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July 2019

VetTIMES



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STAFF COMMENT

The last couple of months have been filled with achievement, injury and excitement:

The Achievement

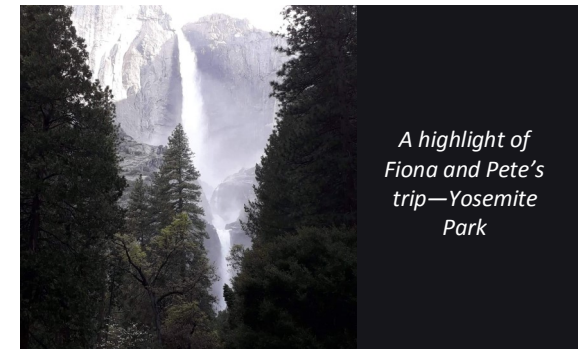
Rochelle was made the President of the Sheep and Beef committee of the NZ vet association at the AGM in May. Together with Andrew and Jill, she has expanded the services we offer to sheep farmers, with EweFirst and the discussion group being the flagships.

The Injury

Rebecca is doing well after our accident and will begin her return to work in early July. She is rearing to go. Julia Molloy managed to join the ranks of the injured, tearing her Achilles tendon playing netball. Despite the injury being to her right foot she managed to drive herself to hospital. She is in a cast at present and will be on crutches for a while.

The Excitement

Fiona and Peter returned from a 5-week fact finding mission to the United States. The full report of their findings will be released in due course, probably heavily redacted.



A highlight of Fiona and Pete's trip—Yosemite Park

The addition of Sammy Carmichael to our staff has made the teatseal season more manageable than has previously been the case. Shaun has developed a knack for steering heifers into herringbone formation and has offered tutorials to the rest of us interested in upskilling. Sam Edgar's usual response to this has been "No Shaun, I am the boss, you will do what I say!". Shaun, in his own words, then "rolls on his back and wets himself". While we haven't actually seen this event the description is more than enough!

Michael Baer BVSc

Deer Reminders

- TB test
- Pregnancy scanning
- Weaners—drench for lungworm
- Liver copper & selenium check dry hinds

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Arrange annual check up
- Check dog registration
- Book your pet in for a dental check

STAFF PET CORNER



Rocky is a 2 year old Springer Spaniel with lots and lots of energy. Rocky had a rough start, breaking his leg when he was a wee pup, but luckily the team at NSVets had him covered. During the day Rocky enjoys going on the farm and being front seat passenger on the motorbike with his Dad (no time for any of this doing work business). In his free time Rocky likes keeping an eye on the ducks at the pond with his sister Maggie and keeping his feline brother Garfield in line.

Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Pre-calving trace element testing
- Transition cow management
- First Shot BVD vaccine to heifers
- Spring seminar—July 10th
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Order metabolic requirements
- Order calving supplies

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SMALL ANIMAL DENTALS

Dental disease in cats and dogs is one of the most common diseases in veterinary practice, but one of the most overlooked by owners. We are offering free dental checks this month and a chance to win back the price of any scale and polish performed in July as a way to increase owner awareness and improve your pet's dental health. It's amazing what we find – this is the mouth of a dog who just had bad breath but was still eating well!



Signs of dental disease to look out for are bad breath, unwillingness to eat "hard" foods, fractured or wobbly teeth, drooling and inflamed gums. If you have noticed any of these in your pet, book them in for a free check-up today!

Kate Taylor DVM, BSc-Hons

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR HORSE THIS YEAR!

The old saying is "no feet no horse" well this theory should be applied to your horses' teeth as well. A horse's mouth is its engine room where all its energy is obtained. Disease, trauma and general "wear and tear" of the teeth and mouth will interfere with your horse's ability to eat and therefore turn feed into energy. The vast majority of dental issues can be avoided with an annual "floating" of the teeth. This involves the gentle filing of the sharp enamel points on the outside of the upper and the inside of the lower teeth. Sharp enamel points are the result of uneven rate of wear between the three substances that make up teeth, **enamel**, **cementum** and **dentin**. As a horse chews the softer inner dentin and cementum wears much faster than the hard enamel on the outside of the tooth.



These enamel points can cut into the cheek and tongue of your horse resulting in ulceration of the mouth, reluctance to chew, dropping of feed, subsequent weight loss.

The dental process itself is quite simple. After a brief health check the patient is sedated. This makes it, safer for all involved, reduces stress levels (for all involved) and gives the vet easier access to all areas of the mouth. After the mouth is flushed out and the speculum (gag) is fitted, The entire oral cavity is examined for signs of pathology and any issues are addressed.

Remember dental time is a good time for your general horse maintenance, try and get your faecal egg counts, worming and vaccinations done at the same time – it saves on mileage!!!

Shaun Campbell BVSc BSc

LAW CHANGES FOR HORNS

From the 1st of October 2019 you cannot dehorn, debud, or tip the horns of any cattle of any age without the use of local anaesthetic.

The change is a response to improve the welfare standard of cattle in NZ. This new legal requirement is part of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018. Non compliance could lead to a criminal conviction and a fine of \$3,000-\$5000 for an individual, or \$15 to \$25K for the business.

Disbudding or dehorning itself is not a legal requirement but does make animal handling and transport much safer. Note there is no maximum horn length for transport but most slaughter premises do stipulate a maximum horn length – it pays to check this with your agent. I believe Alliance to be 115 mm and SFF 110 mm.

However, the **transport code of welfare** states that owners/managers "must not transport the animal, or allow the animal to be transported, in a manner that allows the animal to seriously injure itself or another animal" To seriously injure means to cause—

- a) external bleeding or extensive internal bruising; or
- b) bleeding or broken horns; or
- c) bleeding, discharging, or broken velvet antlers or pedicles.

Options for disbudding and dehorning include

1. Using a vet for the procedure
2. Using a person trained in local anaesthetic use and dehorning with a VOI (vet operating instruction)
3. Receive training by your vet in administering local anaesthetic and dehorning to your own animal.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

5-IN-1, 6-IN-1, 8-IN-1, 10-IN-1 ?!!

Clostridial disease is a common cause of sudden death in livestock, especially young stock, and often affects animals that are in good condition and growing well. What a waste! Traditionally, we have used 5-in-1 to protect stock and with pretty good results. Despite this, some farms have still reported sudden death with post mortem findings consistent with Clostridial disease. Options in recent years have been to try 6-in-1 or 10-in-1, which offer protection against additional Clostridial species. These vaccines have helped reduce deaths but for some the extra cost was difficult to justify. New to the market is a product that offers additional protection but with little increase in cost. Coglavax 8-in-1 offers all the protection you would expect from your normal 5-in-1, plus additional protection against 3 different strains of Clostridia that can cause enterotoxaemia, similar to that of pulpy kidney. This extra protection could save lives on your farm and only costs 3c extra per dose than your normal 5-in-1, that's gotta be hard to beat for cost effectiveness! If this sounds like you, give one of us a call at the clinic.

	Traditional 5-in-1	Coglavax 8-in-1	Disease
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	✓	✓	Tetanus
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type A		✓	Sudden death, enterotoxaemia
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type B		✓	Enterotoxaemia
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type C		✓	Enterotoxaemia
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type D	✓	✓	Enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney)
<i>Clostridium chauvoei</i>	✓	✓	Black leg
<i>Clostridium novyi</i> Type B	✓	✓	Black disease
<i>Clostridium septicum</i>	✓	✓	Malignant oedema

Andrew Cochrane BVSc BApplSci Ag

Sheep Reminders

- Scan ewes for pregnancy
- Order pre-lamb drench/ or vaccine
- Vitamin E, selenium to brassica fed hoggets
- Drench ewes iodine
- Run off multiples from singles

BIT OF A LAUGH

Helvetica and Times New Roman walk in to a bar....
 "Get out of here!" shouts the bartender.
 "We don't serve your type."



Horse Reminders

- Book your horse in for their annual dental during dental month this July
- Check for cover sores
- Check for mud fever

CAN YOU EXPECT TO HAVE MORE GRASS AT LAMBING THAN YOU DO TODAY?

In many years, grass growth can be favourable and we do just fine. And then there's the year where it isn't. I will assume you are reading this on 10th July, and you set stock on 10th September... run with me on this.

If we budget for grass to grow at 5 kgDM/ha/d for July and August, and 10kgDM/ha/d for the beginning of September - we'll have 360 kgDM/ha more than we had today.

If we set stock at 12 ewe/ha and their intakes are say 12 x 2.5 kgDM = 30 kgDM/ha/d

If grass continues to grow at just 10 kgDM/ha in spring, every day covers will go back by 20 kgDM/ha/d. In 18 days we will be back to covers we had on the 10th of July, but we will be hoping grass is growing faster by then... however, lambing will have started and intakes will be more like 3.5 kgDM/e/d or more. Grass will need to grow at 42kgDM/ha/d just to stand still. And what if it doesn't grow at all in August?

What is my point? When we talk of lambing covers (minimum 1200 kgDM/ha) this means when lambing, not set stocking. What they eat in that period needs to be on top.

If covers are decked before the lambing gets into swing, the ewe will struggle to swallow her 3 x maintenance in 24 hours. Milk production, lamb survival and lamb growth will be affected. Peak milk production occurs at around 3-4 weeks, and it is this milk intake for the lamb that is the biggest area of opportunity for lamb growth. A lamb with a slow start will be on farm longer and on the cycle goes.

Hopefully this illustrates that you need to have that cover sitting there now (and then some). If you don't, then some prompt decisions may need to be made to reduce farm demand. It may also be worth thinking back a few months to explain why you don't have the covers. Maybe crops are poor (or not enough ha) forcing you to hold ewes on grass longer? Maybe you should have sold more lambs store in February..?

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH...

Dental Month - Book your cats, dogs and horses in for their dental check.

Winter Woollies Seminar - July 25th, Mossburn
 July 26th, Riversdale

Spring Payment Offer - Deferred payment on selected vaccines, drenches & B12*