

Timing the Testing

Pregnancy testing is well underway. If you haven't booked yours yet here are some things to consider.



When to pregnancy test cows;

Aging pregnancies is most accurate between 6-12 weeks of gestation. Less than 6 weeks and the foetus may not be visible, later than 12 weeks the calf is too big to age accurately. So pregnancy testing usually happens around 6 weeks after the end of AB (or bull removal). Most of our clients test at least twice, some three times. Testing all of the cows at subsequent scans helps to identify early foetal loss issues (such as BVD).

Why use early, aged pregnancy testing?

1. No guess work – pregnancies aged to the day gives you:

- Confirmed conception dates
- More reliable calving dates
- Better info on in-calf rates across all of mating

2. Review the bulls' performance – use actual in-calf rates for cumulative pregnancy rate graphs on MINDA™. A drop off in pregnancy rates at any time warrants a review.

3. Decision making made easier – you'll know which mating she held to, its not always the last one. Quality information helps you:

- Find late cows for culling decisions
- Make dry-off decisions to meet BCS targets at calving
- More precise winter management
- Accurately review mating performance to identify areas for focus and what worked well

4. Identify who's holding you back – Use the reports generated to compare age groups, or early-calving cows with late cows on MINDA Web.

5. No surprises – View the Expected Calvings by Week report and use the Accumulated Grazing Days information on MINDA Web for feed budgeting and planning for calving; will you have enough equipment, staff, calf shed capacity?

So how to decide what date? Call the clinic and we'll help you to pick the best scanning dates for your farm.

You can also visit the 6 Week Challenge website at www.6weeks.co.nz to register for free, and access the latest 'When to Scan' date calculator and lookup charts on the Resources page.

Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

Pet Reminders

- Worm and flea cats and dogs
- Check for barley grass

Summertime Skin Sorrows

Summertime = swimming, sunshine, and many a skin problem! Below are some of those that tend to show up a lot at this time of year. Let us know if you are worried about your pet having any of these problems, many of them need to be dealt with before they get worse!



1. Barley grasses

Most commonly becoming lodged in ears, eyes and between toes to cause discharge, pain and swelling.



2. Hot spots

Can be due to allergies or due to heat, moisture and lack of oxygen. A vicious cycle of itchiness and self trauma leads to pain, inflammation and infection. These are often seen in areas of loose skin and under collars.



3. Allergies

Environmental allergies often flare up at this time of year, often due to grass seed. Itchiness, redness and hair loss are often seen.



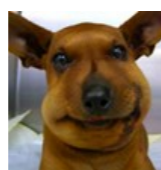
4. Fleas

Fleas love summer time! You will not always see them until the infestation is great. Fleas can cause mild to severe itchiness. Wash bedding at the same time as using a proven flea product.



5. Ears

Summer swims often cause ear infections to flare. Tilting, scratching and shaking the head, and discharge and redness in the ear are all signs.



6. Bee and wasp stings

These cause swelling and pain, mainly on the feet and face.

Natasha Leamy BVSc



Staff Comment

We have some great news with Samantha Edgar joining our team in Riversdale. Sam saw practice with us as a student and we are delighted that she has started her career with us. She is virtually a local; Tapanui is sort of part of Northern Southland if you squint at the map. Congratulations to Tash (Te Anau) and Joel on their recent wedding.

Unfortunately we are saying goodbye to Tash (Riversdale), she is off to explore the world. She has been a real asset and we will undoubtedly miss her. Danielle is also off to do some exploring, in Australia! We are sure she and Matt will have a great time over there and wish them well.

Becky will be away for a few months this year, she is heading to the UK and Canada. Amongst some travelling and locum work she will do 3 months at a Specialist referral clinic as a step towards completing her Masters in Vet Medicine. She will be back later in the year; the animal family are staying in Riversdale. No doubt she will come back with some great ideas and valuable knowledge.



Terrific Testicles

With weaning complete, attention is soon to turn towards mating and this means it's time to get the boys in for their annual check-up. Ram palpations are a cheap insurance policy against poor ram performance and particularly against Brucella ovis. Brucella is still present in Northern Southland and can have devastating effects on reproductive performance and ram wastage. Checking for Brucella is however only one part of a check up, we also check for scrotal abscesses, mange, hernias and asymmetry amongst others. This is also a good time to check feet for lameness and to undertake vasectomies if more teaser rams are needed.

Trace elements, particularly selenium, can be worth testing in your rams at this time also. Selenium deficiency in rams can be another cause of poor fertility and rams are often forgotten about in this regard. We can organise to blood test a sample of rams whilst there and have results within the

1. Staff Comment, Terrific Testicles, WARNING: Gross Alert!

2. Foot and Mouth Disease Real Time Training.

3. What is Foot and Mouth Disease.

4. Timing the testing, Summertime Skin Sorrows.

Deer Reminders

- Sex and tag fawns
- Copper supplementation –pre-mating & weaners
- Weaners - Yersiniavax first injection
- Clostridial vaccination

week. It can also be a good idea to test some ewes at the same time and if you were to bring in 70-100 ewes we can get an idea of average body condition, whilst there is still time to do something about it. Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Sheep Reminders

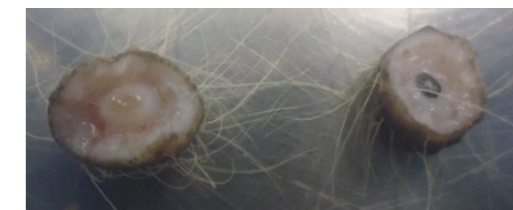
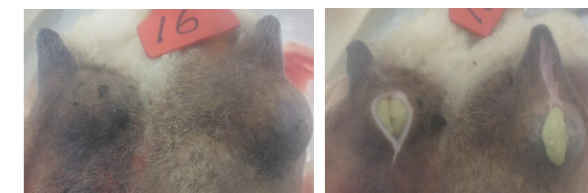
- Inject Toxovax
- Inject 1st dose Campylobacter Vaccine
- Inject Androvax
- Faecal egg count lambs
- Check and exercise rams
- Palpate rams
- Treat ewe lambs – long acting cobalt
- Weigh ewe lambs and assess for mating
- Inject iodine at least 4 weeks pre-tup

WARNING: Gross Alert!

Ever wondered what was causing those lumps you feel when uddering?

In a study we are involved in the majority of udder lumps so far were just hard pus. Not scar tissue or lymph nodes as first thought. Whether this is just milk gone sour or true infection/mastitis we are not yet sure. A study is in process looking at mastitis in sheep (milking sheep) as well as udder lesions in commercial ewes. There is currently limited research on mastitis in ewes, histology of ewe udders and progression or improvement of lesions (they are culled before they can show us!) which only leaves us with the motto "if in doubt throw her out".

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Teat End: 'Normal' on left; With teat 'cord' on right.



Foot and Mouth Disease Real Time Training

Kathmandu – December 2015

I was lucky enough to be part of a group of vets sent to Nepal to gain experience with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). We were trained to increase the capacity of NZ to respond if the disease ever entered the country. A previous group went last year for the same purpose.

EUFMD run the course in Kathmandu and similar ones in Kenya. The course ran for a week and covered diagnosis and testing, vaccination pros and cons and disease investigation.

We all brought back some new knowledge and practical experience, some wonderful memories and most importantly; no disease. To help ensure that was the case and to observe the compulsory 7 day stand down from contact with susceptible animals Natalie and I had a bit of a look around afterwards.

Part of the requirement for going is to help spread awareness of what FMD looks like and how to catch it early. The sooner it is found the less devastating an outbreak would be. With this in mind I will be inflicting my holiday snaps on captive audiences from time to time. You never know, you may end up being a victim at one of my talks.

Michael Baer BVSc



Collecting samples.



The team crowding around to look at a calf's foot.



A typical farm. This buffalo had had FMD 2 weeks prior to the photo being taken.



A cow with FMD lesions on her tongue and hard palate. Note the double gloves, tape and biohazard suit.



Find us on Facebook

What is Foot and Mouth Disease?

FMD virus causes serious disease in 70 species of animals typically affecting a significant proportion of the population but causing very few deaths. The impact on animal production is devastating. The disease usually progresses along a predictable path, starting with fever, then blisters in the mouth and on the feet before they burst and leave the tongue, lips and feet raw and painful. These raw wounds are painful but not deep and heal quite rapidly so that by 7-10 days a scar is forming. Cattle are more severely affected than sheep. Pigs excrete huge volumes of virus and are often responsible for the rapid spread of FMD.

The most famous outbreak of recent times was in 2001 in the United Kingdom. It is estimated that the cost to agriculture and the food chain in the UK was £3.1 billion with a further £2.7- 3.2 billion lost in tourism and related industries. Little wonder we don't want it here!

Our trade in milk and meat relies on our FMD free status. Exports would cease in the event of an outbreak and may take years to resume. Early detection is essential for stopping the disease before it takes hold so it can be eradicated quickly. Border protection is the obvious place to start. FMD is present in Asia, the Middle East, South America and Africa. The disease getting into NZ is a constant worry.

A vet - or anyone else - who suspects FMD - or any other exotic disease - can ring the exotic disease hotline (0800 80 99 66) and a response would begin. It is better to be safe than sorry and every year investigations into suspicious cases, which are not FMD, are conducted. Let's all hope we never have to say that one of them was FMD!

Michael Baer BVSc



Young girls at a ceremony at a temple for Krishna.



A runaway elephant, having too much fun to come back to its owner.



The reason the owner wasn't keen to go out any further.

Cattle Reminders

- Calves worm treatment
- Remove bulls
- Pregnancy test
- Dairy yearlings - Lepto vaccination



Shifting feed. The guy perched on top was there to lift any low hanging phone lines over the load.