

RAIN SCALD

Rain scald is a common skin infection in horses. It is caused by the *Dermatophilus congolensis* bacteria which is a natural inhabitant of the skin. Under warm and damp conditions the bacteria proliferate and cause crusty lesions to break out. The scabs are generally not painful or itchy but they can cause temporary cosmetic damage to the horse's skin.

WHAT DOES RAIN SCALD LOOK LIKE?

In the early stages of infection, you may be able to feel



pinpoint bumps when you rub your hands through your horse's coat. When the infection develops, the bumps can burst and appear as small crusty scabs. Many owners describe these as 'paint brush' lesions due to the hard tufts of hair that

appear.

Rain scald can appear anywhere on the horse that is constantly exposed to wet and damp environments. This is usually on the horse's back, rump and sometimes the front of the cannon bone. When it appears on the back of the fetlock, we refer to this infection as 'mud fever', 'greasy heel' or 'dew poisoning'.

HOW DO I TREAT RAIN SCALD?

If you notice this condition in your horse, we recommend initiating treatment immediately to prevent secondary skin infections from developing. Treatment is relatively simple; the scabs are removed and the skin beneath scrubbed with chlorhexidine or antibacterial lotion. Most horses tolerate the removal of scabs but for others it may be painful. We recommend moistening the scabs prior to removal – just remember to dry the area once you have applied any lotions. You also need to keep the skin dry whilst it heals – this may require stabling your horse rather than rugging as this can irritate the skin further. Severe cases may require antibiotics. Please speak to your veterinarian if the lesions do not resolve.

HOW CAN I PREVENT RAIN SCALD SPREADING TO OTHER HORSES?

Dermatophilus congolensis can be spread to uninfected horses through rubbing or sharing equipment. If you only have one horse with the condition, isolate them until the lesions disappear and wash all equipment thoroughly before using them on other horses.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Photography by S. Humphries

HORSE DENTALS

As the competition season approaches you want to make sure your horses' mouth is comfortable and not painful which is not only nasty but can greatly affect your horses way of going.

If your horse hasn't had a timely reminder about getting your horses teeth checked and treated if necessary. Morgan, Jill, and Kate have been flat out doing winter dental work on our equine friends

We have a motorized float, a special gag, a powerful light and a dental halter as well a portable x-ray unit to investigate any deeper issues ensuring you get a thorough job done.



Our Vet Morgan Greene (MVB MANZCVS Animal Reproduction) in action, mid horse dental.

SITUATION COMMENT

Spring is well on the way: calves are dropping, the mornings and evenings are light, and the daffies are poking up. Winter was not the worst we have had; a few drying days would have been nice. Most areas have enough feed at the moment and managing the surplus may be difficult for some, if we have a mild spring. Don't forget to take advantage of the delay payment terms we are offering.

M bovis testing is beginning again. The results from this round of testing will be used to determine the next step for the government. We remain hopeful that eradication will be possible. If not, we are confident that it is manageable. It is worth remembering, although there can be significant disease, most infected properties have not had any sick animals.

The outlook for the primary sector is positive. Which is great. Long may it last. Let us hope it will go from strength to strength. Only a trade war between the U.S. and China could stop it...

We are delighted Tash has come back to work in Te Anau, after maternity leave. Melissa has moved to Balclutha after filling in admirably while Tash was away. We hope she enjoys her job there. We are also thrilled to have Bev's friendly face return part time (Monday and Tuesday) to our Mossburn clinic. Debbie will still be based out of Mossburn for the rest of the week and helping out at the Riversdale clinic in months to come.

The critical period between now and October has a huge impact on farm production for the year. Let us all hope the weather cooperates.

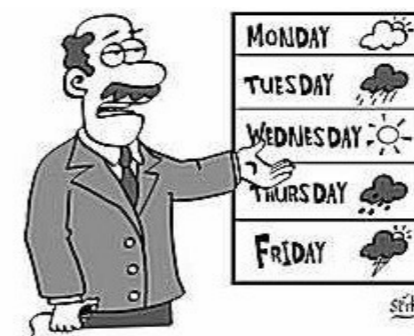
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Here's the 5 day forecast. To be honest, after tomorrow, your guess is as good as mine!

Deer Reminders

- Copper as required
- TB test
- Supplementary feed stags
- Weaners—check parasite levels
- Sort stags into velvetting mobs

ATTENTION DEER FARMERS

Many of you may already know this but for those who don't...

There has been a change to the deer TB testing format. Deer will now be tested under the same scheme as cattle. So the people who test cattle will now test your deer. (Good luck!!)

Under the proposed scheme testing of deer for most of you in TB free areas should become less often or possibly not be required at all.



Photography by Kurt Molloy

Sheep Reminders

- Order lambing requirements—ask us about our deferred payment option!
- Blood test ewes metabolic profile
- FEC ewes
- Vaccinate ewes clostridial vaccine
- Reassess ewe feed levels
- Vitamin E/selenium to brassica fed hoggets
- Assess spring feed budget
- Drench ewes iodine
- Anthelmintic treatment of ewes
- Ensure PAR/RVM authorisation is current.

CLOSTRIDIAL CONFUSION?

With pre-lamb vaccines we are relying on good colostrum production from the ewe; and prompt, adequate intakes by the lamb(s). Thus providing the lamb with borrowed immunity after birth. Divide that colostrum over triplets, that we then pump with feed to get up to weights, and we can start to understand how vaccination results may vary.

There were some cases last season of young but well grown lambs showing sudden death despite their mothers having a pre-lamb 5 in 1 vaccine. Deaths were seen a few weeks after tailing but prior to the pre-wean drench. Lambs and mums were on high feed levels due to improved pastures and rapid pasture growth rates at the time. The lambs were otherwise in good health, making parasitism and pneumonia or other infections less likely.

What is most likely is the clostridial protection from the pre-lamb vaccine was running out. This protection is only 'borrowed' by the lamb until the lamb itself is vaccinated, creating its own immune response (full protection is only afforded following the booster shot).

Several factors may be at play affecting protection.

1. The ewe may not have had the best response to the vaccine, particularly if she was unwell or light in condition.
2. The timing of vaccine may not have been the best for lining up with colostrum production.
3. The ewe may not have made enough colostrum, particularly if feed was limiting.
4. The lamb may not have drunk enough of the colostrum or drunk soon enough after birth to absorb the antibodies (within a few hours). This is a particular risk for multiple siblings.
5. The feed intakes and growth rates of the lambs may be very high, thus increasing the risk of clostridial disease.
6. The strain of disease causing death may not have been vaccinated for.

The lambs on these farms will now be individually vaccinated at tailing with a booster given either at weaning or to replacements. If you are feeling your clostridial protection is not as good as it used to be feel free to discuss your options with our staff.

NOTE

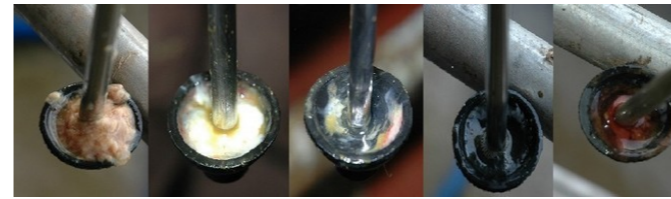
To add to the confusion Eweguard markets itself as a 6 in 1 vaccine which is referring to the 5 in 1 with the 6th component being a moxidectin drench. 7 in 1 is a 5 in 1 vaccine plus 2 leptospirosis components.

Green shading = protection provided

Common names	Clostridium	Toxins	Mutline 5 in 1	Ultravac 5 in 1	Ultravac 6 in 1	Coglavax (NEW 8 in 1)	Covexin 10
Gas Gangrene	Perfringins Type A	Alpa					
Lamb Dysentery	Type B	Alpa Beta Epsilon					
Struck	Type C	Alpa Beta					
Puply Kidney	Septicum	Alpha Epsilon					
Braxy							
Black Disease	Novyi Type B						
Tetanus	Tetani						
Black Leg/Quarter	Chauvoei						
Sudden Death Syndrome	Sordellii						
Red Water Disease	Haemolyticum						



EARLY METRI-CHECKING PAYS OFF



Some people feel that many cows self-cure from uterine infections following calving and early metricechecking over-treats. While it is true that more cows will become metricecheck negative further from calving, this only means the chances of picking up pus has reduced. Meanwhile, the likelihood that the infection has extended deeper into the uterine tissue causing a deeper seated endometritis has actually increased.

In a recent study, cows that received treatment compared to cows that 'cured' on their own had a 9% higher 6 week in calf rate and conceived 8 days earlier.

Treating early may result in more cows treated but the study showed that this is repaid 4 fold in earlier conception rates and more days in milk (cost \$7 extra – returned \$28)

Cows that show highest incidence of metritis were those in lighter BCS followed by 2 year olds. The ideal time to check is from 7-21 days post calving.



Missed heats could be costing you thousands. Best mating results come from accurate and timely heat detection. Applying heat detection aids early will not only identify non cycling cows but will provide useful training opportunities for staff to identify signs. Chat with vets and staff about your heat detection plan and have all calved cows tail painted in the last week of September.

Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium Supplement
- Yearlings—worm drench
- Vitamin A, D, E to milk fever prone cows
- Booster dose BVD vaccine to heifers
- Monitor conditions post calving
- Blood test bulls for BVD & vaccinate
- Worm cows post calving



Photography by Katherine McCallum

ENERGY WATCH!



Most farms have experienced the **DOWN COW** with ketosis, some are obvious but some may just have weight loss, poor milk yield, and be dull and have dry faeces. Some people can detect the sweet odour from the breath. Some cows show the nervous form with aggression, staggering and tremors, or compulsive licking. For each cow showing signs, there can be many with subclinical ketosis that you don't see.

Affected cows have increased risk of the following:

- Uterine infection.
- Lower 6 week in calf rates.
- Lower milk production for the season, an estimated cost of \$86 per subclinical animal.

We have a cow side test with instant results to measure your herd's energy balance to assess how they are tracking. Book this in or ask about Energy Watch when we are on farm.

Require: 10 Cows from 5-14 days post calving