

## SITUATION COMMENT

It's been a pretty unsettled spell of weather recently with some very warm days followed by some cold spells, throw in a bit of rain and some pretty high winds. All in all, it has been warmer than average and combined with the rain has meant that grass growth has remained quite good. The difficulty has been maintaining quality as a result.

Lambs while looking good for the most part, have not weighed as well as expected and weaning drafts have been a little back in general. You still need to ensure that the common culprits for less than optimum growth rates are under control though, namely internal parasitism and trace elements. Cobalt levels in pasture are often lower in a growthy season like this so keep a close eye on levels with the best test being liver analysis. There is increasing evidence of multi-drench resistance in NZ and the best tool we have to know where we sit is with a FECRT (faecal egg count reduction test). It is very important to have one of these done every few years.

We have just started into some early heifer aged pregnancy testing (to determine if AI or not) and results are on a par with other years so far. Cow scanning is just around the corner but I'm hopeful conception rates will be good as in general cows did not peak as high this year. So far post peak declines seem to be less than last year also. Cow condition is also pretty good.

The questions around Covid and how the world responds have not been resolved. It will be interesting to see what 2022 brings. For now, challenges remain around shipping and freight. Prices are escalating as a result – both inputs and outputs.

Finally I hope you all had a lovely Christmas/holiday season and hope that you managed to spend it with family and friends.

All the very best for the year ahead.

*Morgan Greene BVSc*



## **Cattle Reminders**

- Early pregnancy testing
- Check lame cows
- Rotate breeding bulls
- Remove bulls—dairy
- Dairy calves—worm control including lung worm, FEC, Lepto vaccination (if not done early)
- Arrange winter grazing

## STAFF PET CORNER

Wilma adopted Laura in March, when she decided starving outside was a mediocre life to lead. After being fattened for a week, enough to handle an anaesthetic, Wilma was speyed. Her life since has consisted of sleeping, hunting, eating and sleeping, on repeat.



## SHED INSPECTIONS

Reminder - With holding times.

When using multiple treatments on an animal it is important to remember the effect on the withholding time. If you have treated a case of mastitis but it has not cured, to stay within label recommendations you are required to wait until the end of the withholding period before administering a second drug. You can change the drug sooner, for example if a culture result suggests this, or if the welfare of the cow is at risk but you must then use the recommended default with holding time of 30 days for milk and 91 days for meat. Unfortunately, there is no research on the multitude of combinations of products that people may combine to be able to give accurate alternative with holds – any number would simply be a guess and would likely not stand up in court!

*Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS*

## Contents

**Pg 1 :**  
-SITUATION COMMENT  
-STAFF PET CORNER

**Pg 2 :**  
-LUNGWORM  
-MAMMARY  
-CANCER IN DOGS

**Pg 3 :**  
-UDDER DEFECTS  
-TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A HIGH PAYOUT  
-WORMWATCH  
-BEEF BULLS  
-SHED INSPECTION



## Horse Reminders

- Worming treatment for foals
- Check condition of brood mares
- Dental check horses not holding condition

## LUNGWORM

Some colleagues reported earlier than usual cases of lungworm this season. It usually affects calves under 10 months of age, but can affect older cattle in some cases. The most common sign is coughing when shifting the mob, poor coat and reduced growth rates, but severe cases can result in death. Management practices are important for preventing disease.

The lifecycle is quite a process. Calves eat the third stage larvae (L3) from around poo patches. These then penetrate through the gut into the lymph system, moult to an L4, move to the bloodstream and travel to the heart and lungs within 7 days. From there they break into the airways and the young adult worms lay eggs - about 4 weeks from infection. These are then coughed up and swallowed, hatching in the gut. These first stage larvae (L1) come out in the poo, and go through shedding to L2, then infective L3s in the paddock and it starts again!

The calf will create an immune response to the presence of worms in the lungs which increases fluids and froth which can affect breathing. The immune response results in death of the lungworm within 10 days and within a few weeks ultimate recovery and immunity, however sometimes the L4 larvae can go dormant in the lungs and remain there unaffected until the next spring, especially in colder climates.

It is the damage to the lung from worms and debris that can make recovery seem slow during which time pneumonia or bacterial infection may develop. Around 25% in severe cases will worsen at around 8 weeks due to the calf's reaction to the dead parasites.

Most drenches given accurately will eliminate lungworm, with the ML families giving a bit more protection against re-infection.

Some exposure to lungworm is required in order for immunity to develop, where we see issues is when exposure is very high. This may be when drench intervals have been extended, when calf paddocks are reused year to year, where young calves graze where older calves have been, where there is low cross grazing from year to year, or the climate has been warm and humid. Opposite to gastrointestinal worms, hay or silage paddocks that have been cut are **higher risk** for lungworm that have overwintered.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



## Deer Reminders

- Cut velvet re-growth

## MAMMARY CANCER IN DOGS

Mammary tumours are the most common cancer we see in female working dogs. While many are benign, 25% of these tumours have already spread to other parts of the body at diagnosis. If left untreated, potential spread and decreased health inevitably occur. It is important to check your female dogs regularly as early detection and treatment improves the long term prognosis. Any lump near the nipples or in the tissue of the mammary chain should be examined by a vet. Treatment involves surgical removal of the lump, and often a preventative mastectomy will be performed at the same time. The lump will be sent to the lab to determine what type of tumour it is, and whether further treatment is required. Un-speyed females are 7 times more likely to develop mammary cancer compared to speyed females. Studies clearly indicate the preventive role of speying prior to the second heat. If you do not intend to breed from your bitch, consider speying before the second heat to decrease the risk of cancer, prevent pyometra, and prevent unwanted pregnancies/heats.



Sam Lee BVSc

## Sheep Reminders

- Monitor trace elements
- Monitor worm burden in lambs
- Check rams
- Vaccinate lambs pulpy kidney
- Dip sheep flystrike
- Vasectomise rams
- Monitor lamb growth rates
- Faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT)
- Organise abortion vaccine requirements

## UDDER DEFECTS IN EWES

NZ studies have shown around 5% of ewes have udder defects. These can go on and reduce lamb survival and performance. Lambs born to ewes with udder issues were 3-4 times more likely to die, and if they lived, they were on average 2 kg lighter at weaning.

Remember the best time to check a ewe's udder is 4-6 weeks AFTER weaning. Checking at weaning will miss some significant lesions.

*Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS*

## TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A HIGH PAYOUT

With every Tom, Dick and Harry looking at how they can take advantage of a high payout to get some extra sales out of dairy farmers, how are you looking at maximising income for your own business? Milk production is one of the main drivers of dairy farm income, but what is driving milk production and where can you have an influence without driving up costs?

Milk production is about converting feed into milk. Now we can complicate this as much as we like by discussing inputs, supplements and genetics, but at its simplest it comes down to feeding cows efficiently. This is achieved by prioritising the feed grown on farm to the stock that are most in need of it – milking cows and/or cows in light condition. This is made easier by having accurate aged pregnancy tests allowing feed decisions to be made based on calving dates. When combined with individual condition scores this can become quite a useful tool for prioritising feed through late lactation, winter grazing and into the spring. Calving spread also has an impact on your overall milk production – by completing an early aged scan we can create a detailed fertility focus report and analyse ways in which you can improve the fertility of your herd going forward. We will be starting early pregnancy tests soon so get in touch to confirm your scanning dates and talk to us about options regarding condition scoring. All our vets are accredited condition scorers, ensuring an unbiased and accurate score and we also have a package deal for those of you interested in scoring throughout the season.



*Andrew Cochrane BVSc*

## **Pet Reminders**

- Worm and flea cats and dogs
- Check for barley grass
- Check for skin problems
- Pet Fun Day at Riversdale

## WORMWATCH JANUARY 2022

As we move into the post-weaning period, parasite management becomes even more important for young stock. There are a number of considerations but at the forefront should be how you plan to avoid ill-thrift, production losses and pasture contamination. If we continue to get regular rainfall a 28 day drenching interval will be important, however if we become dry this could be extended with the help of FECs. It is also important to utilise adult stock and mixed species grazing to vacuum up larvae and remember to provide a source of refugia for each mob.

Now is also a good time to check your drench is working by doing a FEC 10 days after drenching. This is as simple as pushing lambs into the corner of the paddock and collecting 10 fresh (warm) samples from the ground and bringing them to the clinic.

### **Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)**

**Those of you that are still interested in a faecal egg count reduction test, remember to keep those 100 lambs undrenched and keep them in with the other lambs to help get them wormy. We will be in touch during February to start proceedings. If you haven't contacted us or have any questions, please give us a call at the clinic.**

*Andrew Cochrane BVSc*

## BEEF BULLS

With beef cattle mating not far away, make sure your bulls are sound prior to going out with the cows. Identifying problems now can reduce the risk of bull breakdown and the need for replacement bulls during the mating season. Bulls over 5 years of age are the greatest risk of sub-fertility issues, but younger bulls can have issues also.

- Attend to any over-grown or cracked feet
- Administer a BVD booster vaccination
- Top up bulls with selenium. This will help with health and reproductive viability
- Schedule NSVets to service test bulls
- Ensure you have enough bulls to cover a potential breakdown



*Sam Lee BVSc*