

STAFF COMMENT

Isn't it funny how every year we think we are ready for calving/lambing but every year it still seems to sneak up on us, and we are left scrambling for our calving gowns and head ropes. Next year I will be more prepared! Calving certainly started with a hiss and a roar with many cows going earlier than predicted. Despite the conditions at times, this is a time of year most of us look forward to, perhaps for the allure of the prestigious in-house calving cup, the prize... the honour of wearing the superman onesie.

On the staff front, Poppy Dickie is settling into her new role at the front desk, while Julie Black has adapted to (and mastered) the vet wrangling role organising our days. Shbourne is back on board nursing in Riversdale following the end of her parental leave, it is great to have her back! We are thrilled to welcome Nuria Holzleg to the vet team. Nuria hails from Switzerland, trained in Nottingham, UK and worked 3 years in Piopio before moving to Tower Peak Station. Nuria will work between both the Te Anau and Riversdale clinics.

It is a sad truth that nothing lasts forever, and the time has come to farewell two of our longest serving staff. Bev in Mossburn retires after 44 years serving our NSVets community. Anne in Lumsden will be spending more time on the farm and with the grandkids, after 27 years with NSVets. I do not have the words to acknowledge how important these lovely ladies have been to the business and to our lives personally. They have been with us through the changes from vet club days and helped our business grow. As well as servicing the clients, they have mentored and supported many vets over the years. It is hard to imagine NSVets without them.



Bev and Anne celebrating 50 years of Northern Southland Veterinary services in 2015

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Consider drenching yearlings
- Vitamin calcium to milk fever prone cows
- Worm cows post calving
- Booster dose BVD vaccine to heifers
- Monitor conditions post calving

TOATS-MA-GOAT

Contrary to their similar looks, goats are not just sheep without wool! Here are some weird and wonderful animal health facts!

- Grazing habits: sheep are grazing species, preferring to ramble slowly and eat plants close to the ground, whereas goats are browsers, preferring to eat a variety of trees, shrubs and leaves. This has quite a few important consequences for goats including that they take a lot longer to develop an immunity to worms than sheep as they are exposed to fewer with their grazing habits.
- Goats metabolize drenches faster than sheep and for this reason we usually give TWO doses of drench, one dose in the afternoon, and a second dose in the morning the following day. It is okay to use normal sheep drenches in goats using this regime.
- Goats are susceptible to clostridial diseases, however they produce fewer antibodies following vaccination, for this reason we give clostridial vaccinations after their first sensitizer and booster every 6 months instead of yearly in sheep!
- Goats have increased susceptibility to pneumonia and also can be more prone to foot issues if they are kept in wet environments! It is a good idea to consider housing or shelter options for pet goats to help to prevent these issues.

Whilst disbudding can be done in goats that are very young, we prefer not to dehorn adult goats as this has been shown to be extremely painful and difficult to manage.

Samantha Edgar BVSc (dist), DipSciTech

Pet Reminders

- Check teeth and clip nails
- Check feeding nutrition of cats and dogs
- Check warmth of bedding

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Sheep Reminders

- Order lambing requirements (complete our pre-lamb vaccine order form).
- Blood test ewes metabolic profile.
- FEC ewes and consider pre-lamb drench.
- Vaccinate ewes clostridial vaccine.
- Reassess ewe feed levels.
- Vitamin E/Selenium to brassica fed hoggets.
- Assess spring feed budget.
- Drench ewes iodine.
- Ensure PAR/RVM authorisation is current.

SCANNING HINDS

To achieve the best possible outcome from scanning there are a few things to consider.

- Timing of scanning. Hinds can be diagnosed pregnant from 35 days of pregnancy until around 120-130 days of pregnancy.
- After 120 days, the pregnancy tends to drop down into the abdomen making visualisation of the pregnancy difficult.
- Hinds should be scanned 35 days after the stag has been removed from the mob, this means most hinds should be scanned from early June through to early July.
- Facilities: Sufficient restraint of hinds is necessary. While deer crushes are the ideal setup, races and small pens can all be workable options.
- Permanently identify dry hinds. Dry hinds should be tagged with either a coloured fold over sheep tag or a slaughter tag, this saves a lot of confusion further down the track when aerosol marks wear off!
- If you are planning to scan your hinds for pregnancy or are unsure about your facilities or the help required please talk to NSVets .

Sam Lee BVSc



GENESIS POUR-ON MILK WHP CHANGE

MPI has mandated a new **35-day milk** withholding period for all **single-active abamectin pour-on** products. This includes Genesis Pour-On. If used in lactating cows, the following milk WHP applies: Milk intended for sale for human consumption must be discarded during treatment and for 35 days following the last treatment. Meat 35 days WHP remains the same.

Alternative Nil Milk WHP Pour-Ons:

- **Eprinex Pour-On**
 - o Eprinomectin
 - o 1ml/10kg
 - o WHP Nil Milk; Nil Meat
- **Cydectin Pour-On**
 - o Moxidectin
 - o 1ml/10kg
 - o WHP Nil Milk; Nil Meat



Laura Gardyne BVSc

LIMPING UP TO MATING?

The link between cows' hooves and their ovaries is not always obvious;

"Cows that are lame at mating can take 7 to 18 days longer than their herd mates to get pregnant," explains Dr Steve Cranefield from New Zealand-owned veterinary medicines company AgriHealth. The link between lameness and poor reproduction is just one of the many reasons no-one wants to see cows limping as mating approaches, or any other time for that matter. If they are limping, there's increasing evidence that both checking the hoof and providing prompt pain relief can make a big difference", he says.

"One of the very first effects of lameness in dairy cows is reduced feed intake because bruised or damaged hooves hurt to walk on, and cows that can't walk normally won't graze normally either. The link between reduced feed intake and taking longer to get pregnant is well established so we need to break this chain of events"

Adding pain killers like KetoMax 15% to your lame cow treatment kit means you can quickly reduce pain and inflammation as they examine and treat injured hooves. It can take weeks for a cow to recover from even moderate lameness and during that time, she can easily lose half a body condition score (BCS).

"Relief of pain is now standard practice for farmers who want to get lame cows walking normally again as quickly as possible, they recognise that every day of reduced feed intake takes a toll on milk production, BCS, animal welfare and ultimately getting in calf again"

"So along with the hoof knife, trimmers, leg rope, blocks and other tools in their lame cow kit, make sure a proven pain relief treatment is available. They'll be glad they did, and so will their cows."

Helpful information and advice for farmers on pain relief and cow lameness can be found in Series Three (Wellbeing) of the AgriHealth video library, freely available online at www.agrihealth.co.nz/video-library

Deer Reminders

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

PUPPY WORMING

Choosing the appropriate worming tablet for use in puppies can be confusing – not helped by the similarity of the names of many of the brands out there (Drontal, Dolpac, Droncit!) Puppies can be infected by worms in their mother across the placenta and through the milk.

Our recommendation is to worm puppies every two weeks from two weeks of age until 12 weeks of age with an all wormer tablet (Drontal and Milpro are two examples). It is critical that whatever worming tablet is used that it kills roundworms. For anyone who has been unlucky enough to see the roundworms from puppies it is not surprising that in high enough numbers they can cause an obstruction of the intestines. They are large and easily visible to the naked eye. Sometimes puppies can have such high burdens that we see roundworms in their vomit. Once a puppy reaches 12 weeks of age (3 months) we recommend an all wormer every month until they are 6 months of age. At this stage they can go onto their adult worming programme.

Droncit is used to kill tapeworms only. Its active ingredient is Praziquantel and it is used in sheep measles worming programmes for the two monthly treatments between all wormer treatments (Drontal). It does not kill roundworms and so it is not an appropriate worming tablet for puppies.

It is so easy to grab the wrong tablet, if you need to clarify what tablet is the correct one then do not hesitate to ring the clinic.



Rebecca Morley BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Hoof care reminder
- Check for lice
- Boost pregnant mares' diet

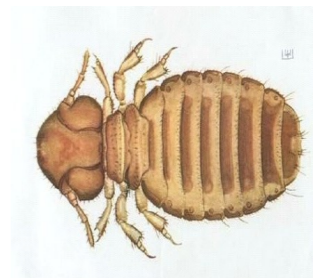
LICE IN SHEEP

Lice are becoming more common in NZ sheep flocks, with many farmers now doing once yearly shearing and less plunge and shower dipping being used in favour of lower volume, faster use products. Lice are host specific meaning cattle lice don't transfer to sheep and vice versa. The life cycle of a louse consists of three weeklong nymph stages which moult and become adult lice who live for four weeks laying eggs glued to the base of the hosts hair or fleece. They live their entire short lives on the animal. Lice spread from sheep to sheep by close contact, management practices encouraging close contact increase spread. A louse separated from its sheep host, could live in the yards or on fences for five days. If in direct sunlight it may only be a couple of hours. Lice don't move far, most movement is up and down the wool fibre. When it is hot and bright, lice are close to the skin, when cool and shady they move to the fibre tip where they are more likely to spread. Therefore, lice populations are highest in autumn/winter and naturally drop over summer. Spread occurs slowly and numbers build up over time, the most common sheep lice *Bovicola ovis* will only lay 30 eggs in their life. Poor condition or stressed sheep are more susceptible to higher lice burdens. Shearing removes up to 80% of lice burden depending on closeness of the cut. Treatment is best done when lice numbers are at their lowest, in summer or immediately off-shears. Long wool emergency treatments won't eradicate lice but will reduce spread and prevent further damage. They should be treated when next shorn with a different chemical group. If treatment isn't feasible in pregnant ewes, they will spread lice to their lambs within 24 hours of birth and treatment will be needed at tailing or weaning.

Tips for chemical use:

- Change chemicals regularly
- Where complete saturation occurs in plunge or shower dips there's no advantage to using two actives unless also targeting flystrike.
- Apply products as per the label
- Dip each mob at the best wool length and time for that mob.
- Focus on on-farm lice eradication.
- Separate treated sheep from untreated.

Chemical use is one part of a farms lice control plan, other components are good biosecurity, secure boundary fencing and checking bought in sheep for infestation.



Sam Lee BVSc