

SITUATION COMMENT

The sun is shining, the grass is growing, and all classes of stock seem to be heading toward winter in fairly good body condition. Only a couple of frosts remind us to hunt out our thermals. Thankfully these helped slow the blow fly rampage, but had little effect on parasite larvae going by recent in house FECs.

Product procurement is an ongoing frustration, particularly for seasonal stocks, despite forward ordering. Factory relocation, unprecedented demand, and still Covid have been implicated. The war in Ukraine will continue to influence supplies of some products also – which we are doing our best to forecast. Dry cow products though are already on site.

Teat sealing of heifers is well underway, as are the final rounds of pregnancy testing – we will get a summary of results to you soon. Thankfully the outbreak of ‘hit-by-car’ cases has slowed, please do be careful with dogs on and around vehicles, an extra few seconds of caution is surely better than an 8 week stint in the kennel and a head cone banging into the back of your legs!

Happy Duck hunting, happy Coronation, but most importantly, Happy Mothers Day Mums!

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

COWS FOR EARLY DRY-OFF

Light condition cows that are calving in August should be identified and dried off early. These cows will benefit most from a longer dry period to regain the condition they need for spring. Remember cows will only gain half a condition score per month under Southland winter conditions and will not gain anything in the last month before calving. Cows do not tend to gain much condition whilst still being milked, even if they are milked OAD, any extra energy just tends to go into milk production.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Cattle Reminders

- Dry cow therapy
- Internal parasites—treat at drying off
- Final pregnancy test
- Copper & selenium status—treat pre winter if necessary
- Complete herd leptos vaccination if not done
- Attend to lame cows prior to winter
- Lice control
- Pre-winter worm treatment of beef cattle
- Preferential feeding for selected cows

Pet Reminders

- De-sex cats
- Order jackets and bedding
- Booster vaccination for cats prior to winter

STAFF PET CORNER

Meet Ricky Bobby Dickie.

Ricky Bobby, son to Poppy Dickie, is a 14-year-old black and white cat living his best life in Kauana, a community just outside of Centre Bush. Ricky Bobby was named after 5-year-old Poppys favourite movie “Talladega Nights” which was very age appropriate at the time.

Some of Ricky’s hobbies include, leaving his footprints on cars, eating whatever is on the bench when the landlords turn a blind eye (especially venison sausages lol) and attacking his younger brother Texas Ranger.

Texas Ranger is a quirky long haired tabby cat with anger management issues that just turned up one day and claimed Ricky’s land as his own. Ricky just thinks Texas is a pain in the

****! But even though Ricky despises him, we always see them happily sleeping side by side.

Ricky has never been a big fan of people, so he always sticks close to Poppy. He’s a fairly easy going cat, so easy going that he can’t be bothered catching mice or birds, so he just waits for Texas Ranger to catch something and then he will swoop in claiming it as his own.

As Ricky approaches retiring age, sleeping in the sun increases and fighting with Texas decreases. Ricky is a very loved cat and the best friend anyone could ask for.



Contents

Pg 1 :
 - Situation comment
 - Staff pet corner
 - Cows for early dry off

Pg 2 :
 - Winter feed
 - Horse worming

Pg 3 :
 - Transition to crop
 - Cull Cow
 - Wormwatch

Horse Reminders

- Drench for worms
- Wean foals
- Booster vaccination for Tetanus, Strangles & Salmonella of foals



ANNUAL WINTER FEED PLANNING REMINDER FOR SHEEP FARMERS

Annual Winter feed planning reminder for sheep farmers

| 10 d Pre-mate | Mating | 10 d post mating | 0-25 | 055 (up to 90) | 056-114 | 35 d pre-lamb | Lambing | 20 d post lamb | 30 d post lamb | 40 d post lamb |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|------|----------------|--|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Critical feed period | | Maintain, never under feed | | | Free period – feed pinch can happen here but only if ewes \geq 3.0 BCS | | Critical feed period | Peak lactation 0.30 (+/- 10d) | | |
| Flock in Lamb | | | | | | 1.5 x maintenance | 3 x maintenance | | | |
| Growing Platenta | | | | | | no weight loss | | | | |

Many will be nearing the end of the first 'critical feed period' where our ewes have all conceived their twins already! For those with very good condition ewes, feed levels can drop to maintenance (roughly 2% of body weight in kgDM) until around day 55, from whence they may even be slightly feed restricted for a period. While gaining weight over mating is favourable for fecundity, gaining weight in the second trimester has been repeatedly shown to increase the risk of bearings at lambing. While this is also true for skinny sheep the benefits of extra condition before winter in those girls will outweigh the risk of bearings – so those lines are best to remain well fed throughout. This allowable 'pinch' only applies to Mixed Age ewes that are in good/very good condition already and only up until 35 days pre lambing by which time feed should increase to almost twice maintenance. By 20 days into lambing, requirements are three times maintenance i.e more than they can eat in many cases! A ewe underfed at the start of lambing will not milk well, will grow a poorer lamb, that will be on farm longer, and she herself will be in poorer condition.

Note, if you can feel the short ribs of the ewe, she is not \geq 3.0.

As a side note, shearing in mid pregnancy with the hope to have better lamb survival, only works if the ewe is



in good condition with body reserves to mobilise, and adequate feed covers for the increase in appetite that follows.

This month is the time to do your winter feed budget, ideally removing as many unnecessary mouths as you can from your system - winter lambs and lambing percentage tend to be inversely proportional. A conservative budget would have little pasture growth in June-July-August which means you need to be thinking about lambing covers now - or at least by the end of the month – so you have time to make decisions to make the budget work. Working from a 'feed demand' slant rather than a 'feed on hand' view-point can make a difference on how you justify choices!

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

HORSE WORMING

As a kid I remember drenching our horses every 8 weeks without fail, with ivomec paste. This had always been the recommendation without ever testing for the need to drench, and with little concern about what we could be doing for drench resistance!

Now it is generally recommended to drench adult horses just once or twice a year, using faecal egg counts (FEC) to assess the need to drench, and to target different actives for different seasons. It is important to note however that encysted cyathostomes ('red worms') are not seen in faecal egg counts. These can cause a lot of damage, particularly in young horses, so it is generally accepted that all horses are drenched at least once a year, (usually now/Autumn) with a product containing Moxidectin and praziquantel in combination.



The threat of drench resistance will not go away, so it is important to use strategies other than drench for parasite control such as picking up poop promptly, not over grazing, utilising other animals e.g. sheep to 'clean' the paddock. Harrowing can help the pasture to look uniform and tidy, and it may help to kill eggs by exposing them to hot sun or frosts, but under most conditions, the eggs can still survive in the pieces of poop that are now evenly distributed around the entire paddock, leaving little choice for the horse but to eat amongst the hatched larvae.

So our Autumn drench is a given, but consider other factors, such as horse age, grazing density, pasture management and FEC (which we can do in the clinic, generally the same day) before drenching at other times.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Deer Reminders

- Drench weaners
- Copper as required
- Drench stags
- Put chaser stags out

Sheep Reminders

- Vaccinate for Salmonella
- FEC lambs
- Record tupping data
- Check rams
- Hold ewe condition
- Check baleage & silage quality pH
- Plan winter rotation

CULL COW TRANSPORT

It's that time of the year when you've decided on which cows to cull and send to the works. It's easy to forget about these girls until the truck turns up, but there are a few things to note that will improve their welfare on their trip to the works. We have actually been told by an MPI vet at a works in Canterbury that some dairy cows from Southland reach them either down or leaking milk. A lot of these cull cows may be older, still lactating and in poorer body condition. Ideally cull cows should be dried off before slaughter – this is easier said than done, so milking cull cows as soon as possible before trucking is the next best option. There is also an increased risk of lactating cows going down on the truck – this is particularly true if they've got far to travel. Giving these girls an oral calcium/magnesium drench before trucking will help prevent this and is recommended for all cows, especially those with a longer transportation time. Cows should be held off green feed for at least 4 hours, but not more than 12 hours, before trucking, while lactating cows shouldn't be held off green feed for more than 6 hours. They should always have access to fresh water and hay or baleage. Problems are less likely to happen if cull cows are only travelling within Southland, but you never know what other farms the truckie needs to get to after picking your cows up before arriving at the works. Following these guidelines will result in the best outcomes for the cows and the staff.

Nuria Holzleg BVM BVS

WORMWATCH MAY 2023

Winter is coming, but current conditions are still very favourable for larval development and parasite challenge remains high. This is especially true for young stock grazing pastures that have only been grazed by young stock in recent months. We have seen dairy calves dying from worm burdens in recent weeks so it would be wise to keep drench intervals to 28 days or at least monitor with a FEC if you are hoping to extend this out. For young stock going onto crop, try to time the last drench for the day they go onto the crop to minimise parasite burdens being carried into winter. We have been seeing more and more drench resistance on farms this autumn – give us a call to discuss how we can protect your farm from this growing problem.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

TRANSITION TO CROP ANNUAL REMINDER

Gut bugs take time to adapt to diet change . Done poorly, animals can lose condition, get crook, or die. Acidosis is the biggest issue, followed by nitrate poisoning and bloat.

Treatment for poor transition issues is generally crap – prevention is better.

- Measure crop yields and supplements and do a feed budget
- Allow for transitioning to take **10-14 days** (actual gut changes take much longer)
- Have ample supplement for this time.
 - Feed supplement before giving a new break so animals are not going on hungry
 - Be sure all animals have access to the supplement – one bale feeder is rarely enough
- Transition can be a gradually increasing on-off system, or a lead in area with increasing break size. Be sure to consider animal wellbeing and environmental impact around both methods.
- For fodder beet in particular - remember any food left uneaten may still contribute to the next day's intake and use a second fence to catch any breakouts
- Breaks should be of such to allow equal access (but minimal wastage).
- Avoid shifting breaks until the frost has lifted – and take care on dull or foggy days (nitrate risk)
- Watch for signs of illness (Not eating or standing back, tucked up, dull, weak or wobbly, sunken eye, gut pain, grinding teeth, bloated gut, 'sloshy' gut sounds,

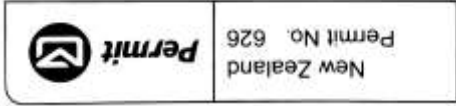
Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

"HOLD 'EM"

With such a sweet nature it is no wonder Ace found himself a humane way to 'hold' this rogue lamb. Ace was given a second chance when he was adopted and given surgery for a recurring dislocated hip. Becky did the surgery, and he has never looked back.



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