

SITUATION COMMENT

Mild weather conditions until recently have ensured that worms have remained plentiful in young stock. We have had a few situations where faecal egg counts have exploded over the course of only a couple of weeks. The move towards more grass wintering has probably made this situation a little more prevalent.

Early sheep scanning results have generally been a little back on normal with a few less triplets and a few more singles.

Transition on to crop feeding, especially fodder beet, was challenging this year to say the least. We have had a busy time dealing with acidosis cases. We certainly seem to have seasons where transition is more difficult onto crop and often this flows on to transition off crop. In particular, early transition off beet is very important. Cow collar data shows that rumination rates drop by approximately one third around calving, but if the rumination rates are too low prior to calving the recovery post calving takes much longer even when milked OAD. These cows also seem to have much lower voluntary intakes and hence more subclinical and clinical ketosis post calving.

Our winter and spring dairy seminars will be happening over the next few weeks and provide good opportunity for some staff training and education, also a chance to catch up and chew the fat over a hot or cold brew. The organising of Andrew and Rochelle's Winter Woolies seminars is underway.

I was fortunate to attend the vet club annual conference in Tauranga a few weeks ago where we had some very interesting discussion on He Waka Eka Noa and emissions trading. The farming community up there is dealing with very similar issues. Some sections still don't make sense to me!

Congratulations to Samantha who was awarded the best speaker prize for the deer section at the NZVA mega conference for her work on angular limb deformity. Laura and Rochelle also managed to get in some or all of the conference which was held in Hamilton. We welcome Poppy Dickie to a front office role in Riversdale.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

Horse Reminders

- Check for cover sores
- Check for mud fever

Pet Reminders

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

STAFF PET CORNER

Patrick is a one in a million horse that belongs to Taylor and James. He is so placid and easy going, and rarely spooks or plays up just trots around doing his job. He doesn't mind James's dogs running round his legs barking, nothing seems to phase him. He can be very cheeky when shifting cattle, he will get as close as he can to their back ends and will bite them! Patrick has 3 other paddock mates Herb, Thomo and Rusty.



What do you call a magician's dog?



A Labracadabrador!

Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Pre-calving trace element testing
- Transition cow management
- Spring seminar—July 20th
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Order metabolic requirements
- Order calving supplies

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PRE-LAMB PLANNING

With the shortest day behind us and August fast approaching its time to start planning what treatments you will give ewes pre-lamb this year. Clostridial vaccination (5-in-1/8-in-1) remains a no-brainer, particularly with the market outlook for lamb remaining strong. This is the most cost-effective way to protect lambs prior to weaning - you only need to save one lamb out of every 480 ewes vaccinated to pay for the cost of the vaccine. If you are lambing at 130% then this means saving only one lamb out of every 620 lambs tailed.

Pre-lamb drenches are much more complicated, especially with the rising threat of drench resistance. A balanced approach to pre-lamb drench needs to be taken where any production gains are balanced with a sustainable approach to drench use. A one-size-fits-all approach certainly isn't sustainable (or economically worthwhile) and instead treatment choices should be based off need. First of all, considerations need to be made for age, ewe condition and scanning result, along with the expected worm challenge and pasture covers. Worm challenge could be expected to be high this year, given the mild autumn we have had, but pasture covers will be variable depending on how you managed through the drought. In-lamb hoggets will benefit most from a pre-lamb drench, followed by triplet ewes, twinning 2-tooths and light ewes. In general, ewes in good condition and those with only a single lamb shouldn't need doing. 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.

Refugia needs to be given priority when using any drench product 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 of how to go about this.

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 would like assistance to plan your pre-lamb treatments get in touch with us, just like last year we will be offering the chance to get this free of charge – see below for conditions of this offer.

Andrew Cochran BVSc

PRE-LAMB CONSULTATION OFFER

Once again we are offering personalised one-on-one consultations to plan your pre-lamb treatments. The cost of this tailored consult will be reimbursed if you order your pre-lamb products through one of our NSVets clinics.

Just another way NSVets is adding value for you

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

TAKE THE PAIN OUT OF CALVING THIS SEASON

Several thousand years ago, humans worked out that reducing the pain of inflammation was a really good way of recovering from injury and illness.

Admittedly, they used some unusual active ingredients (chopped bat, wasp dung, electric eels, mice).

Nonetheless, those ancient civilisations hit on a fundamental truth which is still 100% valid today: inflammation and pain put the body on a go-slow, whether it's from a sprained ankle, a torn hamstring, a broken arm, disease, surgery or the aftermath of a difficult childbirth.

As with humans, so with cows and calves. Their natural inflammation response kicks in just like ours when they're sick or injured.

Sometimes it's obvious, in the form of red, swollen, tender tissue, resulting from the likes of an assisted calving. Sometimes it's not – calf scours, for example, causes internal inflammation and can be so painful that calves cease drinking milk.

Either way, the results are usually the same. Inflammatory pain puts even 'tough' and stoic animals – like cows – off their game. They eat less, they don't move so well, and they stop producing or growing as well as they should.

No disrespect to ancient civilisations, but chopped bat or wasp dung in your calving kit probably won't be much use in these situations.

What will make a big difference, however, is an injectable painkiller and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) with a nil milk with-holding period, like KetoMax.

Agrihealth



Deer Reminders

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

WINTER TRAINING

Dairy Management Seminars 2022

CRITICAL CALF CARE

Practical & Effective Tips For Managing Calf Health

- Why prevention is better than cure
- Identifying sick calves - what to look for
- Appropriate treatment principles for positive outcomes

Protect the future of your herd with expert advice from those who know.

When: Wednesday 6th July 2022, 10am-12 noon

Where: NSVets Riversdale

Cost: \$25 per person or \$50 per farm (for 3 or more)

Morning tea provided

MASTITIS MANAGEMENT

Get It Right The First Time

- Stop mastitis before it starts
- Identification of clinical and sub-clinical cows
- Maximise cure rates

This seminar is perfect for those that are new to the industry or as a refresher prior to spring.

When: Wednesday July 13th 2022, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Where: NSVets Riversdale

Cost: \$25 per person or \$50 per farm (for 3 or more)

Afternoon tea provided

SPRING FIRST AID

TIME For CHANGE

We are changing the format of our Spring calving seminar this year to be more interactive – so if you have never been, or you think you've seen it all before this one is for you! Or if you just want an excuse to get out of the house, meet some like minded people and a yum supper come along!

When: Wednesday 20th July 2022, 7.00pm

Where: Balfour Rugby Club

Cost: FREE - All Welcome

Supper provided

For more details or to book your spot phone (03) 202 5636

DID YOU KNOW..?

- Subclinical hypocalcaemia cows produce 7% less milk, clinical cases 14% less
- Hypocalcaemia may be considered a gateway disease to displaced abomasums, uterine infection and ketosis
- Mild hypocalcaemia is associated with poor fertility and an increased risk of culling.
- Rate of weight loss is greater for hypocalcaemic cows compared to normal cows
- Studies have found more than 50% of cows have hypocalcaemia in the first 3 days after calving
- Many of our clients have seen benefits from using Calpro bolus given to at risk cows at calving and 12 hours later
- At risk cows are those with history of calcium problems, lame cows, older cows, high yielding cows (25% top producers)
- A bolus will increase blood calcium by 20% for 12 hours which results in a 50% reduction in subclinical hypocalcaemia.

• Cows with history of calcium problems
• Cows showing lameness in calving period
• Older cows (2nd lactation cows and older)
• High yield cows
• Cows with a high body condition score



CATTLE ABORTIONS

Dealing with abortions over the winter period can be a frustrating and stressful event. Between scanning and calving a 1-2% pregnancy loss can be expected (10-20 cows in every 1000). However if this number is exceeded, intervention is important in order to prevent excessive losses. Larger numbers of abortions or abortion storms (more than 2 or 3 in 24 hours) should be investigated promptly. Abortion can be caused by various bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi as well as non-infectious causes such as macrocarpa ingestion. To determine the cause of an issue, it is important we build up a clear history and get good samples from both the aborted foetus and the placenta. Getting these samples and reaching a diagnosis can be tricky, but if done properly can be very helpful in prevention of issues in the future. If you discover an aborted foetus in the paddock, store it in a plastic bag in the freezer (ideally with the placenta if it is there). This means that if there are more cows aborting, you have samples ready to go and hopefully a diagnosis can be reached quickly. If you are having issues with abortion, please get in touch and discuss it with NSVets as reaching a diagnosis is imperative in preventing further loss.

Sam Lee BVSc

