



EWES NEWS



Spring Lambing

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

With respect to Animal Health this October, those cross-bred farmers standing in the tailing pen might consider the following:

1. What is the parasite challenge in these paddocks? If the ewes haven't had a long acting drench, lambs can benefit from a pre-weaning tape drench. Tailing at 4-6 weeks is too soon for any drench. If ewes have had long acting drenches take the opportunity to collect 10 samples from ewes to check egg counts. Do ewes that have not had LA drench need dosing at tailing? This is an interesting question without a clear answer. It will depend on feed stress, ewe condition, demand and your tolerance for dags. Egg counts can help make the decision. It is often a good opportunity to do a targeted drench to lighter ewes or certain mobs that are not firing on all cylinders.
2. B12 boost to lambs. Some properties are low in cobalt and if ewes have not
3. Scabby mouth: prevention with vaccination at tailing is the only way. Check takes 10 days later is very important.
4. Have some blue spray/Tetravet powder and a bottle of penicillin handy for infections and general scrapes and eye infections. Best to have it ready at the start otherwise the animal will soon get wisked off the production line without a second thought.
5. Did ewes receive pre-lamb 5 in 1? If not then give lambs a shot of Lamb Vaccine at tailing to prevent tetanus. You can give the first Multine 5 in 1 dose at the pre-weaning drench to lambs (8-10wks of age) and then a boost at weaning 1 month later and lambs will be fully protected from then on.

B12/cobalt pre-lamb then this can be worthwhile.

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



Free FEC monitoring of LA drench products

George Smith BVSc BSc Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The Veterinary Centre is committed to proactive monitoring of all long acting drench products used pre-lamb. Results provide valuable insight into the efficacy of long acting products on your property and are important in decision making around exit drenching and future pre lamb anthelmintic treatment options.

What we need from you:

- 10 fresh faecal samples from ewes treated with long acting products.
- Samples collected from animals 60-80 days post product administration.

The samples will be tested at your local Veterinary Centre Clinic and the results will

be promptly reported back to you. Do lambs require drenching prior to weaning?

- Pre weaning drenching of lambs is not always necessary or justified however if you feel lambs are daggy now, collect 10 faecal samples from lambs at the same time as your long acting product monitoring and we will determine levels of Nematodirus and Strongyle worm burdens. If faecal egg counts indicate high worm burdens, then a preweaning drench maybe the course of action for you.

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“Newetrition”

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Tracecheck: Optimal mineral levels around lambing

Our **Tracecheck programme** is designed to monitor your flock's mineral levels at key times, making targeted supplementation decisions easier:

- Iodine, selenium & Vitamin E are vital for healthy thriving lambs, but levels can often be less than adequate, reducing lamb vigour, survival and growth.
- Coming out of winter, and when more crops and conserved feeds have been consumed increases that risk, but deficiency can occur in other circumstances (as described last month in a case of severe goitre in pasture fed ewes and lambs).

Tracecheck at scanning/prelamb

A breeding property blood tested five ewes before lambing to monitor iodine, selenium and Vitamin E.

- Iodine – Levels were good, and reflected giving Flexidine pre-tup.
- Selenium & Vitamin E – levels were low.

Recommendation ➤ a plan was made to give LSD + selenised

Multine 5-in-1 prelamb.

Tracecheck slinks at lambing

On an extensive hill country property LSD was given prelamb. Slink lambs were weighed, and their thyroid glands (where iodine is stored) were removed and weighed. The ratio of thyroid weight (g) to body weight (kg) is the definitive test of iodine status, and the **only way to measure storage levels.**

- **Iodine** – 40% of the lambs sampled had a ratio above 0.4, indicating iodine deficiency.

Recommendation ➤ next season LSD/Flexidine to be given early so the critical period of pregnancy is covered e.g. LSD 8 weeks + 4 weeks before lambing.

To check if your lambs are getting every chance to thrive this spring, freeze up to 10 slinks before we come out (take them out of the freezer the day before please!). It's a very quick procedure and gives invaluable information that can't be obtained at any other time in the season.



Updated animal welfare guide-lines

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0172/latest/LMS329846.html>

- Tail length on lambs. Up until now it has been a best practice guide-line to leave tails a bit longer, in May it will be a requirement to leave at least the last 3 vertebrae of tail, that is, not shorter than those 2 folds that run along the base of the tail on the bare skin bit.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0172/latest/LMS329888.html>

Transporting lame sheep and cattle

- Sheep, Cattle deer and pigs must be able to bear some weight on all limbs. Severe lameness can only be moved for treatment. If unsure get a Vet certificate. With lines of lame sheep a vet certificate is required.
- Dehorning. Dehorn any cattle local anaesthetic must be used. This

includes calves.

GET HORNED BEEF CALVES DEHORNED/DISBUDED AT CALF MARKING – IT'S HEAPS EASIER! You can get accredited to do this or we can come out efficiently do it for you.

The dubious cow horns can be seen to at the same time.

- To transport animals the horns must be inside the ears. Ingrown horns left unattended are an offence.
- Castration
- Can be done with a ring up to 6 months of age, after that local anaesthetic must be used when castrating.

Beef Corner

Example of an AI syncro program for beef cows
We have a number of farms lining up to AI their beef cows again this year. We have discussed the benefits of doing this throughout the year. Here is a guide of what is required.

October 10	Sort cows for program calved by Sept 30. Good feed. Boost with multimin (Se, Copper, Zinc, Manganese supplement) BVD vac (if in a program) Source semen
November 10	Cidr 1 Cows in good condition, had a cycle and calved at least 6 weeks.
November 17	CIDR 2
November 19	AI
Nov 26	Bulls in
Jan 23	Bulls out
Feb 28	Preg test

Beef Cow Feeding Post Calving

Last year was a real testament to the benefits of feeding beef cows well 2 to 4 months after calving: they get back in calf! The first month after calving is not so critical, it's the November to January period that drives everything. This year with a dry spring looming, this is going to be a challenge.

Any reduction in feeding post calving, the cow will sacrifice her bodyweight first to maintain milk production. With the short window between calving and mating this reduction in bodyweight will come at the expense of reproductive performance. With only 85 days for a cow to get back in calf to maintain a 365 day calving interval cows need to be cycling when the bull goes in. Probably the main cause of poor 1st service conception rates in beef herds is delayed resumption of cycling activity. This is related directly to previous calving spread, BCS and spring feeding levels. Yes a cow can eat medium quality forage for 9 months of the year, but in the spring they need 12-18kgDM/cow of quality.





Deer Velvetting

Luke Smyth BVSc

With October already upon us the buttons have been cast and some of the early stag's will be close to having their velvet cut. I cut some spikers with fully formed velvet heads on the 8th September which is an extremely early start to the season. As all deer farmers will be aware the Regulated Control Scheme (RCS) for velvet harvesting came into force resulting in the industry becoming subject to new standards of hygiene and food safety.

If you need reminded about what these requirements are contact DINZ on 04 473 4500 or look at the DINZ website www.deernz.org All velvet being sold for export must be accompanied by a Velvet Status Declaration (VSD), this paperwork is signed by the farmer stating the velvet has been harvested, handled, stored and transported according to the new standards. If your facilities don't come up to the requirements then yes you can still get your stags velvetted for animal welfare purposes but you will struggle to legally sell your velvet. Vets do not sign the VSD form, false declarations on the VSD form will be entirely at the owner's risk!!



Spring is Finally Here!

Babiche Heil

DVM(Hons), MSc., Dipl. ACT, MANZCVS

Ranfurly Veterinary Centre

We've been very busy doing routine health checks and dentals on the horses in the practice area, from small to large, all have been looked after well. Spring brings an exciting time for those of you waiting for the precious new foal, for the non-breeders time to get horses back into work after a winter break. A few tips:

- Are your horses Selenium levels sufficient?
- Done a fecal egg count? – Many horses don't require routine worming, find out if yours is one of them.
- Are your horses feet ready for some work?

Timely Reminders

- Cows, heifers, and bulls should receive their BVD booster vaccination.
- Capacity testing of bulls should be carried out prior to mating.
- A selenium boost should be given to cattle prior to mating if not already administered.
- Scabine vaccination should be given to lambs at docking on infected properties.
- Clean out working dog bedding of fleas and give a long acting flea treatment.

South Canterbury A and P Show, Waimate Nov 7th, 2020

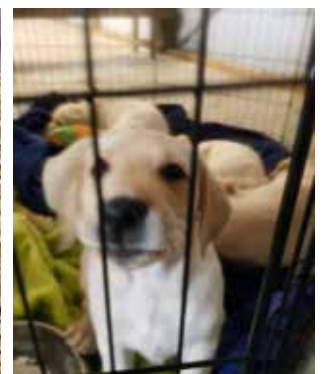
A good chance to catch up and discuss what is great about our agricultural sector.



Eric Ross with supreme Champion Corriedale ram 2019



Veterinary Centre Waimate Petting Zoo 2019





Clostridial Vaccination

Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Something which has fallen out of several of the Vet Centre Animal Health Plans is the wide variation in some farm's clostridial vaccination programmes.

Clostridial diseases are caused by bacteria, all of which form spores meaning they can lay dormant and are very resistant in the environment or inside the animal. The main ones vaccinated against in sheep in New Zealand cause the diseases; Tetanus, Pulpy Kidney, Malignant Oedema, Black Leg and Black Disease.

Tetanus at tailing and Pulpy Kidney/enterotoxaemia post weaning are of the most concern.

It is important to note that these bacteria can be considered universal and present on every farm and present in all animals. As such it the management and feeding that precipitate disease.

Tetanus lives in the soil and enters wounds via contamination or penetrating wounds. Tailing in lambs born to ewes which did not receive a pre-lamb vaccination poses the greatest risk.

The risk factors for pulpy kidney are rapid growth and lush feeding, resulting in an overgrowth of the bacteria normally present in the gut.

Often this is the cause of unexplained lamb deaths, particularly lambs post weaning.

This can occur in:

-Rapidly growing lambs, e.g singles on mum or lambs being finished for slaughter.

- Unvaccinated ewes being flushed at tugging.
- Hoggets on autumn feed.
- Lambs on high quality feed/crops.

With a dose of plain Multine 5-in-1 costing ~31cents (GST excl) it is a very economical insurance policy. If it results in the saving of 1 lamb worth \$120 this pays for the vaccination of 360 lambs.

Recommended vaccination schedule is:

- Vaccinate all replacement ewe lambs as soon as possible after weaning (sensitiser dose).
- Depending on perceived risk, non-replacement lambs can be vaccinated as well if they are to stay on the property for a while.

A booster dose should be given at least 4 weeks and up to 3 months later.

- As animals enter the breeding flock as hoggets or 2ths and in subsequent years they should receive a dose 2-6 weeks prior to lambing, this ensures high levels of antibodies in their colostrum providing protection to the lamb for 12-14 weeks until weaning.
- If ewes have not had previous vaccination then they will require a sensitiser and a booster at least 4 weeks apart, the booster can be done just prior to lambing providing protection for their lambs via colostrum.
- If ewes did not receive any vaccination prior to lambing then the lambs should be vaccinated at tailing with Coopers Lamb Vaccine which provides immediate protection against Tetanus via antitoxin and short term protection against Pulpy Kidney. Lambs will still require a standard 2 shot vaccination programme at a later date, typically weaning.



Bloat in Cattle

Gwyneth Mark BVSc

Lush pastures with high amounts of clover or lucerne makes spring a high risk time for bloat especially in young cattle. Bloat is caused by

rapid gas accumulation in the rumen This gas cannot be belched out as it becomes trapped in the rumen contents and forms stable foam.

When cattle are put onto a risky feed they can bloat within 15 minutes and die within 2 hours. If there are early signs of bloat, remove the herd from the offending pasture and feed hay or mature grass/silage. Bloating cattle can be given bloat oil and cattle with severe bloat may need to be stabbed in the left flank to release the gas. Because of the rapid onset, the first sign of bloat may be dead cattle. This can look similar to other common causes of sudden death incl. clostridial diseases in unvaccinated cattle.

Nothing is 100% effective at preventing bloat but the most reliable bloat prevention can be provided with Rumensin 100 day anti-bloat capsules given a week before being placed on risky feed. Other management options include providing fibre, giving bloat oil via troughs and avoiding hungry cattle gorging on high-risk pastures. Rumensin has the added advantage of improving feed conversion efficiency (7-15%) meaning bloat prevention can also improve production/profitability of finishing cattle.



Preventing Twisted Stomachs with Prophylactic Gastropexy

Sarah Boys BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Unfortunately, twisted stomachs (GDV) are a common cause of loss of working dogs. Large breed dogs, with deep chests, especially huntaway's are much more prone to the condition than heading dogs and some lines of huntaway's are more at risk than others.

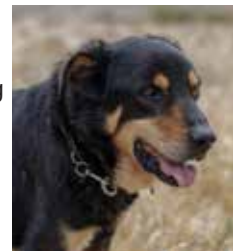
Warning signs a dog is developing a twisted stomach are: discomfort, panting, bloating, and reluctance to work. Sadly, many dogs develop twisted stomachs overnight and are found dead in their kennels in the morning.

Dogs with a twisted stomach require emergency surgery to untwist the stomach and 'fix' it back in the correct location to prevent re-occurrence. What many people may not know is that there is a preventative solution available.

A gastropexy is a surgery where the stomach is permanently secured to the inside of the abdominal wall. After a gastropexy, a dilation of the stomach can still occur, but the life-threatening twist cannot. The surgery can be combined with de-sexing.

Recovery involves 3-4 days of strict rest followed by 2 week of gentle exercise. After surgery, there may be a short period of belching as the stomach adapts to its new position but otherwise complications are uncommon.

Please ask about prophylactic gastropexy if you have an at-risk dog. In the right hands, this is a straight forward procedure that may save your dog's life.



Elanco
Rumensin
ANTI-BLOAT CAPSULES



1. Monensin is a rumen modifier which changes the rumen microflora in such a way that bloat is prevented.
2. Rumensin treated cattle have 7% more energy released from the diet.
3. New Zealand trials have shown a 15% weight gain advantage in treated beef cattle.