. There haven't been many worm (nor feet) issues out there up til now, but this could change quickly with a good couple of drought breaker rains. In terms of larval challenge, this releases the infective parasite larvae from their little dung pellet sanctuary. If you observe mushed up sheep dung on short green grass – then stock will be exposed to a much higher worm challenge. In these conditions a pre-weaning drench may be warranted. If you are already seeing shelly shitty arse lambs then yes I would get in and

drench pre-wean. In addition to this a lamb drench plan for the year is very important. It really sets up your worm resistance frequency. The weaning drench is probably the most important drench a lamb gets. I look at a lamb parasite control plan now as having 3 levels: The drench, the monitoring and the refugia. We have to start using novels and we can't use them like the old drenches, see below for a recipe. It works to ease use of triple drench and phase in a bit of novel drench on the shoulders. We are using a lot more FEC data to a) see if stock need drenching and b) see if the drench has

worked (FEC 10). Triple drench is not going to survive on its own. It has been used heavily over the last 10 years and is starting to lose efficacy in some areas. We are very fortunate to have the novel drench options available, so use them and use them sensibly.

Other considerations:

- Tailing drench to lighter ewes if

not had LA treatment.

- Egg Counting ewes that have had LA treatment.
- Replacement hoggets – drench regularly to keep ticking along at good growth rates.
- Doing a reduction test at weaning to determine drench status (if pre-weaning drenching try and leave 100 lambs undrenched)



A recipe for worm control in lambs on farm

	Weaning	2nd drench	3rd drench	4th drench
Drench	Zolvix plus	Matrix	Matrix (if counts warrant it)	Startect
Monitor		Pre drench Fec 28* Post drench Fec 10	Pre drench Fec 28*	Pre drench Fec 28*
Refugia	None in lambs. Tagged refugia ewes from pre-lamb drafted (5%) and run with lambs for 1 month.	Leave 5%. Mark blue	Leave 5%. Mark red	None in lambs Follow with ewes

*If counts average less than 100 epg and no counts above 500 epg, extend drench interval 1-2 weeks



Maximising return from yearling deer

Luke Smyth BVSc

In today's Covid-19 climate it's more important than ever to achieve the maximum potential and financial return out of yearlings when they are sent to the works.

We now find ourselves in a very short window to achieve a reasonable price and prices have fallen away quickly from early in the season to a current schedule price of \$5.50/kg. Coupled with tight availability of kill space and a dry spring it's fair to say there have been significant challenges in 2020. None the less venison remains a premium product in overseas markets.

What can you control to get these yearlings away as early as possible and yielding 55% or better at the works? Are there constraints on your farm to yearling growth potential and can improvements be made?

This is a complex question and true answer is that we have to consider all the following factors:

- Genetics.
- Calving dates.
- Nutrition.
- Parasite control.
- Trace elements.
- Disease- Yersinia, Johnes.

One other important thing to consider is spiker velvet. SP1 is worth around \$180/kg.

If we can cut heavier spiker velvet or even just ½ a kilo of SP1 this equates to \$90 before the spiker leaves the farm.



What to do with cows

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

November to January is the period when beef cows need feeding. They actually have the capacity to consume an amazing amount of feed. To crank their calf growth rates and get cycling again, they can eat about 18kg DM of quality feed per day. In a "normal spring" this is not an issue and the cows job to harvest surplus feed and prevent it going rank. From where I have been recently there is not a lot of risk of rank feed right now. The cow and calf unit is not as flexible. Tight years are going to make feed budgeting, stock shifting and decision making about

carrying capacity very important. Looking after early calved younger cows (1st and 2nd calvers) is a priority. Body condition score regularly. Write some numbers down each month. Early weaning and early preg testing are going to be a couple of levers to pull to give you options in the early summer. I know farms that have already sent cows and calves away grazing. Not a bad move, even for a couple of months. Always pays to keep on friendly terms with a Southlander or two...

Get bulls sorted

With beef cattle mating not far away, make sure bulls are sound prior to going out.

- Those with over-grown or cracked feet need to be attended to or risk breaking down. I know there is a stigma with getting feet done on bulls, but hoof maintenance at this time can save having to fork out for replacements (which are not easy to come by) or have empty cows turn out at preg testing!
- Boost bulls for BVD. We sell convenient 10 dose packs of BVD vaccine aimed at farmers who do the bulls each year. If there is one group to vaccinate routinely it is the bull team.
- Top up bulls with selenium. Do this at least 1 month prior to service.
- Get bulls veterinary service tested. Bulls over 5 years of age are the greatest risk of sub-fertility issues. But younger bulls can have issues also.



Lamb Clostridial vaccination schedule

Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Take clostridial disease out of the equation in your lambs this season. Rarely do we see large 'storms' of clostridial death, in large part due to the widespread use of vaccination. However if animals are only receiving a part course or intervals between vaccinations are excessive this could lead to losses. Some of these deaths may account for some of the 'missing' sheep many properties have each year.

	Sensitiser	Booster	Notes
Multine, Multine B12, Multine B12+Selenium	At tailing or weaning	4-6 weeks after sensitiser	Animals not fully protected until after booster vax
Multine Selenised	Weaning or from 12 weeks old	4-6 weeks after sensitiser	Animals not fully protected until after booster vax. Not for use at tailing.
Covexin 10	From 2 weeks of age	4-6 weeks after sensitiser	Animals not fully protected until after booster vax
Lamb Vaccine	For use at tailing in lambs born to unvaccinated ewes. Provides immediate and short term protection against Tetanus and sensitises for Pulpy Kidney. Does NOT act as a sensitiser for Tetanus or other components of 5-in-1 vaccine. Requires a standard clostridial vaccination course as above from weaning.		

Here is a standard vaccination programme for young lambs:

*Use of Multine 5-in-1 Selenised is not recommended at tailing due to a risk of selenium toxicity.

*All breeding stock (which should have had a sensitiser and booster as lambs) require an annual clostridial booster pre-lamb to provide protection for the lamb via colostrum.





Early Weaning

Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Early weaning is likely to be on many of our sheep farmers radars this year due to the dry conditions. Early weaning can be a good management tool to help reduce feed requirements and try maintain ewe body condition.

A ewe's peak milk production occurs after about 2-3 weeks and if not enough quality feed is provided this can drop off quite significantly after about 8-10 weeks. In these situations, the lambs are no longer getting much nutrition from the ewes milk and the two classes begin competing with each other, to the detriment of both lamb growth rates and ewe body condition.

Studies done at Massey University found that lambs weaned above 20kg liveweight coped better with early weaning (but could go down to a 16kg minimum) **provided enough suitable feed was available to them.**

Suitable feed means a legume dominant pasture. This could be ryegrass/white clover so long as clover content is 30%+ and covers above 1200kgDM/ha, but ideally a legume based crop (such as a clover/plantain mix) between 7-10cm high.

They found that lambs weaned early onto these pastures grew as fast, if not faster than lambs left on mum who were grazing pastures below 1200kgDM/ha (about 4cm).

Clearly if the ewes are on unrestricted feeding of good quality ryegrass/white clover (not grazing below 1200kgDM/ha or about 4 cm) then lactation is maximised and therefore lamb growth rates are too. In these situations, it is best to leave lambs on the ewe, unless strategic early weaning is a part of your normal management. Early weaning onto these types of forages can not only maintain good growth rates in the lambs but also provide a huge benefit to the ewe as well.

It allows more time for condition to be put back on before mating, this could be particularly useful in mated hoggets as they are typically lambed/weaned later. Or for example, old ewes weaned early could be sold immediately freeing up feed for other stock classes.

Anything that can be done to grow lambs fast and/or get them off farm as early as possible will have whole farm system benefits and should be a priority, particularly if the summer is looking to be dry.



Mammary Cancer in bitches

Grace Miller BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Mammary (breast) tumours account for almost half of all cancers seen in female dogs. While many are benign, 25% of these tumours have already spread to other parts of the body at diagnosis.

Diagnosis/Treatment

It important to check your female working dogs regularly as early detection improves the prognosis after surgery for aggressive mammary cancers. Any lump near the nipples or in the tissue of the mammary chain should be examined by a veterinarian. Treatment involves surgical removal of the lump, and often a preventative mastectomy will be performed at the same time. The lump will be sent to the lab to determine what type of tumour it is, and whether further treatment or staging is required.

Prevention

Intact (un-speyed) females have a 7-fold increased risk of developing mammary cancer compared to speyed females. Studies clearly indicate the preventive role of speying prior to the second heat. If you do not intend to



breed from your bitch, consider speying before the second heat to decrease the risk of cancer, prevent pyometra, and prevent unwanted pregnancies/heats.

Product of the month

CLiK Extra

- Price - \$1179 including GST per 20 litre drum
= 26 cents plus GST per 5 ml dose.
- Dose rate
 - ◆ 5 ml to 10 ml for lambs at docking
 - ◆ See label for dose rate of older/heavier stock
- Longer protection - 14 to 26 weeks
- Shorter Meat Withhold - 21 days



Animal Health Planning

Euan Tait BVMS
Waimate Veterinary Centre



With such a dry period hitting everyone hard, vigilant monitoring of stock has never been more important. Ewes have been tight for feed and lambs will be starting to chew right down to the roots of the grass. Potential for increased worm larval ingestion in lambs will require good drench protocols, with effective products, to be in place. Ewes around the country are in poorer body condition given the lack of feed and monitoring body condition score will be paramount to getting them back up to scratch for next season. If you need any help with a drench protocol for your animals or monitoring plans to be put in place, please speak to one of our Sheep and Beef team.



EWES NEWS



Ram Breeders Feature

The Veterinary Centre enjoy hearing from some of our ram breeding clients. They are usually not shy of an opinion and have to have fairly thick skins and nimble market nose to carry-on through changeable times.



Newhaven Perendales, Oamaru

Blair and Jane Smith at Newhaven Perendales are upbeat about the next year ahead in sheep production. "No matter what breed you choose, being able to monitor performance and see which bloodlines perform better in hard seasons are the genetics we get excited about. Ewes that can produce a robust set of twins, grow them out quickly and then put weight back on before tugging, (even in a terrible Autumn) are the ones you want onboard". The Newhaven team has Romdales, Perendale and Perendale-Texel rams available in early February each year, coupled with the added bonus of scones with cream and (an entirely optional) heavy politics chat with Jane!



Foulden Hill Genetics, Middlemarch

Anton, Liz and son William Gibson are sheep breeding enthusiasts. Breeding easy lambing, quick growing, early finishing, structurally correct Suffolk and SufTex rams. They have a strong focus on producing rams suitable for fine wool terminals. They have rams available for private sale and sell studs at Gore and Christchurch. Most are gone by January. Will also has dual purpose poll merinos 15 – 17 micron. He is an advocate for breeding values and believes they have driven real change and profitability to the merino industry. "It is amazing how far merinos have come in a short period with a unified commercial focus."



Clifton Downs Southdowns - South Canterbury

The Medicott's are well known for their southdowns, but Chris's main business is lamb finishing at the Hook property in South Canterbury. It is from this that Chris draws his southdown breeding focus. "We don't just need out and out growth rate, we need finishing ability of our lambs...its more about turn-over per hectare for me". Southdown sires go over a variety of ewe types, "the type of country most ewes are run on now means we need terminal lambs that can be weaned off mothers prime or soon after". The Clifton Downs rams will be sold at the inaugural on-farm sale on Nov 20 this year. The move to the auction is about looking forward to the next generation getting involved in the business, and having a beer and a BBQ with people after.



Collie Hills Suffolk, Sufftex and Corriedales Kurow

Eric Ross and Wade Newlands run the studs at the start of the Hakataramea Valley. It has been a very tough spring for farmers in their area. "but these are the conditions corriedales are bred for".

The corriedales are popular up the Haka. Right now the Corriedale wethers are killing out well, being finished to greater than 20kg carcasses and clipping a decent amount of contractable medium-fine wool. The suffolks, some with a ¼ texel are popular terminal for fine wool 'B' mobs. "People like the black heads as a marker and we've certainly got some meat on them these days".

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