Veterinary Centre **Ewes**News

The Weaning Process – Expressing your Stocks' Full Potential

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

Most of us think of, and treat, weaning as a date on the calendar – something that gets ticked off and moved on from. For the lambs however, weaning is the biggest event in their lives and undoubtedly the most stressful. They are separated from their mums', taken off milk, often have to adjust to a new feed source, exposed to the stress of yarding, dogs and people, and this all happens very abruptly.

Modern stock have a lot of **genetic potential** – but if they are not fed well then that potential will not be fully realised. After making that investment you must then give them the chance to express it – which means fully feeding them, especially at key times such as premating, late-pregnancy and lactation, and when they are young growing stock. If **post-weaning growth rates** are lower than you would like has a weaning check played a part in this?

The two main areas that will impact how the weaning process will affect the young lamb are:

- The amount of **stress** it places the lamb under:
 - This comes from handling by people and dogs, changes to their environment, and changes to their management and routine such as being removed from their mums
- The change in **feeding** the lamb undergoes:
 - Remember we are feeding the bugs in the rumen, not the lamb itself

 the lamb lives off acid produced by the rumen bugs and they also digest the rumen bugs as a source of protein. Weaning means the final transition from a monogastric animal (milk is main energy source) to a full ruminant (forage feeds bugs in rumen)

Over the ditch feeding grain every few days for a week before and then several after weaning is used to help with rumen transition – it suits their systems as sheep

are then accustomed to grain in case of drought. The lambs also get used to people coming into the paddock to feed out in the few days before being handled before weaning, reducing that stress. Here in NZ a more realistic option may be making sure lambs and their mums are on the high quality feed the lambs will be weaned onto before this happens – so lambs and their rumens are used to it.

Any changes you can make to your normal weaning process that will reduce stress on the lambs and ease the transition of the rumen bugs to their new diet will help make this change easier. This can translate to a couple of kg either way – lost or gained – which could add up down the road to several kg for a hogget mated. Getting the rumen bugs cranking also optimises the output of rumen protein – which helps growth rates and resilience against parasitism.

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Parapox – Velvet disease in Deer (Scabby Mouth, Orf)



Dougall McLachlan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

A deer farmer contacted us last month regarding scabby velvet he had removed. Inspection of the velvet and discussion around the presentation of the animals (some also had swollen heads) confirmed a diagnosis of parapox.

Unfortunately by the time the infection was identified a significant number of animals were affected and a recommendation to velvet all affected animals immediately was made.

In addition checking all stags by feeling the velvet for scabs and isolating all nonaffected animals was recommended with instruction to check these again twice weekly. Any new affected animals should again be velveted immediately.

This drastic approach has limited the spread on another farm, which incidentally only appears to have a problem every six years. Infection confers immunity for affected deer and the above observation would suggest it can occur outside of the velveting season and male animals.

No obvious reasons for the outbreak were found as they were not grazing rough pastures and no thistles were present (predisposing factors) No sheep are on the property and no scabby mouth vaccine is used.

Parapox is a highly contagious disease and can affect humans (zoonosis)

Unfortunately affected velvet is nonsaleable and can therefore represent a large financial loss if large quantities are affected. Early identification is critical so checking animals before they have reached the velveting stage may allow early intervention.

Pre-weaning Drenching in Lambs

Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly

This time of year we have a lot of discussions with farmers around pre-weaning drenching decisions for lambs. The majority of farmers surveyed close to ten years ago were pre-wean drenching, for many sheep farmers it is ingrained in their psyche, others see benefits in lamb growth rates, dag scores and presumably lower pasture contamination.

In 2010 Beef+Lamb NZ trial work showed lambs drenched with Matrix pre-wean were 0.5kg heavier at weaning than untreated lambs and dag scores improved. This was a 14g per day weight gain over the control group. A 2015 study produced similar results.

Lambs must be consuming significant amounts of pasture for 21 days for worms to have built up to high enough numbers to cause problems. This probably occurs around 8 weeks of age at the very earliest depending on the grazing system. If you do decide to drench lambs, the undrenched ewes will provide appropriate refugia.

Most farms with triple drench resistance are actually best to stick to a triple drench pre-weaning as you want to conserve novels like Startect or Zolvix for weaning and ewes will provide refugia.

Any drenching activity increases the slow roll of resistance, drenching pre-wean is no exception.

Drench Performance Test



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

Our new, easier and more flexible alternative to the FECRT

Gives essential information on the performance of individual drenches on your farm, throughout the season

Procedure:

- After discussion with your Prime Vet bring in 10 pre-count samples, then drench groups of lambs with selected drenches
- 10 days later bring samples in from drenched groups to be counted
- A reduction is calculated, indicating the effectiveness of individual drenches on your farm

Can be done without a vet visit

Ideally done at points in the season e.g. Weaning, Autumn & Prelamb

Weaning, with undrenched lambs, is the ideal time to book the **first Drench Performance Test of the season** – contact your Prime Vet to discuss



Avoid drenches with abamectin if lambs are under 15kg, preferably they will be at least 20kg, as rumen underdevelopment affects



the metabolism of abamectin and can result in toxic effects at low doses.

If you are eyeing up a reduction test this summer, you could leave 100 tagged lambs undrenched if you are pre-wean drenching, this way they can be identified later at weaning and drafted into their own mob.

Overall a pre-weaning drench will probably result in heavier lambs at weaning. Alternatively mobbing ewes and lambs into smaller mobs, targeting high pre and post grazing covers in late lactation so ewes continue to milk well, offering high-legume feeds and leaving cleaning up paddocks to later in the season will help to drive preweaning growth rates in the absence of drench.

Tapeworm Drench



Anna Macfarlane BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Tapeworm in sheep can often be easily spotted if you see large white ribbon type worms passed in sheep dung. If tapeworm is present in your lambs it is unlikely to knock all the lambs about but the ones it does, they are likely to have poorer growth rates and increased amount of dag's. If tape is a concern drenching against it is commonly done around November - December as if affects lambs aged between 8-12 weeks of age. For a drench to be effective against tapeworm it needs to contain the active

praziquantel which is effective against both the head and the segments of the worm.

Our options for Tape drenches are:

Corporal+Tape Double active + Tape (replaces First drench)

Eraser Tape Triple active + Tape (replaces Matrix Tape)

CORPORAL





Triple Active Drench + TAPE Abamectin, Albendazole, Levamisole, PLUS Praziquantel (mineralised with Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Cobalt and Iodine). Dose 1mL/5kg

C RPORAL TAPE

Double Active Drench + TAPE Albendazole, Levamisole, PLUS Praziquantel (mineralised with Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Cobalt and Iodine). Dose 1mL/5kg

* BUY TWO Eraser Tape 10L or Corporal+Tape 20L and receive a FREE Campbell's Ham

Fly Season is Fast Approaching

Aroha Te Hiko BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Daggy ewes and lambs may become the new norm this year with the loss of capsule use, and new sustainable drench practices necessitates limited use of drench products (with even more limited products being available). Adult ewe drenches will be targeted and some may not see a drench within the year. Preventative measures for fly will be that much more important than treatment. With long grass going to seed, excess moisture and high humidity levels have led to perfect environmental conditions for an early start to the fly strike season.

What products to use?

Cyrex in recent years has become a significant part of many fly strike control programs. Cyrex (Cyromazine + Spinosad) provides long term fly protection via Cyromazine and instant kill of lice and maggots via the Spinosad component. Important to note the label claim is now 3-8 weeks fly protection instead of 12 weeks. This is due to the amount of active chemical



being applied via the jetting method (very difficult to saturate animals with the active ingredient).

An alternative cyromazine product is Vetrazin. The Cyromazine provides long-term fly protection label claim up to 12 weeks. This product works better for control over treatment as it does not kill

adult flies only developing larvae. This product allows farms to reduce reliance on the heavily used Spinosad family which is coming under increasing pressure.

Due to current environmental conditions and future forecasts, it is important to remember that products containing Cyromazine have the potential to be washed out if significant rainfall events occur within 7 days of application.

Due to favourable early fly strike conditions, there is a good chance that the fly season could potentially be long and drawn out. Should this be the case, farms wanting long term control and increased protection and peace of mind through the summer period should consider the use of Click Extra. Click Extra is a ready to use pour on formulation containing Dicyclanil as the active ingredient which is proving to be very popular. Click Extra has a label claim of 14-26 weeks. Farms applying Click Extra to ewes have had very good success in recent years due to the extended level of protection.





Cyrex Liquid ACVM A009917 Vetrazin Liquid ACVM A005835

Clik Extra Spray-On ACVM A011384



EwesNews (December 2023)

Ram Palpations and Scrotal Mange

Ewan Penny BVMS - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

For some, ram palpation will be a means of Brucellosis control. For others, it will be to satisfy accreditation requirements of a palpation three months prior to ram sale, alongside blood sampling. Vets will check for scrotal mange at the same time. Here are some of the basics.

Cause

A mite (Chorioptes Bovis)

Diagnosis

- Presumed infected by identified lesions (thickened scabs with oozing fluid)
- Affected rams will mouth a nibbling response when the scabs or manipulated/ scratched
- Not to be confused with scars from cold damage/frostbite (most relevant to high country flocks). Poor boys!!!

Mite facts

• Mite numbers significantly decline after 2 weeks off host, but some can survive longer

Treatment

- Injection Dectomax highly convenient and practical. Most rams will receive one shot to tidy them up. Severe cases may need 2 injections, 14 days apart (see above)
- Organophosphate dip. (e.g. 10ml Seraphos/10 litres water) Dip testicles in a bucket of solution for a few seconds to soak mites. Although not licensed, but anecdotally quite effective. PLEASE NOTE protective equipment (gloves, wet weathers etc.) Should be worn - there are obvious risks to human health with Organophosphates.

Why should I bother?

- Mange affects
 fertility thickened skin affects ability to
 thermoregulate/produce sperm.
- Mange will affect libido and contribute to poor breeding soundness



A scrotal mange lesion on a ram.

Ram Sedation for Shearing

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Some shearers may request rams (particularly South Downs) to be sedated prior to shearing.

- With appropriate paperwork and consultation, the Veterinary Centre can prescribe ram sedation, allowing farmers to collect and administer the sedative themselves.
- We will need to know;
 - When you're doing it Try to give a few days notice
 - How many rams you're sedating (Exact amount of sedative will be prescribed)
 - Which person we are authorising to administer

• You will need to:

- Keep a log book of which rams you're sedating and when. This book will need veterinary inspection before we can issue another prescription of sedation
- Keep sedatives in a locked cabinet

A detailed instruction document will be provided alongside sedative.



Sally Rae Cragniue Poll Dorsets, Oamaru, getting rams checked for breeding soundness and Brucellosis accreditation prior to sale. Good practice to get rams vet checked for soundness and a chance to catch up on animal health matters prior to weaning.







The staff at all our Veterinary Centre clinics would like to thank you for your support during 2023 and wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Thank you



Beef CIDR Programmes in the Maniototo



Vanessa Love BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly

Artificial insemination use within the beef sector tends to increase every year and this year is no exception. We run synchrony programmes for stud and commercial farmers across the practice. Synchronisation programmes allow farmers to maximise genetic gain without committing to purchasing a bull, use a particular bull across a large number of cows, mate cows without buying a bull in smaller holdings and import genetic material from bulls overseas. Synchronisation programmes require a few yardings, a decent headbail and race and a couple of workers to keep things running smoothly. There is no heat detection involved and some farmers even do their own inseminating.

In the Maniototo we expect to synchronise over 600 cattle this season between late October and Christmas.

There are three main protocols we use, depending on cow age, number and how the dates match up.

- For maiden R2 heifers/yearlings: 9 day CIDR synch
- For mixed age cows: 10 day CIDR synch
- For mixed age cows: 7 & 7 protocol

CIDRs are plastic T shaped devices that contain the hormone progesterone. The use of prostaglandin and GnRH injections at specific times control the cows oestrus cycle so she ovulates at a specific time.

We recommend that the bull is introduced a few days after the cows are inseminated. As cows are synchronised by the hormone programme, cows that don't hold to AI will cycle over a 5 or so day period 3 weeks later. Therefore having extra bull power is important.

The sooner the cows are pregnancy tested after AI, the more accurate the results are, ideally this is done 6-10 weeks after AI, and a follow up scan may need to be done on those who didn't hold to AI depending on timing.

In calf rates can vary by farm, season and by bull, we typically see between 50% and 70%, with heifers achieving the highest conception rates.

If Al is something you have been thinking about trying on your farm for next season give us a couple of months notice and we can make a plan specific to your farm.



Kennel Cough Vaccination



Vanessa Love BVSc VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly

A Timely Reminder with the Approach of Dog Trialling Season

Every year, dog trials see large numbers of working dogs travelling and congregating around the regions - providing the perfect environment for grumbling Kennel Cough to spread rapidly between dogs.

Outbreak situations of KC often occur sporadically throughout the country, but we often see surges of reported cases particularly in the Maniototo and Palmerston regions each year.

KC is a highly contagious respiratory infection, that can have a significant impact on the health and performance of working dogs. Much like our common cold, KC can be caused by a combination of different viruses and bacteria, with environmental factors like stress and dust also contributing. KC is spread from dog to dog via direct contact (sniffing), air droplets (coughing), or contaminated surfaces (shared water bowls). This can easily happen between dogs at trial events with many opportunities for close interactions when competing, kennelled, or chained near each other.

The common symptoms of KC include a harsh persistent cough ('goose-honk'), sneezing and runny nose, sometimes with a fever and lack of energy. Affected dogs can remain symptomatic for several weeks, and contagious for over a month.

Prevention is always better than treatment - dogs require an annual KC vaccination to decrease the risk of infection and severity of disease. In an outbreak situation a 6-monthly booster may even be recommended to increase protection.

An on-farm visit can be arranged to vaccinate entire teams of dogs. This can be done in conjunction with an annual "Woof WAF" to ensure overall health and fitness before heading into a busy season of trials and on-farm work

To discuss vaccination of your pack, or if any are showing suspicious symptoms, contact your Vet Centre clinic





Amy Parish and Vanessa Love assisting with Linnburn Stations Beef Al programme

Veterinary Centre Pre-Mating Vaccine Order Form 2023-24

Please email your order to your nearest clinic or contact your Territory Manager.



Order ToxoVax at least **4 WEEKS** prior to treatment date. ToxoVax is a live vaccine and made to order, it will expire approximately 10 DAYS from pick up.

Delivery of ToxoVax to Oamaru and Waimate is on the highlighted days indicated in the side calendar.

Product	Doses	Date	Vaccinators Vaccinator 1	Iml	EACH
ToxoVax (2ml Dose) 4-8 Weeks Prior to Mating ORDER 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO TREATMENT		nequired	Vaccinator 2 Vaccinator 5	2ml Sml	
CampyVax4 (Sensitiser 1ml) Initial Sensitiser for Maiden Ewes Only			Needles 180	ix ¾ x 12	
CampyVax4 (Booster 1ml) 4-6 Weeks after Sensitiser in Maiden Ewes, and 4-8 Weeks Prior to Mating			Needles 180	5x ½ x 12	
Flexidine (Suggestion) 4 Weeks Prior to Mating			MSD Animal Health re that a new vaccinator a are used with To		
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	OFF	FICE USE ONLY			
Damaru • Waimate Ranfurly • Palmerston	Da	Date Received:		Initials:	

Oamaru P. 03 434 5666 E. oamaru@vet111.co.nz

- Timaru P. 03 684 5666 E. timaru@vet111.co.nz
- Waimate P. 03 689 7213 E. waimate@vet111.co.nz
- Ranfurly P. 03 444 1020 E. ranfurly@vet111.co.nz
- Palmerston P. 03 465 1291 E. palmerston@vet111.co.nz
- **Kurow** P. 03 436 0567 E. kurow@vet111.co.nz
- Omarama P. 03 438 9868 E. omarama@vet111.co.nz
- Glenavy P. 03 689 8118 E. glenavy@vet111.co.nz

ToxoVax Delivery Dates

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