

SITUATION COMMENT

The snow a few weeks ago put a small dent in feed supplies but some recent rain and a bit more heat has changed the situation around again with many growth rates back in the 60s and even higher on dairy farms. Managing the surplus will be key.

We have seen a fair few metabolic issues in the milkers recently – lack of magnesium and peak production have contributed.

Mating is underway and seems to be ticking along nicely so far. Tailing tallies in the paddock appear to be really good which is likely to be reflective of the good Spring and the fact that most people were back on the numbers of triplets!

Do I mention ETS and HWEN??

Stay safe on those tractors out there.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

UNCLE TRAVELLING MIKE

Dear Nephew Gobo,

It is raining today, yesterday for you, thank goodness. After about 8 weeks of perfect weather, we needed it. 8 weeks for us is 8 weeks for you, it just starts later and ends sooner. But it is still 8 weeks.

It has been interesting, we had some time travellers from Riversdale pop in, Becky and Caine. We also had some from further north, who misunderstood the finer aspects of time travel and left Riversdale several years in advance of arriving in yesterday land, Tash and Justin. It was lovely to see them all, and Tash even got her hands dirty, helping out at the clinic.



I hear calving is pretty much over in Southland, with some beefies still going. Most of our cows have calved and the mating season is over too, so we won't see much of our herd until late June, early July next year. We were on the beach and a calf popped out to see us, but wouldn't pose, although mum did wave goodbye. Quite nice of her.

We are heading to an island called Atiu (pronounced like a sneeze) in November for a weeklong spey-and-castrate-arama. Should be fun, looking very much forward to it.

Uncle Travelling Mike

Sheep Reminders

- Pre-weaning drench lambs (nematodirus alert)
- B12 injection lambs
- Monitor lamb growth rates

Cattle Reminders

- Treat non-cycling cows
- Mating
- Dairy Calves—clostridial & leptospirosis vaccination
- Review drench plan for calves
- Attend to lame cows
- Monitor reproduction performance and review fertility focus
- Review mastitis control

STAFF PET CORNER

He's tan, he's black and he's back. Chubs! The dumbest, most loveable Huntaway around. Every morning before he goes to work his goal is to visit the lambs and greet them with good morning licks. Once that's done, he's off to find food, whether that be dog biscuits or road kill from wandering down the main highway. There's nothing stopping this dog! When the clock strikes 5pm, the zoomies arrive, in bushes, around the lawn, going 100km/hr pushing everything over in his path! After 2 minutes he's exhausted, and ready for bed. This is the life Chub leads living with Ashleigh Stewart.



BULL CHECKLIST

Mating is just around the corner on beef farms and the bulls won't be far behind on dairy farms once AB winds up. So here is a quick checklist to make sure the boys are sorted for duty out in the field:

All bulls must:

- ✓ Be sound on all four feet
- ✓ Have been BVD tested negative
- ✓ Have no indications of illness or trauma
- ✓ Have been BVD vaccinated (including annual booster for older bulls)

You should also consider:

- ✓ Semen testing (particularly for virgin bulls)
- ✓ Service testing (particularly for mature bulls)
- ✓ Trace element status of bulls – selenium and copper in particular
- ✓ Lepto vaccinating dairy bulls
- ✓ Bull power – have you got enough?!

Give us a call at the clinic if you have any questions or would like to book in any bull testing before it's too late.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

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Horse Reminders

- Best month for breeding in Southland
- Show time
- Hoof care

FOALING AT HOME

The days are getting longer and that means it's time to start thinking about your mares. If she is already in foal remember here's a few things you should put on your to do list:

- Vaccinate 4-6 weeks prior to due date. This will allow time for the mare to produce the antibodies that will be passed to her new foal in her colostrum.
- Pre-foaling drench 1 month prior to foaling (moxidectin/praziquantel combination is recommended). This reduces the number of worms being shed once the foal is born.
- Open caslick if she has one (1 week prior).
- Have a plan! Make sure you know where your mare is going to foal, either at your place or at the stud. If you are at home, make sure it's somewhere you can keep a close eye on proceedings.
- Pay attention for changes in your mares' presentation and/or behaviour. Waxing up, running milk, fractious behaviour can all indicate that things are going to happen soon.
- Once the mare starts actively trying to foal (pushing/contracting), if no progress is happening in **30 minutes** then it's time to call us.
- Once your foal has arrived follow the **1, 2, 3, 4 rule**. This rule is as follows:
 1. The foal should be standing within 1 hour
 2. The foal should be looking to suckle within 2 hours
 3. The foal should be drinking within 3 hours
 4. The foal should have passed the first manure (meconium) within 4 hours. Also, the mare should have passed the placenta by 4 hours. (3 hours for draft breeds)

When to get involved

Immediate advice from a veterinarian is vital if:

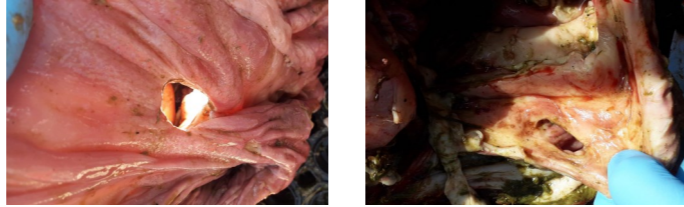
- The mare has been streaming milk for 12 hours or more with no sign of labour
- The waters have broken, but there's no sign of contractions or no further progress
- There's malpresentation of the foal
- The placenta has appeared at the vulva before the foal
- The foal's hoof is emerging through the mare's anus
- The foal is unwilling or unable to stand within one hour after birth
- The foal is unwilling or unable to suckle within two hours after birth
- The mare is showing signs of colic post-foaling
- The placenta has not passed within four hours after birth
- You are concerned the entire placenta hasn't been passed
- The placental membranes are covering the foal's muzzle outside the pelvic canal

During foaling, you should only intervene if you notice a problem. Keep our number handy. We are happy to assist in any way we can, either by foaling the mare or by simply offering some reassuring words.

Shaun Campbell BVSc BSc

ABOMASAL ULCERS IN CALVES

Abomasal ulcers in calves are more common than you think, as most mild cases go unnoticed, and early signs can be vague. Only when the ulcer goes full thickness (rupture) and a peritonitis with septicemia occurs would we see these cases, and often by this stage, the calf may simply be found



dead.

What to look for

Generally seen between 4 weeks to 4 months of age. They may appear tucked up, teeth grinding, kicking. They may be bloated, off feed, have a fever, rapid heart, depression. If bleeding - anaemia (pale gums) black sticky poo may be seen.

What causes them

Unfortunately, there is not one known cause of abomasal ulcers, but a collection of possibilities. With most noticed at or around weaning time, conversion from milk to a fibrous diet is probably a factor. Rapid growth periods also seem higher risk. Clostridial bacteria are often found in calves with ulcers, but this could be secondary rather than the cause. Also:

- Excessive or prolonged use of anti-inflammatories (or why they were getting these!)
- **Stress** e.g. from transportation, mixing of groups, overcrowding, concurrent disease
- Concurrent disease e.g. pneumonia
- Mineral and vitamin deficiencies (copper and vitamin E have been questioned)

The single most associated risk involves **the feeding process** - namely **inconsistency/fluctuations**

- Timing and volume – if erratic, but also high volume and once a day feeding is higher risk
- Milk temperature fluctuations
- Concentration, quality and hygiene – with powders and whole milk

It is important to gradually increase the meal component of the diet before reducing milk feeding. It is quite common to do this the other way around, restrict milk to increase the meal intake, enabling early weaning.

Treatment

Unfortunately there is low success. High doses of penicillin may be used. Surgery is an option but again prognosis of surviving surgery is low. There are oral medicines available, also used in human medicine, but cost is usually prohibitive. Antacids and gut protectors may help, in young animals. As with almost everything in animal health – prevention is better than cure.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

VELVET DISEASES

With velvet season fast approaching this is a timely reminder that velvet is a food product and any velvet with food safety risks must not be sold for human consumption. Occasionally we see diseases that can affect the velvet, and farmers need to be aware of these.

Deer Parapox Virus



Parapox virus creates a distinctive bumpy texture on the surface of the velvet. When scabs are removed a raw ulcer is left on the surface of the velvet. Often there is a history of grazing paddocks with thistles. The thistles scratch and break the surface of the velvet allowing the virus to cause lesions. Pox viruses are contagious and are transmissible to humans.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungal infection and can cause circular lesions on the skin and velvet. The lesions often have hair loss and are slightly raised, dry and flaky. Cattle are more commonly associated with ringworm lesion and spores can transfer from cattle to deer by direct or indirect contact. Ringworm is transmissible to humans.

Bacterial infections

Often bacterial infections are associated with damaged velvet. In the affected area there is often purulent material and the velvet has an unpleasant smell. If the infection is localised to the velvet, removal is often curative.

Fly strike

This is often associated with underlying damage to the velvet. Cases have been reported on stag's post velveting. The base of the pedicle tends to get struck and the stags become agitated and unsettled in response to the nuisance of the flies and irritation caused by the larvae. Stags should be yarded, and the affected area cleaned and treated immediately. If cut velvet is left unattended on warm days, the velvet can become struck with fly eggs. Velvet should be relocated to the freezer in a timely manner to prevent this.

Ticks



Top: An adult tick waiting to latch onto a passing mammal. Above and right: Ticks on velvet and ticks in a fawn's ear.

Ticks are blood sucking insects that can be found on any mammal and birds. They favour warm humid environments, so the biggest numbers are found in the warmer parts of the North Island. However, cases have been recorded as far south as Otago and Southland but fortunately ticks haven't become established in these regions.

Jill MacGibbon BVMS

Deer Reminders

- De-velveting & supervisory visits
- Hinds—set stock for fawning
- Fawning

TAKING OFF THE FURRY ANTLER

Many of you will have cut the first of the old stags, and some spikers by now, and the silly season is rapidly approaching! A few reminders for the start of the season:

- You are welcome to come and get some of your drug requirements for the season to get you started, but we ask that where possible you do your supervisory as soon as convenient. This saves Sam and Rochelle chasing you and finding time to fit you in come December.
- Keep your sheds clean and ensure any maintenance is carried out as soon as a problem is identified. Though you have already completed an audit this is no time to slack, and random audits can occur through the season. Remember YOU sign a legal document saying that you will maintain your sheds to a high hygiene standard when selling the velvet.
- Ensure your drug purchase and use records are accurate, this is made easier by good recording after EVERY velveting session!
- If you have new staff members that you would like to put forward to become an NVSB certified velveter, please get in touch with us ASAP so we can start the process. We require you to pay the fee, sign a contract with us, and complete a multichoice questionnaire before having to do a test with TWO veterinarians, all of which needs to be done by the 15th December!
- As always, it is essential that you let us know of any issues you are having AT THE TIME THEY ARE OCCURRING as part of your obligations signing a contract with us. A veterinarian is always available 24/7 for advice or services so don't hesitate to ring.

Samantha Elder BVSc (dist), dipscitech (ag)

WORMWATCH NOVEMBER 2022

It's been a much better spring than the last couple and this mild weather will mean parasites are beginning to ramp up following the cooler months. This may mean parasite burdens are starting to rise, but this will depend on pasture covers and stock condition. Parasite resistance continues to be a growing problem so careful thought should go into every drench you use on farm and in general we should be avoiding drench use in adult stock.

Pre-weaning drenches for lambs should be considered this month and hand-reared calves that have been weaned will also be due for their first drench. Pre-weaning drenches of lambs in Southland tend to be important so that Nematodirus is not given the chance to impact lambs at this time.

There are still many of you that have no idea if your drench is working effectively and now is the time to start planning a reduction test for this season. Marking 100 lambs and leaving them undrenched is the first step. Feel free to contact us at the clinic for more details.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

