



# EWES NEWS



Our vet George Smith has been the champion for getting our Faecal Egg Count Reduction Tests done this year so much so we've made him his own promotional poster board. George is also a regional finalist in the Young Farmer's competition. George doesn't really like the limelight but we managed to get this photo of him telling fellow sheep and beef vet Dave Robertson all about it.

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The summer focus on Faecal Egg Count Reduction Tests has been a successful one with a further 14 farms completing the in depth analysis of their drench efficacy status this season. The appetite for knowledge about drench performance on farms is increasing. Not only does a FECRT give the best specific information to farmers, it also puts the greater topic of sustainable drench practices up for discussion and specifically how to ensure the drenches you are using now remain effective for the longest possible time.

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## Autumn Issues

Soft green grass and dewy mornings do make for some specific animal health considerations.

### Ewe condition leading up to mating

Ewes can put on a maximum of 100 - 150g/day with more than 8cm of green-leafy, quality grass. If your target weight for a cross-bred ewe is 70kg and mating is April 5th, then realistically they could put on 3-5kg in a month (~1BCS). If you're not monitoring BCS then feeding regular shifts is a way to ensure they are "lifting" prior to tupping, especially with big mobs in big blocks. Leave the cows to do the tidying up this month.

## Ewe Hogget Target Weights

Enquiries about hogget mating have begun. It has been very profitable for farmers in the last 2 seasons, especially when well managed. March is the time to make the "go or no go" call. Abortion prevention with Toxovax and Campyvax are essential for the generally naïve hogget, so too is worm control and B12/Selenium/Iodine supplementation.

Designing yourself a weight target program will help keep you on track with building the all-important frame size up to the 1st of July. For example:

Month	Target min wt	Animal health
March 5 <b>NOW!</b>	35kg	Toxo and 1st Campy Bionic capule (or matrix monthly)
April 10	38kg	2nd Campy + Flexidine, Teaser - April 19
May 5	42kg	Rams out 1:50-100 (25-35days)
June 1	46kg	
July 1	50kg	

Teasers will help concentrate more pregnancies in the 1st cycle of hogget. Book teaser vasectomies in now.



## Worm Control Options This Autumn

After a rain event it can take a couple of weeks for the sugars to re-establish in grass and it is also an opportunity for parasite larvae to re-emerge and have a chance to complete their life-cycle.

With a synchronised hatch of parasites and rapid development to infective stage, worm control in lambs/hoggets, 2 tooth and lighter mixed age ewes is beneficial. For the most part an effective combination oral drench is sufficient. For lambs drench interval needs to be every 28 days. **DON'T LET YOUR DRENCH INTERVAL SNEAK OUT TO 5 WEEKS+**, unless an FEC drench check indicates you can. If the worm burden has ramped up very quickly and pastures are heavily contaminated then persistent acting drenches can get your lambs out of a parasite rut. Exodus LA or Cydectin LA, are options but they will need an exit drench 70 - 90 days later. A novel drench is ideal (see below). For fine wool lamb traders long injectable drench is very appealing to keep them going well through the autumn.

**Using a novel active drench on lambs/hoggets at some stage through March - May** is recommended to clean out any resistant parasites that have accumulated. Zolvix plus and Startect are the two options. For farms where certain drench resistance has been diagnosed then targeted use of novels on ewes at pre-tup is advised (e.g. Startect to 2 tooth, light ewes).

In these conditions using adult cattle behind lambs or ewes behind calves is a very good way of maintaining lower levels of parasite burdens through a "wormy autumn".



## Footrot Management

If you have put the time into removing footrot infection from your flock this summer, don't let the hard work be undone. The "clean mob" will need re-checking prior to winter. Left un-checked in these conditions <1% footrot can again become >10%. Troughing every week will keep a lid on transmission.

Do I Footvax? Sensitisation can begin in the autumn in preparation for a spring booster to give protection over lambing. Those farmers investing in Footvax do so to safeguard against a wet season and a footrot blowout. Footvax will at least halve footrot rate and reduce severity through periods when not much else can be done (mating and lambing).

## B12/Cobalt

Smartshot (long acting B12) for keeper hoggets and winter lambs is a sure way to sustain adequate B12 levels through the autumn. It seems to be later autumn when B12 liver reserves run-out of young stock. B12 supplementation can provide an extra 2kg/month with lambs in the autumn, which more than justifies the investment. Short acting B12 each month is the other alternative. There can be merit in supplementing ewes with B12 prior to mating also. Optigrow monitoring of stock sent to the works is a convenient way of getting some data on B12 requirements. Just ring the clinic when the stock are being transported to the processing plant to request an Optigrow.

## Clostridial Vaccine

A Black back seagull "resting on a sleeping sheep" are the clostridial vaccine messenger birds. Their job is to remind you that your 5 in 1 booster shot is over-due. 2 shots 4 - 6 weeks apart are required. You only have to save 1 lamb/300 to justify doing it. If you are grazing lucerne and red clover use a 10 in 1 programme.



Clostridial vaccine messenger bird also known as the Southern Black-Backed Gull. One of only two native bird species not afforded any level of protection under the Wildlife Act.

## Developments in Drenching Deer

The past few years have seen a huge increase in studies, trials and research relating to parasites of farmed deer.

Most deer farmers are now asking what should I be using in my weaners.

The question of what product to use is a simple one - an effective triple combination. But what does this look like?

**Recent work using a mixture of Exodus pour on (Moxidectin) + Oxfen C Plus (Oxfendazole + Levamisole) has proven highly effective.**

- Mix 2.5L Exodus pour on + 2.5L Oxfen C Plus. 50:50 ratio.
- Give the mix orally at the dose rate of 1ml/5kg bodyweight.
- Once mixed it is stable for 6 weeks at room temperature as a white suspension.
- A 39 day meat withholding has been shown to be adequate with a veterinary prescription.



# Out and About at Dog Trials and A&P Shows



## Beef Cow Pregnancy Testing

March is the optimal month to capture pregnancy testing data. We have pregnancy tested over 100,000 dairy cows in the practice over the last 2 months, so we are looking forward to a change of cow type and environment!

Bull removal date	Optimum scanning time for foetal aging date
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.

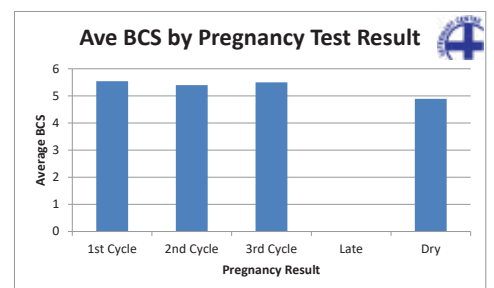
At the Veterinary Centre we're not just about the pregnancy testing, we also can monitor bull performance through aged scanning, BCS profiling, mineral and BVD status of your herd.

Ring the clinic to book in, or discuss with your vet about this all important monitoring step in beef production.

It has been great for our teams to get around the Dog trials and A & P shows again this year. Well done to all of the organising committees of these events in the various parts of our district. We hope you enjoy a bit of a break before planning starts for next year.

## Positive Early Beef Preg Test Results

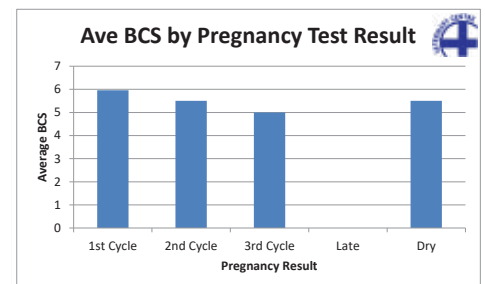
Preg Status	Count	%
1st Cycle	136	75%
2nd Cycle	34	19%
3rd Cycle	3	2%
Late	0	0%
Dry	9	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	



Farmers enjoy our beef cattle pregnancy monitoring package - especially when it's a great result.

Over 70% of beef cows in calf in the first cycle is an excellent result.

Preg Status	Count	%
1st Cycle	13	38%
2nd Cycle	16	47%
3rd Cycle	2	6%
Late	0	0%
Dry	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	



A BCS GRAPH relative to pregnancy rate showing apparent relationship between getting in-calf early and cow condition.