

## SITUATION COMMENT

Election results and the ABs beating Ireland lifted the mood of the area pretty dramatically a few weeks ago (my mood lifted by the election not the ABs!!). Congrats to the Springboks – at times it may not be the most exciting rugby but it sure is effective. Dairy commodity price increases and the futures market have also improved the dairy outlook. Most have been a little tight for feed up to now, but growth rates have taken off recently and as usual the big challenge will be keeping tabs on feed quality. Weather wise we've certainly had the whole range of everything with as much wind as we've had at this time of year for quite a while.

Mating is underway and seems to be ticking along nicely so far. The effects of the increased use of technology will be seen fully once we get to pregnancy scanning. We now have close to 20% of our dairy farms using cow wearables of some sort. Drench resistance is certainly increasing however you may still be able to use products in the spring that you can't in the autumn. The key is monitoring. Drench check tests are the best monitoring tool we have available. Talk to one of the vets about the best strategy to use for you – each farm and situation is different. Sitting down for an hour and coming up with a plan for the season may be one of the best uses of your time for the year.

*Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS*

## WORMWATCH NOVEMBER 2023

Its been a pretty mixed spring with plenty of rain but as temperatures now rise we can expect larval development to be rising too. The impact on parasite burdens will depend on pasture covers and stock condition, in general adult stock should be fine, but FECs can be used to confirm this. 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, but with growing pressure on drenches, a FEC could also be used on lambs to decide whether a pre-weaning drench is actually needed on your property.

There is 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*

## 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

## PET SLIMMERS

If your pet is overweight, it can lead to significant health issues. They can develop diabetes and arthritis, as well as an increased impact on their cardiovascular and respiratory systems, and overall decrease their life expectancy. It also increases their risk of developing injuries that may require orthopaedic surgery. If your pet is a healthy weight, you'll find they're more playful, active, can exercise/move with ease, and generally live longer and have a better quality of life.

We offer a free weight loss programme to help your pet achieve their ideal weight. If you have concerns about your pet's weight or are struggling to get the extra weight off them, give us a call to book a Pet Slimmers consultation. This will help to determine the appropriate weight for your pet's breed and life stage, advice on feeding and exercising, or even just to check that you're on the right track.

### HOW MUCH ARE YOU OVERFEEDING YOUR DOG?

Food	Quantity	Energy Intake (Kcal)	Daily energy intake excess*	Equivalent in doughnuts for humans**
 Rawhide bone	190g	699 Kcal	67%	
 Dried pigs ear	50g	216 Kcal	21%	
 Cheddar cheese	60g	242 Kcal	23%	
 Chicken	100g	188 Kcal	16%	
 Digestive biscuit	1 biscuit	71 Kcal	7%	
 Tuna	178g	331 Kcal	32%	
 Muffin	110g	330 Kcal	32%	
 Ham	100g	164 Kcal	16%	
 Sausage	56g	130 Kcal	13%	

*Cherise Cribb—Vet Nurse*

## BIT OF A LAUGH

I always thought orthopaedic shoes were overrated  
But I stand corrected...



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## Horse Reminders

- Best month for breeding in Southland
- Show time

### POLIO

With calves moving through the milking sheds and out onto greener pastures, transitioning them onto grass is an important part of setting them up for their future careers as breeders and tasty meals. Polioencephalomalacia (known as Polio or PEM) is something commonly seen with young, fast growing stock – and for those of you who aren't fluent in latin and greek, translates to grey brain death. This makes sense when you see calves and young stock which are blind, drooling and staggering.



PEM has two main reasons for occurring. Most commonly, feed changes (milk to grass, old to new grass) cause an imbalance in Rumen microbes, leading to a breakdown of thiamine (a B vitamin, also found in Berocca and Marmite). High sulphur intakes (Brassicas, fertiliser, water sources) also can cause the same issue, which may be in conjunction with rumen changes. Thiamine is essential for brain function so without, brain death occurs.

Diagnosis is important in distinguishing PEM from other reasons why young stock may be dull or dying. Affected animals range from looking like they have had a couple too many ales, tremoring and blind, right through to seizing and death. This variety of signs may be seen within a single mob.

PEM is treatable – initially targeted at replacing the deficient thiamine with injectable products. Steroids can also be included to help reduce brain swelling. In an affected mob, treatment may be targeted. Animals who are at the more normal end of the spectrum will commonly respond to treatment better, with those down and non-reactive often having irreversible brain damage. Going through a mob with a vet and deciding which animals to treat is likely to be cost effective in that it will prevent attempting to treat those who may not respond to treatment.

Like everything we deal with, prevention is better than cure. Having decent fibre available for stock moving onto rocket fuel, as well as being careful around grazing pastures recently supplemented with sulphonated fertilisers will help reduce your stocks chances of developing PEM.

Lachlan Chittock BVSc

## Pet Reminders

- Flea treatment
- Clip and groom pets for summer

### INTERESTING CASE OF AN EQUINE

#### KERATOMA

Coco, a 15yr old pony had a history of recurring abscesses in her right hind hoof. The hoof was starting to look a little deformed with a bulge developing from the coronary band. Her condition was unaffected but occasionally was mildly lame. Although there were acute exacerbations when the abscesses were developing.

The photo below of Sadie's hind legs illustrates the bulging hoof wall starting around the coronary band.

Coco was brought to the clinic in order to take x-rays of her hoof.

The x-rays confirmed the presence of new tissue growth extending from the coronary band down the front of the hoof. The black track of a recent abscess is also seen on the x-ray. Additional x-rays showed evidence of bone reabsorption on the pedal bone, often seen as a 'bite' lesion on the pedal bone. This is likely the result of pressure on the pedal bone from the new keratin growth. The history, clinical signs and changes on the x-rays are consistent with a keratoma.

Keratomas are an uncommon, benign growth made up of keratin that is situated between the hoof wall and the pedal bone. The cause is often unknown but can be associated with chronic injury or irritation to deep growing layers of the hoof wall. Although keratomas originate at the level of the coronary band, the condition can be difficult to detect until the growth is well advanced and located in the hoof wall much further distally.

Surgical removal is the only option to remove the abnormal tissue. A partial resection of the hoof wall is performed to gain access and facilitate removal of the abnormal tissue. It can often be difficult to ensure all the abnormal tissue is removed and there is a prolonged period of healing as the hoof wall regrows slowly.



Jill MacGibbon BVMS

## Sheep Reminders

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

### TETANUS UPDATE

The horse owners among you most likely will have heard of and hopefully used tetanus vaccinations. Tetanus is a disease caused by a bacteria found in the environment. When present in places without air (anaerobic), it forms spores and toxins. These affect nerves, causing muscle tensing, paralysis, and can ultimately lead to death in most cases even with intense treatment. In a horse, these low air environments are usually wounds, foot abscesses, routine surgeries/dentals and in mares with retained membranes (**risk events**). As you will know, these things often do not come with a pre-warning, so having all horses up to date with a Tetanus vaccination is important in prevention of disease.

It is worth mentioning that you may see us using two different products related to protection against tetanus. Firstly, there is a **TT (Tetanus Toxoid)**, which is a vaccine. This means the horse creates its own immunity to tetanus, and requires two initial doses in order to form this (1 dose is near worthless). The second is the **TAT (Tetanus Antitoxin)**, which is immunity being given directly into the horse, however this is short lived.

The vaccination guidelines have recently been updated, giving some clarification around when horses should be vaccinated. Below is a summary of some different scenarios which a horse may find themselves in, with the recommended vaccination protocols below.

- 1) Unvaccinated horses >12 months old**
  - Three doses
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 2-6 weeks apart, 3<sup>rd</sup> within 1 year of the 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Booster doses every 5 years hereafter
- 2) Vaccinated horses with "risk events"**
  - If >1 year since vaccination, booster
  - If <1 year, no booster required
- 3) Unvaccinated horses with "risk events"**
  - Begin a normal vaccination protocol (#1)
  - A TAT is also administered to give short acting immunity
  - If the risk event is a procedure (surgery/dental), the vaccine can be given 2 weeks prior
- 4) Pregnant broodmares**
  - If up to date, 1 booster 4-8 weeks prior to foaling
  - If unvaccinated, give the first two doses 4-6 weeks apart, starting no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy
- 5) Foals**
  - If mare is vaccinated, 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 months, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-6 weeks later, 3<sup>rd</sup> within 1 year
  - If mare is not up to date, three doses 4-6 weeks apart from 3-4 months old. A 4<sup>th</sup> booster should then be given within 1 year of the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.

The situations listed above are an attempt to cover most of the situations that horses will find themselves in, however is not exhaustive. If you have any questions regarding tetanus vaccination in your horse or would like to schedule a vaccination, please get in touch.

Lachlan Chittock BVSc

### TAKING OFF THE FURRY ANTLER

Many of you will have cut the first of the old stags, 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 the vets 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 velvetter, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 for advice or services so don't hesitate to ring.

Samantha Elder BVSc (dist), dipscitech (ag)



## Deer Reminders

- De-velvetting
- De-velvetting supervisory visits
- Hinds—set stock for fawning
- Fawning