

SITUATION COMMENT

It's been a great winter so far with the recent frosts helping to dry out ground conditions that had been a bit sticky in late May. Worms have remained plentiful in young stock, and we have seen evidence of increasing amounts of drench resistance. 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. Key points to note are using an effective drench (must drench check test at the very least), refugia, grass management and good nutrition.

Early sheep scanning results have generally been pretty good with most sheep in very good condition. A few cases where 2ths are back a small percentage. We would expect that the later lambing ewes should also scan well, having had a good feed flush in the autumn.

Transition on to crop feeding, especially fodder beet, was not as challenging as last year though we have still had to contend with a few breakout situations. These are very frustrating to deal with and often animals will recover or not despite what you do to treat.

More and more people are using cow wearable technology. Wearable 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. DairyNZ had a few sessions in April/May on the different systems and will be doing some on-farm sessions on winter barns over the next few weeks.

Our winter and spring dairy seminars will be happening shortly and provide good opportunity for some staff training and education, and a chance to catch up and chew the fat over a hot or cold brew.

Welcome to Lily Jarrett who has a mixed role at the clinic – sometimes behind the front desk and sometimes out on farm. Congratulations to Sam and Julia, and Samantha and Andy, on their recent family additions – we might have to open the NSVets Crèche soon!!!

Rochelle has recently stepped down from her role on the Sheep & Beef committee, for the NZ Veterinary Association, after 7 years of service – she has provided sterling work for the organisation in a completely volunteer capacity.

Morgan Greene MVB MACVSc

Pet Reminders

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

MUTTON BIRD MADNESS

Some of you might be aware of the mass mutton bird grounding earlier in the year. Due to violent storms, the sea birds were blown off course and many ended up in Central Otago and Northern Southland. Mutton birds (also known as TiTi or Sooty Shearwaters) need to run into head winds from a high place in order to fly. This was impossible for them to do inland so once they were grounded, that is where they stayed.

Despite the devastation, we did have a few potential happy endings with birds that were delivered to the clinics. Two particularly lively birds were eventually released from cliffs at Kaka Point. With any luck they will survive and continue their migration journey.



Kate Taylor DVM BSc-Hons

Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Pre-calving trace element testing
- Transition cow management
- First Shot BVD vaccine to heifers
- Winter training seminars
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Order metabolic requirements
- Order calving supplies

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LICE

Most farmers will have encountered the occasional lice infestation (or a suspected one) in their stock over the years. These small light brown 2mm long parasites spread by direct contact between animals and can't survive more than a few days off their host. Lice populations are highest in winter and lowest in summer. Lice like the dense winter coat of cattle as they provide a stable environment for their development – as cattle shed their coat in the spring, lice and eggs are more exposed to temperature fluctuations and sunshine.

Affected animals show signs of irritation and rubbing, which can cause hair loss over large areas of the body. Damage to fences and gates can also occur if cattle rub against them due to severe irritation. Hide damage and reduced hide quality can result. Cattle have some effect on their own lice population by grooming – in the winter, most lice are around the neck and shoulders, which are hard to reach by grooming. Cattle in good condition seem to carry less lice, and the lice are less likely to affect performance. Bulls, old cows in poor condition and young cattle in their first winter seem to be more prone to carrying lice.

There doesn't seem to be a lot of evidence of lice causing significant weight loss or a drop in milk production in cattle – however, they can become a problem in poorly conditioned or diseased animals if burdens are heavy. These are the cases where a lice product is worth using – routine treatment of cattle for lice is probably not worth it. In sheep other than obvious effects to pelt and wool, NZ studies found little production loss from lice however this was from research 20, 40 and 50 years ago on animals with fairly low burdens and when lower lambing percentages were the norm. A UK study in the 80s on highly infected flocks found treated sheep had an 18% higher average lwt gain compared to untreated sheep. You could imagine that there would be some production loss if only from reduced grazing time!

If you suspect sheep to be carrying lice, select at least 10 animals from a mob and part their wool in 10-20 areas from the neck down the flank to look for the parasites that will move away from the light when the fleece is parted. In sheep, it is worth checking for lice early before numbers build up.

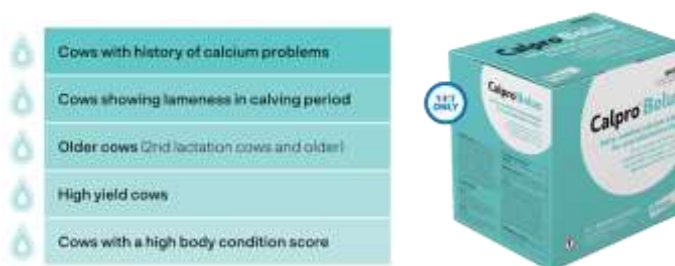
Shearing exposes lice to sunlight, rain and reduced humidity and will reduce their numbers. If dipping for lice, all sheep on the farm should be treated to prevent spread between animals. Most products aren't very effective against lice eggs so these will continue to hatch and require repeat treatment 2-3 weeks later. Completely eradicating lice from a property is a bit more involved – all animals need to be treated at the same time with an effective product, the treated animals need to be moved to paddocks that haven't had stock for at least a week and all other contact with stock needs to be prevented.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS & Nuria Holzleg DVM

HYPOCALCAEMIA (LOW BLOOD CALCIUM)

Note Subclinical means you can't see it, Clinical means you can see actual signs of disease

- Subclinical hypocalcaemia cows produce 7% less milk during lactation
- clinical cases produce 14% less milk
- Hypocalcaemia may be considered a gateway disease to displaced abomasums (stomach), 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 half of dairy 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.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Horse Reminders

- Check for cover sores
- Check for mud fever



BENEFITS OF DENTALS & THE SYMPTOMS

Bad breath keeping you from letting the dog up onto the couch, or the cat on the bed? This can be one of dental disease which affects 85% of dogs and cats older than two years.

The presence of tartar (the brown, stinky material at the base of some teeth) is not the true criminal, though it does provide a good home for bacteria and smells. The true damage starts with an invisible attacker. Plaque is a film of bacteria which sets up camp on teeth. This is highly irritant to gums, resulting in pain and sometimes bleeding. As it progresses, it causes damage underneath the gums, gaps form beneath teeth and the bone surrounding their pearly whites begins to shrink. Teeth become wiggly and often need to be removed.

We can't just ignore dental disease at any stage. It is one of the most common health problems your pet will face. The good news is, there are things we can do to prevent disease occurring and to treat it if it is already there.

Regular dental procedures are recommended to halt disease. This involves cleaning, removing tartar and loose teeth and then polishing. Not only does this remove the smelly breath but it helps to get rid of the pesky bacteria that are causing all the problems. In terms of preventing the need for a dental procedure, we have plenty of options. From specialised food, teeth-cleaning treats and even pet toothpaste!

If you're concerned about the health of your pet's mouth, book them in for a check up with a vet who can let you know what a tailored treatment plan will look like for you.

Holly Gardyne BVSc

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

I saw a car with a bumper sticker "I am a vet, therefore I drive like an animal".

Suddenly I realised how many gynecologists there are on the roads.



Deer Reminders

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

JOINT ISSUES

Finding lambs and calves with swollen joints is always disheartening for farmers and vets alike. This is because treatment is often unrewarding and the prognosis for recovery is often guarded.

Joint infections don't arise from the joint itself, but from an infection that has travelled through the bloodstream into the joint(s) – most commonly from a navel infection, but castration wounds, ear tag injuries or docking wounds could also be the starting point.

Affected animals will be lame in one or more legs and may spend lots of time lying down. The joints may be swollen, stiff, hot and painful to touch. Some youngstock will continue drinking and look to be in good condition, while others will develop a fever and be depressed, lethargic and not eating. If joint damage is severe enough, growth can be affected in the long-term even if the animal does recover from the infection.

Unfortunately treating joint ill is often unsuccessful. Antibiotics are the mainstay of treatment, but many antibiotics can't penetrate into joints very well so a long course and high doses are often needed to improve outcome. The sooner you notice the problem and begin treatment, the better the outcome. A good first-line treatment is usually a high dose of a penicillin-based product such as Duplocillin LA, Ovipen or Intracillin 300. Anti-inflammatory pain relief medication is also important to reduce pain for the animal.

Prevention is better than treatment when it comes to outbreaks of joint ill, but unfortunately the odd case here and there will still occur. Hygiene around calving/lambing is important for prevention. Cows and ewes should be giving birth in clean paddocks (always a challenge in our wet spring weather!). Calf pens should be clean and calf navels should be dipped in iodine as soon as possible to reduce the risk of infection. Adequate colostrum intake in the first 24 hours (especially first 6 hours) is also important.

Nuria Holzleg BVM BVS

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH...

Critical calf care - July 5th, Riversdale Hotel

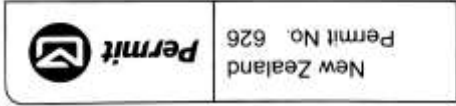
Mastitis Management—July 12th, Riversdale Clinic

Spring First Aid—July 19th, Balfour Rugby Club

Wearable Cow Tech—July 18th, Riversdale Clinic

Tactical Triage and Treatment—July 27th, Riversdale Clinic

Spring Payment Offer - Deferred payment on selected vaccines, drenches & B12* please ask our staff



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NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE

July 2023

VetTIMES



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