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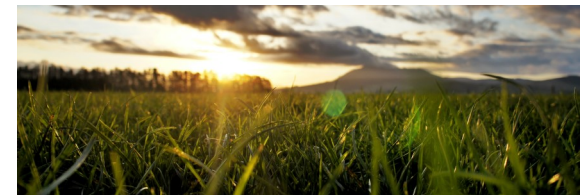
SITUATION COMMENT

Winter has been mild and mostly dry. As a result we have seen more parasite problems this year than normal. Deaths have been seen in cattle and sheep. FEC's on underperforming stock have been high, even when on crop. Give Andrew, Rochelle or Jill a ring to talk about sustainable pre-lamb drench options.

The late nights are over for a time: The cricket world cup ended in spectacular fashion, an umpiring error gave England a tie and a technicality gave them the game. Bugger. Wimbledon ended in an upset and a classic. The Tour de France is apparently on, a lot less interesting without drugs, e-bikes have to be next! The Super 12, 14, 15, 16, 15 (numbers to be confirmed) followed its usual path from irrelevant to passing interest except for South Island Aucklanders. Bring on the Ashes.

Our winter dairy training seminars and Winter Woolies were well attended and we hope well worthwhile. We enjoy doing these seminars and if people have suggestions please let us know and we can extend the number of topics.

Spring may follow the pattern we saw last year, mild with early growth. That resulted last year in a lot of down cows in August and September. If you had a problem last year or want to discuss transition management, let us know.



Michael Baer BVSc

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Sheep Reminders

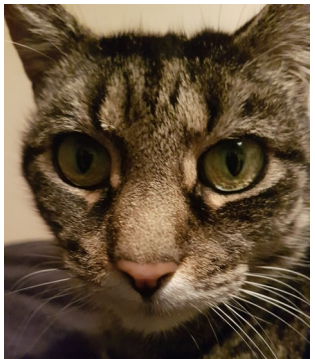
- Order lambing requirements—ask us about our deferred payment option!
- Blood test ewes metabolic profile
- FEC ewes
- Vaccinate ewes clostridial vaccine
- Reassess ewe feed levels
- Vitamin E/selenium to brassica fed hoggets
- Assess spring feed budget
- Drench ewes iodine
- Anthelmintic treatment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

Pet Reminders

- Check teeth and nails
- Is your pet getting all it needs from his or her current diet? Check with one of our nurses this August during diet month.

STAFF PET CORNER

Hello, my name is 'Nemo'. I belong to Tracey and I am an almost 13 year old feline. Earlier this year I became increasingly hungry (actually I was ravenous, but very very fussy about what food was given to me). I was so hungry all the time it made me angry and aggressive. I lost quite a lot of weight and my coat lost condition. I was not looking very good at all.



This all happened over a few months and eventually my beloved owner (whom I had attacked constantly around the ankles) became quite concerned and took me off to the vet clinic where she works. I gave them some of my blood to analyse and the result was I had elevated thyroid hormones causing a disease called Hyperthyroidism.

I was stabilised on a daily spot-on ear treatment for 2 months until my owner decided she didn't want to spend the rest of my life and hers chasing me round the kitchen every day.

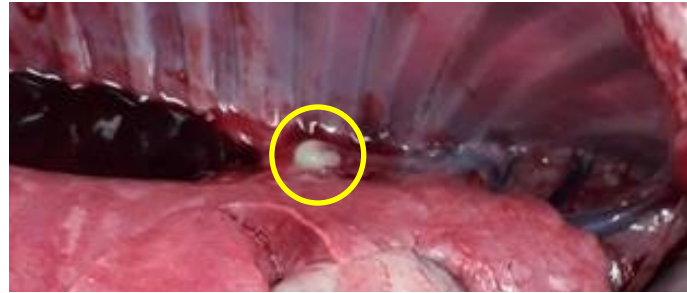
So very early one morning I was bundled up and put in the only box I don't like getting into (cat cage) and a long time and a lot of meowing later we arrived at another vet clinic in Dunedin. I was sedated, a catheter inserted under my skin and radioactive iodine was injected. The radioactive iodine is taken up by the thyroid gland and selectively destroys abnormal thyroid tissue. I had to stay there in isolation for a week as I was radioactive but I had lots of furry friends to talk to while I was waiting to go home.....well I was hoping I was going home!!

Within no time at all I had put on weight, my coat is shiny and healthy, I eat my food happily, I feel more playful and I have lost all interest in my owner's ankles. Best of all my last blood test shows I am within the normal levels.



PARALYZED LAMBS

Every year most farmers will see a lamb that has 'gone off its back legs'. This is most commonly seen from 1 week of age right through to hoggets. The animals are usually quite bright and often show no other signs of disease. In other species or in other parts of New Zealand you would perhaps conclude sway back is the issue (a copper deficiency). However in Southland sheep, copper deficiency is largely unheard of and if there has been no trauma, the cause is more likely to be a spinal abscess.



Bacteria gain entry into the animal via wet navels, wounds (including tailing) and even vaccination sites. They travel in the body resting in the nutrient rich spinal cord. Here they may sit for some time and cause little issue or they may form an abscess that expands pushing on the spinal cord and causing paralysis. The fore limbs may also be affected if the abscess is higher in the neck vertebrae.

Treatment is largely hopeless. If you are seeing a lot of these (I would be interested to know) then consider some of your management practices. Mud, dirt and wetness at lambing and tailing are an issue. This can be hard to avoid but consider things like fencing off dirt areas under shelter belts, tail only in good weather, doing smaller mobs, or simply moving tailing pens slightly if the landing is getting churned. Change needles regularly (50-100 animals) when vaccinating and keep ear taggers disinfected.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Horse Reminders

- Check for lice
- Boost pregnant mares diet
- Arrange brood mare consorts for coming season

COW HIERARCHY & AVOIDING INJURY

Cows are gentle creatures with a very established hierarchy. A few reminders about cow behaviour and how some of our behaviours are not only not helping- they are hindering!

Laneways

Walking cows to the shed can be a slow process. Impatience here does little to increase or improve the cows walking speed. The dominant cows set the pace of the herd- and trying to increase the speed of the cows at the back (usually the lower hierarchy cows) achieves nothing, as they will not pass a more dominant cow and thus the pace is set from the front. All you will achieve by pressure at the back is lame cows. Consider timed gate latches to decrease the time staff members are following cows and increase the time and space cows have for walking to the shed.

Backing gates

We see too much improper use of the backing gate and it is not acceptable. Using the backing gate to move the cows at the front, closest to the dairy is NOT EFFECTIVE. All members of the milking team should be educated on the proper use of the backing gate and all staff members should use it in the same manner to prevent cow flow issues when staff change rosters. Cows should WANT to come in for milking- if they don't then you need to address issues why, NOT overuse and cause lameness and other injuries by using the backing gate incorrectly. Backing gates should be on a timer of no more than 5 seconds and also have a warning alarm so cows can expect its movement.

Remember that the cows order for walking to the shed, isn't necessarily the milking order. Leave space and allow some time for cows to re-arrange. When you see cows backing out of tight spaces, this is an indicator there is not enough room to move and can cause lameness as they can't assess the area they are backing into for obstacles. You should leave at least 15 minutes after all cows are in the yard, to allow them to arrange themselves.

Overuse of backing gates contributes to social stress of cows when they are unable to manoeuvre into their "milking order", increases lameness due to not being able to watch their foot placement and can cause other injuries to cows. Lets all take care of our bovine friends.

Samantha Edgar BVSc(dist) DipSciTech

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

Deer Reminders

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

HYPERTHYROIDISM IN CATS

This month we are focusing on nutrition and quality diets. Your pets don't need to be on the most expensive diet but they should be on a diet that suits them and their lifestyle. Some animals have medical conditions that can be treated with a special prescription diet. One condition that fits the bill is the hyperthyroidism in cats. Overproduction of thyroid hormone causes very skinny, constantly hungry cats which eat all the time and never gain weight. It is commonly seen in middle aged and older cats but can affect young animals too. Hills y/d Feline diet is an effective way to manage the disease and works by limiting the iodine uptake, therefore reducing thyroid hormone production. Just feeding the diet is often enough to keep the thyroid levels in the normal range. Hills y/d is low in sodium and high in phosphorus and taurine (Taurine is essential for cats but not dogs, which is why we feed cats cat food and dogs dog food.) Hyperthyroidism is diagnosed on a simple blood test at the clinic, we can have the results in just ten minutes! If you are worried about your cat please get in touch.



Shbourne Cameron DVN

BIT OF A LAUGH

On a bitterly cold winter morning a husband and his blonde wife in Newcastle were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street so the snowploughs can get through." So the good blonde wife went out and moved her car. A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through". The good wife went out and moved her car again. The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park..." Then the electric power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowploughs can get through?" Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, the husband replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage this time."

PRE-LAMB DRENCHING OF EWES

With spring fast approaching its time to start considering whether a pre-lamb drench is warranted this year and what mobs would benefit. Pre-lamb drenches are used to reduce the worm burden in ewes during the peri-parturient relaxation (PPR) in immunity. Worm burdens at this time can impact ewe condition, milk production and consequently lamb growth, they will also result in a higher worm challenge for lambs. To have any impact on the PPR at lambing a long acting drench is needed. As always, long acting drench use will increase the risk of drench resistance developing, so this needs to be carefully considered. Anyone that has read any of my articles recently or attended Winter Woollies will be well aware of the significant drench resistance developing in the North Island. One of the common trends on these farms is excessive use of long acting drench products. So, how do we balance the productive benefits of a long acting drench pre-lamb, with the disastrous impacts of developing resistance? First of all, considerations need to be made for age, ewe condition and scanning result, along with the expected worm challenge and pasture covers. Whilst worm challenge could be expected to be high this year, given the mild season we have had, pasture covers in general should be relatively good. In-lamb hoggets will benefit most from a pre-lamb drench, followed by triplet ewes, twinning 2-tooths and light ewes. Combination capsules are typically the product of choice due to their 100 day protection against all species of worm and 100 days of minerals. Injections come in 35 day and 100 day options but only for some species of worm, it is 7 days and 45 days for another species. If using an injection, a primer drench should also be used (this is an oral combination drench, with the other drench families, given at the same time as injection). This works by cleaning out all worms and giving the injection a clean slate from which to work.

Refugia needs to be given priority when using long acting products, to help reduce the likelihood of resistance developing. Usually this will mean leaving 5-10% of ewes in each mob undrenched (i.e ewes in better condition). This is very important and should be discussed with a vet if you are unsure how to go about this.

Faecal egg counts will once again be offered for free this year following long acting drenches. Please take us up on this offer. It is a great way to monitor what is happening on your farm. Samples should be taken at around 45 – 90 days post treatment (often at tailing).

To summarise, long acting pre-lamb drenches can be a useful tool when used appropriately. Targeted use is the most cost effective option and will reduce the likelihood of resistance developing. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at the clinic, we can tailor a plan for you that maximises production and maintains the sustainability of your farm for the future.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc BApplSci Ag