# Veterinary Centre EwesNews

## **Parasites & Production**

#### Simon Laming BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Farmers, their vets, researchers, and drug companies have been involved in numerous discussions regarding the options available to control internal parasites, and the short- and long-term implications of the choices our clients will make. The options taken may reduce or increase profit and production, may be unsustainable, may be sustainable in the short term, or may be sustainable for the foreseeable future. And the decisions made are often the result of a mix of theory and reality!

#### The Theory

- Exposure to worms reduces appetite, and consequent production.
- Every drench use selects for drench resistance.
- Long-acting products increase selection for resistance.
- Genetic advances are producing stock with increasing resilience to worms.

#### **The Reality**

- In spring 2022, the Vet Centre supplied around 600,000 doses of long acting drench (Bionics, Cydectin LA, and Exodus LA).
- This spring the Vet Centre will supply around 200,000 doses of long-acting drench (Cydectin LA, Exodus LA).

• There will be around 400,000 sheep

this spring that will have short acting drench, which traditionally were treated with Bionic capsules.

#### Discussion

Use of long acting products in years gone by has given significant financial returns.

- Increase lamb growth rates.
- Increased ewe liveweights at weaning, carrying through to the following tupping.
- Lower pasture larval levels in the autumn, leading to better autumn lamb growth.
- Lower dag scores of ewes in the mid and late spring.

The Vet Centre will continue extensive egg count monitoring this spring. It will be notable to watch the production levels following the move away from long acting ewe drenches. And no doubt our farmer clients will continue to give us updates of production data. Hopefully the move to more focus on nutrition, breeding for worm resilience, and planned parasite control programmes, will see a move away from drench reliance and "over-drenching", to more sustainable integrated worm control programmes.

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## **Monitoring Long Acting Moxidectin use Pre-lamb**

#### Kevin Kearney BVSc (dist), MVSc, MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutr.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

#### Why monitor...

There has been much discussion this season again, about the pros and cons of using pre-lamb parasite control in ewes. This awareness has been heightened by the withdrawal of Bionic capsules from the market place. Any decision is always multifactorial, however whatever on-farm decision has been made, it is essential that the effectiveness of any pre-lamb drench product that is used on your farm is monitored. We have been very pro-active in this space for many years and have been able to feedback to many farmers about the anthelmintic(s) they have used.

#### When to monitor...

This year in particular, the monitoring of any moxidectin LA used (Cydectin LA, Exodus LA) should be forefront. The best time to monitor is 40-75 days after injection with the optimal time around the 60 day mark.

#### What monitoring...

We need 10-12 FECs from treated ewes. We will also run a larval culture on positive samples – to assess the worm

population on your farm at this time i.e Teladorsagia (Ostertagia), Trichs. Once again, the Veterinary Centre commitment to monitoring will see this as a 'no-charge' service.

#### What now...

Once again – our team of Territory Managers will contact you – to arrange a time to collect the faeces.



# **Beef Heifer Health Focus**

#### Yearling Heifer timetable

September 15	250kg min	Eclipse pour-on 1st BVD Vax or blood test
October 15	270kg min	<mark>2nd BVD Vax</mark> Multimin boost
November 20	300kg min	Mating 42 days 1 bull:25 Al*
January 2		Bull removed
February 14		Preg test

#### **Disease Control**

**BVD vaccination** in the big one. 55% of beef herds are infected and heifers are at the biggest risk.

1st heifer vaccination should be done in **September** and **2nd booster in October** OR blood test all heifers to see if any carriers are present/exposure has occurred.

#### The right genetics for yearling heifer mating

The physical size of yearling and 2 year-old bulls is important, but will not tell you the calving ease or birth weights of progeny. For heifers a live calf and a healthy 1st calvers are the top priority, but it can be interesting to check the make-up of other traits on heifermating bulls. Check the breeding values for calving ease: **Birth weight, Calving ease direct, gestation length** of the heifer bulls you intend to use. Look also at **the accuracies** of figures and what the sire of the bull is made up of also.

	May 2023 TransTasman			
TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation	CEDir	CEDtrs	GL	BW
EBV	+9.0	+9.8	-2.8	+1.7
Acc	93%	81%	98%	98%

This proven sire is more than 2 kg below the breed average for birth weight and has had a lot of progeny recorded giving good accuracy to calving ease figures. A positive CE means they have less chances of heifers needing assistance. The issue with yearling bulls and picking on raw data birth weight is they may not always have great breeding values for direct calving ease or accuracy. Genomic evaluations can improve the estimated values. Some studs will not buy a bull these days unless it is genomically tested.

#### Worm control

September and November are typical months to drench yearling

## **Hogget Management**

Spring is a good time to give some thought to hogget health.

#### Drenches

 Most farms will be considering a hogget drench soon. Make sure to do a pre-drench FEC so drenches can be targeted to those that need it.

#### Vaccines

- Clostridial vaccines
- Remember to boost Clostridial vaccines. Multine 5-in-1 given at tailing/ weaning should be given roundabout now (often off shears) to offer best protection.
- Consider Selenium and B12 supplementation in these growing animals at the same time.

#### EwesNews (September 2023)



Emaciated ewes suffering from Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD).

#### Dave Robertson BVSc BSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

cattle, depending on the type of pastures they are on. Combination drench (**Eclipse** pour-on or injectable) or oral (Alliance mini dose) are good options.



#### Minerals

**Selenium** and **Copper** are the main ones to top-up prior to breeding. If unsure if required do some bloods to check. **Multimin** is popular as an all-round, shorter acting option. It has some New Zealand trial data showing benefits with conception rate and immune function. Selovin LA and coppermax are popular options also.

#### **Artificial insemination**

Inquiries about synchrony and AI are coming in. This can be a good option to get some new genetics on the ground. Other benefits of heifer AI is there are no calves at foot during the yardings for synchro and mating. The progeny are born in a condensed period for easier management.

Getting them up to weight and doing all the animal health prior to Al is important (see table above)

Mixed age cows can achieve superior conception rates when everything is in their favour.

#### A typical 4-yarding heifer synchro programme

November 8	CIDR in	
November 15	CIDR out	
November 17	AM - Inject 12 Noon - Al	

## A 2nd option is to re-synchro heifers. This is 4 more yardings. It avoids using bulls at all.

#### **Re-synchro**

Dec 3 (day 16 after Al)	Re-CIDR
Dec 10	1mL injection
Dec 17	Preg test and PG non-pregnant
Dec 19	2nd Al of non-preg from 1st round

Aim for 50-60% in-calf after 1st round, and 75 - 85% in-calf after 2nd round.

Give me a call to discuss costings, logistics and bull options if interested. You do have to have good heifers (temperament and growth wise), good yards and enough feed handy.



#### **Johnes Vaccine**

Ewan Penny BVMS - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

- Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD) is estimated to effect 75% of sheep flocks in NZ.
- Affected flocks see poorer meat, milk and wool yields. OJD also leads to significant ewe wastage (see photo).
- The disease is picked up as lambs, lies dormant and then causes serious wasting, usually around 3-4 years old.
- Particularly worth considering in affected fine wool flocks, as these have higher mortality rates (2.7 times higher than strong wool flocks). A return on investment in vaccine of \$4.20:1 has been shown.
- Gudair TM is a Johnes vaccine which will significantly reduce shedding of Johnes bacteria and its production losses. 1 shot to replacement hoggets will last the animals lifetime.



Gudair Vaccine ACVM A007996

## Scabby Mouth – That Orf-full Disease!



#### Catherine Nelson BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

With lambing upon us, it's time to consider those tailing time treatments, and decide which ones are worthwhile. For those with a history of parapox virus (AKA scabby mouth or orf) on the property, the scabby mouth vaccine should definitely top the list. It's spread through contact with the scabs, and the virus survives for years in the environment. The risk of the disease increases substantially over summer and reduces growth rates, so tailing is the ideal time to vaccinate lambs for it.

Here are a few do's and don'ts for scabby mouth vaccinations:

DO'S	DON'TS
Administer on bare skin- inside of the hind-leg is best, or inside of the foreleg if fly treatment is being given at the same time. This stops the lamb licking it and causing infection.	Vaccinate if you've never had scabby mouth on your property- it's a live vaccine so may just introduce the virus into your flock.
Scratch the skin in a 4-5cm line with the applicator needle. The blue dye in the vaccine will show where it's been.	Scratch the skin hard enough for it to bleed. This washes the vaccine away, and stops it working.
Keep the vaccine in the fridge until you're ready to administer it, then keep the extra packs in a cool bag at the yards.	Scratch yourself with the vaccination- humans can catch scabby mouth too! Also wear gloves if handling animals with the virus.

Finally, check to make sure the vaccine has taken. Look at 20 lambs a week after vaccination and check the site- there should be a raised white scab with reddened skin around it if the vaccine was successful. 100% take rate is unlikely, but it should be 80% or more. It is still possible for lambs to get scabby mouth despite the vaccination if there is a high environmental challenge, but the disease will be much less severe than in unvaccinated stock.

Unlike most animal diseases, scabby mouth tells you exactly what it looks like. Following some trauma to the skin, scabby mouth causes raised scabs around the mouth, udder, vulva or poll. It usually resolves itself, but always wear gloves while handling the affected animal, as it can transmit to humans too.





## Feeding Mouldy Supplements



Vanessa Love BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly

Mould is the dust like coloured fuzzy structure that a lot of fungi form when growing conditions are correct. Some fungi form mushrooms and others are single cells that we can't see with the naked eye but can see changes in the feeds they're growing on.

There are thousands of species of mould-forming fungi and these moulds can produce hundreds of different toxins (mycotoxins) that can affect the body in many different ways. Moulds may affect the body directly causing pneumonia, mastitis or abortions, or via toxins causing a myriad of symptoms.

Storing winter feed in good condition can be difficult especially during a wet summer like we had this year, and we have had a lot of reports of mouldy feeds.

Mould decreases the ME and palatability of feed, as well as limits vitamins and thiamine. The end result is a feed that tastes bad, won't make them gain weight and has limited vitamin support.

There is a certain amount of each type of mould cows and sheep can tolerate, the exact amount is unknown so therefore we don't have a 'safe' amount of spoiled feed that you can feed.

The rumen is an excellent 'decontaminator' of mycotoxins and moulds, therefore sheep and cattle are more resistant to disease than monogastrics like us, pigs or horses, however dairy cows, high producing sheep and beef cattle around calving may be more susceptible to mycotoxins due to altered rumen transition times and a suppressed immune system. Young calves and sheep with undeveloped rumens are also susceptible.

Clinical signs vary from poor doers and weight loss to pneumonias and abortions. I once saw cows with blistered swollen vulvas from mouldy feed and no other signs, likely due to estrogenic effects of certain mycotoxins, vaginal and rectal prolapses can happen too. Occasionally we see sporadic abortions in sheep and cattle from mycotic placentitis-fungal infection of the placenta (photo below).

Feed analysis is hard because mould growth is inconsistent, the affected feed may be gone before signs are apparent and mycotoxins aren't uniformly distributed within a feed. Lab analysis is expensive and limited to only a few mycotoxins out of the over 400 known. Diagnosis is usually from the history.

Remember that bacteria like Listeria can also overgrow in spoiled or improperly stored feeds like silage.

The general consensus is white mould is probably okay to some degree, others probably aren't. If you have

to feed mouldy feeds, the main solution is dilution –that is feeding good feed with the mouldy stuff and preferably feeding the worst of it to adult nonpregnant cattle and sheep.



EwesNews (September 2023)

## **Merino Ewe Nutrition During** Pregnancy



#### Vanessa Love BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly

Ewe nutrition during pregnancy directly impacts production parameters of offspring over their entire lifetime. Restricted feed during days 50-100 of pregnancy limit placental growth and function which affects fetal growth. Restriction of feed during days 100-150 limits fetal growth and final birth size.

Feed restrictions to the ewe will continue to have an effect on lamb growth, weaning weight, post weaning survival, fleece weight and fibre diameter through the lifetime of the offspring.

Secondary wool follicles develop between day 80 of gestation and birth, suboptimal nutrition during this time will affect the ratio of primary to secondary follicles and give a higher fibre diameter as well as a lower fleece weight. Studies on Merinos show this reduced production can be expected to be for the entire lifetime of the offspring. Twinning also affects these wool parameters to a degree.

The above production effects have been seen in multiple studies measuring both live weight loss over pregnancy and condition score.

Important points:

- Lamb birth-weight is the biggest single predictor of lamb survival in the first few days of life. This can be affected by ewe nutrition as well as twinning and gender.
- Suboptimal feeding during pregnancy won't affect final mature size of the offspring
- Heavy ewes who hold condition or gain weight after day 100 of pregnancy produce offspring with a higher birth-weight, greater clean fleece weight and lower fibre diameter.
- For fine wool breeds, a small weight loss (no more than 4kg) in the first 100 days of pregnancy has no effect on future production of progeny if the weight is gained back before lambing.
- For meat breeds, if feed is tight, prioritise feeding better in late pregnancy when the majority of fetal growth occurs.



# Veterinary Centre

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CENTRA

# Watery Mouth in Lambs Anna Macfarlane BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oama

Watery disease is an infectious disease caused by E.Coli bacteria which is seen in neonatal lambs in the first 3 days of life. The gut pH is not acidic at this point and allows the E.coli bacteria to rapidly multiply. Lambs pick up an infection from the environment where there is excessive mud or faeces. The initial signs are dull lambs which begin to drool excessively (hence the name). They refuse to feed, collapse and may get swollen guts (rattle belly) and often die within a few hours.

Watery mouth is most seen in indoor housing systems. In NZ it would be more common to see if ewes are lambing in mud or where they have lambed under dirty shelter belts/hedges. Orphaned lambs, or triplets that have received inadequate colostrum are high risk. Any lambs through mothering pens in yards/sheds are at risk of watery mouth.

Of lambs that contract the disease, there are high fatalities. They can be treated however if signs recognised early:

#### • 0.5mL Bivatop orally and 0.5mL under the skin.

VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

- Keep warm.
- Tube with 100-150mL electrolytes or warm water with a pinch of baking soda and pinch of sugar.
- Give 150mL milk 6-8 hrs later via tube if needed.

Prevention and good management are key to preventing the disease. Colostrum management is crucial so that lambs receive good levels of passive immunity to prevent against disease. Lambs need 10-15% of their bodyweight over 24hrs which is best split into 6 feeds e.g. (100ml per fed). Pay close attention to at risk lambs such as triplets or lambs born from light ewes with poor udders. Lambing in as clean paddocks as possible and pre lamb crutching/ shearing of ewes will decrease the bacterial intake. If lambing indoors or hand rearing orphaned lambs indoors ensure pens are regularly cleaned and replaced with clean straw or sawdust.





## Suprelorin in Working Dogs



Abby Robertson BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

One of the most unusual 'unplanned' matings I have ever seen was between a Rottweiler female and a Dachshund male. The 'how' of this mating remains a mystery. While the puppies (Rottweiler bodies with three-inch legs) managed to find homes, mis-matings can cause risks for the female dog and concerns about finding homes for the offspring.

Suprelorin is a unique, safe, and effective implant for non-permanent contraception in male dogs. The implant is injected under the skin (like a microchip), which temporarily suppresses testosterone. It provides the advantages of castration without anaesthesia or surgery.

This option is ideal for people wanting to avoid mis-mating between dogs but allowing the option of breeding later. It is also helpful in managing testosterone related prostatic disease if surgical castration is not suitable. In dogs with behavioural problems, Suprelorin can be used as a trial to see if castration lessens or worsens the issue prior to committing to surgery.

When used in working dogs there was no change in working behaviour or demeanour and the dogs lost all interest in bitches (even those on heat). There was no reactions after the Suprelorin was injected and it possible to remove the implant if earlier return to fertility is required.

After implant placement, an active ingredient is steadily released preventing the production of testosterone. Testosterone is essential for sperm production and reproduction in the male.

It takes around 6 weeks for the dog to become completely infertile due to remnant sperm stored in the reproductive tract. Once infertile, sperm production is prevented for at least 6 months. Once the implant wears off the dog's fertility will gradually return. Repeat implantation every six months is recommended for more long term contraception.

Please feel free to contact us at your local Veterinary Centre for any further information on whether this would be a good option for any of your male dogs.



# Veterinary Centre EWESNEWS EXTRA



Alistair McLeod Egilshay Genetics - Ranfurly. With what he predicts will be the winning IL De France ram at the next Ranfurly show.

COVEXIN<sup>10</sup>

## The most comprehensive clostridial vaccine

- Advanced protection against 10 types of clostridial bacteria.
- Protects sheep and cattle from Sudden Death Syndrome.
- Recommended for high-value, fastgrowing stock grazing new pastures, crops or supplementary feed.



Multine 5 in 1 Clostridial Vaccine – Lambs NZ Trial work demonstrating superior immune response<sup>1</sup>. Product of the Month

NZ Trial work demonstrating superior immune response<sup>1</sup>. Lambs born to Multine vaccinated ewes obtained more than double the mean level of antibodies to Pulpy Kidney and 30% more antibodies to Tetanus than lambs in the reference vaccinated group<sup>1</sup>.

1 - Clostridial vaccination of lambs with maternally-derived antibodies J Moffat & H Bain (MSD Animal Health) and S Bruere (Vet Services Wairarapa)



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Sensitiser

dose needs

## Lamb Rearing at Hawke Partnership

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutr.) - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Fiona & Simon Hawke run 180 Dorset Down stud ewes and 310 crossbred ewes on a mixed beef, sheep, and dairy grazing operation in Hunter, near Waimate. With their ewes scanning around 185% they get plenty of triplets, and a couple of years ago made the decision to go from bottle feeding and mothering on, to a Heatwave automatic feeder. They now successfully rear a larger number of lambs – about 65 – 75 each year – in an open front shed lined with straw bales.

Along with the usual orphans, from the triplet mob one triplet from each set is hand reared to give the other two more opportunity to do well. Lambs do best on mum, so the strongest lamb is taken off leaving the weaker lambs on the ewe. Once at the shed all lambs get 200ml of Launchpad colostrum in one or two feeds, and navels are sprayed with iodine for the first three days. Lambs are bottle fed for a few days until Fiona can see that they are getting the hang of the feeder – they learn quickly watching other lambs. Treatments are all recorded so Fiona can keep track of who needs what. Older lambs are moved into another pen, and after a few weeks they are let outside during the day onto pasture.

Sprayfo Primo milk powder works well for their system, and this year Fiona is using Sprayfo Alpha for the younger lambs, then switching to Primo after a couple of weeks. Lambs get ad-lib fresh water, and NRM pellets or muesli, along with nibbling the straw from the bales lining the shed. Pellets are continued after weaning, which is onto high-quality clover rich pasture. Lambs have already been grazing this while on milk, so it's a straight forward transition. Weaning slightly heavier at 22kg+ has gone better than trying to do at earlier – when they didn't finish as well.

Fiona's advice is to take the time in those first few days to care for them and feed them well and it will pay off – e.g. get the colostrum in, and keep spraying their navels for three days. Keeping the shed warm, dry and draught free is also very important. It's a system that obviously works – with very few health issues – her main problem is chewed teats – a pain many of us know too well!!



## For all your essential lambing supplies

