



## Veterinary Centre EwesNews

### NEWTRITION

## Feeding over Lactation – Quality and Quantity

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



A focus on feeding the right quantity of high-quality pasture, legumes and herb mixes helps Dan & Bridget Studholme meet weaning targets on their farm near Waimate. They run 1700 Romney ewes and have trialled several different options in the past for feeding ewes and lambs over lactation. Clover was found to be a top performer with excellent weaning weights achieved. Clover and clover mixes now make up a large proportion of the high-quality feed earmarked for hoggets, 2-tooths and multiple bearing ewes, with singles lambed put onto poorer quality feed.

During later lactation maintaining pasture quality is a priority – as grasses become reproductive through November, grazing pressure is applied to reduce seed head formation. It's a balancing act so that lambs are not disadvantaged, and it's very dependent on seasonal growth. In a tighter season they will need a bit more scope, but if given too much range can graze very selectively which negatively impacts pasture quality. Taking paddocks out of the rotation for cropping etc, helps in a growthy season – too much feed can be just as big a problem as too little, as quality will drop and with it lamb growth rates.

Planning for this year's lamb crop starts at weaning with ewe body condition score monitored and lighter stock prioritised before tupping. After the first cycle ewes are tightened up, rather than doing this later on, thus they are able to be on a rising plane of nutrition from scanning through to lambing – a critical time as the ewe's energy requirements increase in later pregnancy.



Dan's hoggets and lambs on clover

### 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

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by the Big Blue Cross

# Worm Control

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**



“When the grass has grown up past the sheep dung you know you’re having a reasonable spring” was a quote from a Middlemarch farmer recently. It summarises a lot of technical aspects of getting ewes to milk, lambs to grow and how to reduce some of the worm burden.

However, spring time stock are always going to get more exposed to parasite challenge than during other times of the year.

- DO you need to drench ewes at tailing? No if you have decent pasture cover, ewes in better than average condition and lambs doing well. Those unsure can do 3-5 FECs on ewe mobs pre-tailing. This will help gauge the level of worm burden in ewes. I would drench ewes at tailing if ewes have very high FEC >500 epg, they are very daggy, feed is short and body condition is poor, even then just doing tail-enders may be enough
- Should I drench lambs at tailing? Generally no, even if they had a few parasites they are mainly on a high protein milk

diet so are not affected. The exception is if nematodirus worm species is an issue. Generally lambs with nematodirus infections are gaunt with a dirty. .

- Parasites become more significant for lambs when the milk is removed from the diet (weaning). Tape worms pre-weaning can be an issue for some, so a pre-weaning drench rather than a tailing drench is probably more effective.

Setting up your weaning worm control programme:

The weaning drench is probably the most important drench a lamb gets. It is good to look at lamb parasite control on 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. The plan below works to ease off triple drench and phase in a bit of novel drench on the shoulders. Those with good triple drench efficacy can still use it at weaning and beyond, but at least do one drench check and follow-up novel drench in the Autumn

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). Some farm systems have moved away from 28 day drenching altogether.

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.

Summary

- Tailing drench to lighter ewes if not had LA treatment.
- Egg Counting ewes that have had LA treatment.
- Replacement hoggets – drench at least once this spring 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*



Out tailing with Jeremy Hore Maniototo Sheep Handling



Tailing day at Lonestar up the Haka.  
A big fundraiser for Kurow Rugby, JAB and Kurow Squash

# Tailing Workshop for Fine Wool Farmers

Organised and hosted by Lachie and Jo McKenzie, Tabletop Station, Hakataramea



**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

Some farmers are exploring pain management options for their flock this tailing season. As vets, we have an important role to play to deliver practical advice and options for this area of livestock welfare.

The provision of pain relief for such long standing practices as tailing and castration of lambs does open up some interesting debate about husbandry, practicality, cost of production and welfare...and where it's all heading.

For some wool supply contracts there are requirements for pain relief to be applied when performing tailing and castration. There is a three-year period in which to establish the best way of achieving this. So yes there will be an extra cost associated with it, but for those early adopters there is a financial incentive with market premiums.

It is optional and reasons for exploring pain management for castration should ideally come from farmers wanting to do it for the betterment of their animals, rather than from having to do it for an audit. The "why do it?" is actually quite important for each animal owner to address.

The recently launched Numnuts<sup>®</sup> tool is a standardised way of anaesthetising the scrotum for castration of male lambs. At a recent workshop, farmers were having a go with the gadget and observing the responses. The advantages are its safety and consistency for performing the job of ring castration and delivering pain relief.

Other options discussed were the topical anaesthetic gel, Tri-sulfen, that could be applied to tail stumps and shearing cuts. It seems to be a practical way to reduce the pain associated with hot iron tailing.

Anti-inflammatories can also be used to supply pain relief, but this is more for the long standing dull pain. They will not do much in the first instance to alleviate acute pain response if given at the same time as the procedure.

Lets have a discussion about the pros and cons of pain management for your lambs next time your in.

We have a lend Numnuts<sup>®</sup> applicator if you want to try it out on a mob.



## Scabby Mouth An "Orf-ful" Disease

**Ellen Hodder BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**



Scabby mouth, orf, contagious pustular dermatitis, whatever you call it – its time to think about this contagious disease as we head into tailing.

**Cause** - Scabby mouth is caused by an orf virus. It is extremely contagious and will infect people. Some flocks have a 90% infection rate, though this disease mostly affects young lambs.

**Signs** – Typically crusty, pus filled lesions (pustules) develop around the mouth, over the face, ears and around the hooves. Although lesions are temporary and usually self-resolve, it can result in decreases in growth potential due to reduced feed intake.

**Transmission** – Transmission occurs through contact between susceptible animals (including people) and the virus which lives within the scabs from infected animals. It is important to wear gloves and wash your hands while handling animals infected with scabby mouth. Skin trauma aids infection, which is why lesions are seen mostly around the mouth and feet. The virus can live for many months within the scab material. Its broken down by water and UV light, but survives well under the shelter of covered yards or woolsheds, and this is where infection may persist on your farm.

**Treatment** – Treatment isn't always necessary as lesions can self-resolve, unless pustules become infected. Topical or injectable antibiotics (such as Intracillin LA) could be used in this case.

**Prevention** - Vaccination is the most effective prevention for scabby mouth infection. We vaccinate with a live viral vaccine, meaning that the animals are infected with a still live virus, in a controlled way. Avoid contact between yourself and the vaccine. It is not necessary to vaccinate if you do not have scabby mouth on your property. There are two live vaccination options available.

- Phenax Classic. 150 dose pen-style applicator.
- Scabiguard 250 dose bottles mounted in gun applicator.

Both require the skin to be broken and dye vaccine applied to the scratch area.

One line is enough. Keep product chilled between use.



Tabletop Station workshop looking at pain management options for tailing

# Breeding Bitches

## The Ins and Outs of Common Queries

Anna McLeod BVSc - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



*I've got a dog lined up for my Huntaway bitch who is due to come on heat soon. He's a few hours away, so I want to make sure I time the trip right for the best chance of success*

Optimising timing of mating is really important to maximise the chances of successful breeding, and can be one of the most common issues with apparent infertility. The length of each stage of the heat cycle, and the expression of signs, can be quite variable amongst bitches, but there are a couple of ways we can help. A vaginal swab can be examined for cell types present, as well as a blood sample to measure progesterone hormone levels. These can be used to assess what stage a bitch is within her cycle, to track her progress and predict the optimal time for mating

*She looks like she's ready, and he's definitely interested, but they just can't seem to get it together*

Whether it be potential physical or temperament incompatibility, sometimes things don't just happen naturally. In these cases, artificial insemination may be used to help facilitate a successful mating.

After ensuring the bitch is at the optimal stage of her cycle, a semen sample is collected from the dog, checked for normal density, motility and shape, then inserted into the bitch. AI is often repeated to increase chances of conception.



*I didn't realise my young heading bitch was on heat and one of the dogs got to her in the yards the other day. I need her for the dog trials next month, but I want to get a litter or two from her in the future*

When mis-mating does occur, there are treatment options. To abort an unwanted pregnancy, but preserve a bitches future breeding potential, a course of two Alizin injections 24 hours apart can be given. Often, an ultrasound around 28 days after mating to confirm pregnancy prior to injections. Alizin can be given any time after mating, up to 45 days. However, the effectiveness reduces slightly, and there is greater chance of uterine contractions and passing foetal pups when given later in pregnancy.

*I think my old huntaway is in pup, she's looking a bit fatter and I found the neighbours wandering lab outside her kennel a few weeks ago*

Speying a bitch is another treatment option to consider following mis-mating.

Not uncommonly, we see birthing difficulties and serious complications around whelping in older bitches with unnoticed pregnancies. Speying any non-breeding bitches and those that will no longer be bred from, will not only prevent unwanted pregnancy, but also eliminate the risk of developing a potentially life-threatening pyometra (uterine infection).

Whether assisting with successfully getting a bitch in pup, or solving a dilemma when something slips through the cracks, we are here to help troubleshoot any of your breeding management queries!

### Product of the Month



#### Zolvix Plus – Novel Active Oral Sheep Drench

- Actives - Monepantel plus Abamectin
- Dose 1ml per 10kg liveweight
- From \$0.74 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.

### Product of the Month

#### Cyrex LIQUID

##### Active ingredients

- Cyromazine for long term protection
- Spinosad for instant kill

##### Features

- Effective against flies, maggots and lice
- Combination power of 2 actives to mitigate resistance.

##### Length of protection

- Up to 12 weeks protection (requires full saturation)



##### Application

- Dilution rate 1 litre makes 500 litres of wash
- At least 2 litres of wash required per sheep and an additional 0.5L for each month of wool growth up to a maximum of 5 litres per sheep.
- Suitable for all breeds of sheep.

##### Withhold

- Meat withhold 7 days

**Pricing \$0.21 per litre (excl gst)**

# Get Bulls Sorted

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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.



## Veterinary Centre EwesNews EXTRA

*The traditional*  
**Festive  
Ham Promo**  
Enjoy a delicious  
Ham-on-the-Bone!



Yours this season when you purchase any of the selected drenches from the Veterinary Centre by the Big Blue Cross

# BVD Vaccination

## BVD is a common and complex disease which can have a massive impact on beef mating outcomes

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Because the costliest impacts of BVD are on pregnant beef cattle and their unborn calves, protecting heifers and cows from BVD infection during mating and gestation is critical. You can do this through vigilant biosecurity to prevent the virus entering your farm, or by vaccinating prior to mating with a BVD vaccine.

If, like on most farms in New Zealand, strict biosecurity isn't always possible – then vaccinating cows and heifers against BVD prior to mating each year will help prevent transmission of BVD virus through the placenta to the calf. This means that even if the dam is exposed to BVD during pregnancy, the foetus in utero should be protected.

All BVD vaccines available in New Zealand are killed vaccines, requiring two doses in the first year and annual boosters thereafter to continue to protect the animal. The time frame is getting tight but there is still time to vaccinate for BVD prior to mating.

**Heifers and any bought-in replacements should be double vaccinated prior to their entry to the main herd.**

- The primary vaccine course for all animals is two injections three weeks apart.
- Ideally heifers should have their 2nd booster shot at least two weeks before the planned start of mating.
- After this, annual boosters are required to maintain immunity.

**The main mixed age cow herd should have an annual booster vaccine 2 weeks before the planned start of mating.**

Bulls must not be forgotten. They are potential candidates for bringing BVD onto a farm. They must be blood tested to check if they are not PIs and should have a certificate to prove this. If proven negative, they should be vaccinated as above, and their immunity maintained by annual vaccine boosters.



# Sexed Semen Options for Beef are Available



**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

For beef producers that have grasped the concept that a female focused breeding programme is what drives the productivity of the beef unit, then artificial insemination with female only semen is a logical way to really drive your genetic programme.

It is finally a commercial reality with the first year where ST Genetics have some Angus beef and Beef Profit Marker® black composite options available for commercial use. I suggest a google search on what a Profit Maker is if interested.

Sexed semen has improved its conception rate with a more consistent product guaranteeing 4 million sperm per straw and being very fussy about starting quality.

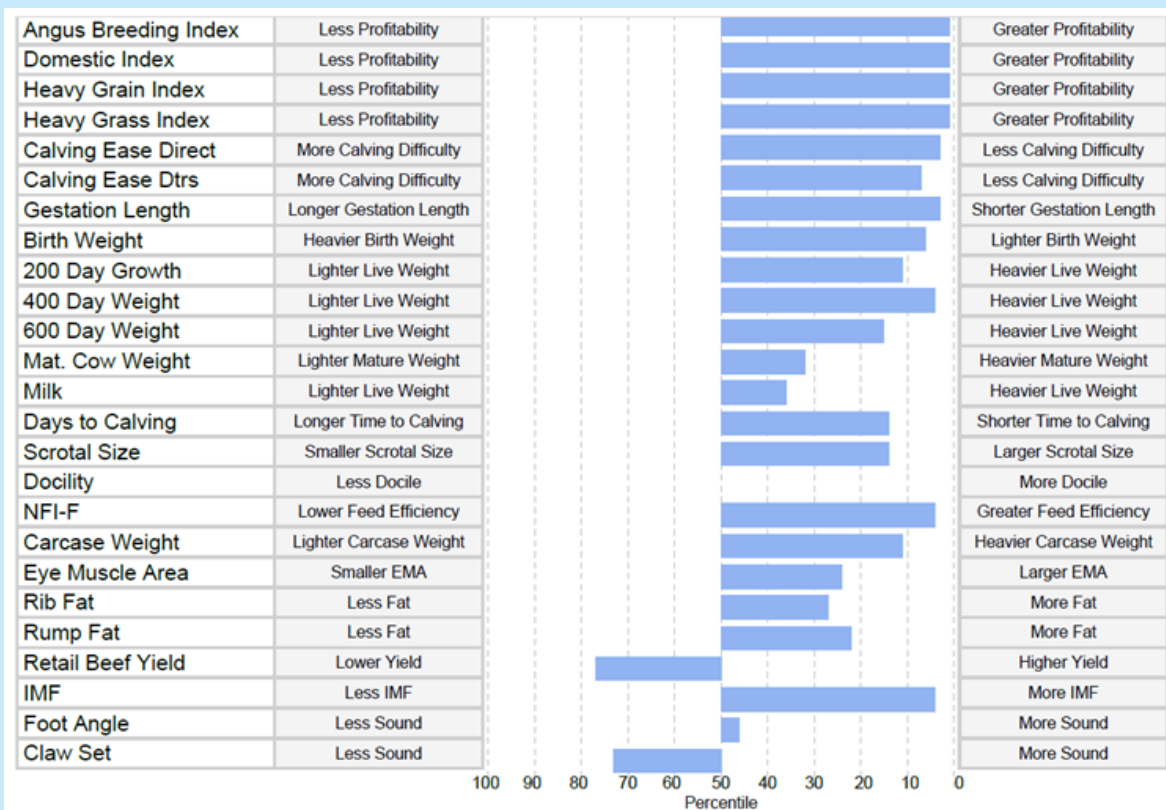
They are all Rissington cattle at this stage. They are tapped into the global index system which is a much larger data base to compare bulls and does have a couple of other measurements that the NZ system does not look at. The interesting one is the feed efficacy index. They also include the percentile figures under the accuracies which is a nice reference.

## Example of one of the sexed semen bulls on offer



### Rissington R376. \$51/straw

Massive 400 day, carcass weight and IMF in top 4% with very short gestation and low birth weight.



TACE	October 2021 TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation												
	Calving Ease				Growth					Fertility			Temp
	Calving Ease Dir	Calving Ease Dtrs	Gest. Length	Birth Wt	200 Day Growth	400 Day Weight	600 Day Weight	Mat. Cow Weight	Milk	Days to Calving	Scrotal Size	Docility	
EBV	+9.9	+7.8	-9.2	+1.5	+57	+110	+130	+107	+19	-6.9	+2.9	-	
Acc	52%	32%	85%	73%	72%	71%	71%	68%	63%	37%	66%	-	
Perc	3	7	3	6	11	4	15	32	36	14	14	-	
	Carcass				Feed	Structural		Selection Index					
	Carcass Weight	EMA	Rib Fat	Rump Fat	RBV	IMF	NFI-F	Angle	Claw	Angus Breeding	Domestic	Heavy Grain	Heavy Grass
EBV	+78	+7.5	+0.7	+0.7	-0.2	+3.8	-0.38	+0.96	+0.96	\$165	\$147	\$191	\$151
Acc	67%	64%	68%	64%	65%	63%	53%	65%	65%	-	-	-	-
Perc	11	24	27	22	77	4	4	46	73	1	1	1	1

Traits Observed: GL,CE,BWT,200WT,400WT,Scan(EMA,Rib,Rump,IMF),Genomics  
Statistics: Number of Herds: 0 Prog Analysed: 0