

STAFF COMMENT

Thankfully not too much changed in the staff front. Kate has started her maternity leave and the wonderful Julia Tayles begins hers in 2 weeks. Andrew and Nicole had a gender reveal to prove that not all male vets can leave only daughters (Hamish, Paul and Morgan). The lovely Taylor, previously our technician, will be moving into the office as Ashley takes on more of Julia Ts roll. For those of you who have missed mikes cryptic comments, he has sent us a postcard that will not fail to disappoint. until next time, It is heads down tail up for the rest of us over the next few hectic months till xmas. We look forward to seeing you all on farm and in clinic - Hopefully with our whole faces revealed!

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

UNCLE TRAVELLING MIKE

For those of you too young to remember Fraggles Rock - too bad, you aren't my demographic anyway.

For those too old to remember Fraggles Rock -

They were like muppets. The change in size is to help you read. With the glasses.



For those in the Goldilocks zone welcome to the first of the occasional "Postcards from Uncle Travelling Mike", from the time and place known as yesterday land.

Dear Nephew Gobo, everything decided to breakdown during the 6 weeks between leaving work and arriving in Yesterdayland (Rarotonga). Natalie and I had more leaving parties than a boomerang with a stutter. Then, on the cold morning of 11th August I set off alone (in a full plane) for the land of yesterday. I time travelled back to the 10th of August. Alone! (in a full aeroplane).

On arrival I had a welcome lay, a beautiful necklace of flowers. The Yesterdaylanders are a friendly and helpful bunch, I am sure I will enjoy my time here. Tomorrow (today for you) I will start work at 8am, 6am for you, but you will be in the day after tomorrow for me, tomorrow for you which will be today for you by then. I am a day behind but two hours ahead. The hardest part of time travel is getting the grammar right - trying to find and use the correct tense, the past-future-past-plusperfect is hard to master (credit Douglas Adams for this observation).

Mike Baer BVSc

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy—pre-mating check of 'at risk' cows
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Tailpaint—4 weeks before PSM
- Organise mating programme—cows and heifers
- Treat non-cyclers one week before PSM
- Metrichick late calvers
- PAR Renewal—fill in and return forms
- Book Lepto consults

STAFF PET CORNER

This cool little lamb is called Rhonda, she is a Romney x Perendale belonging to Taylor. Rhonda is a very interesting lamb. I'm not sure if she even thinks shes a lamb or a human or a dog, you will find her anywhere but her pen, which she refuses to stay in and would much rather be in my garden eating all the nice shrubs and plants! I'm guessing this is her way of letting me know James hasn't given her, her lunchtime bottle. Rhonda loves to come on walks with me especially when we take the dogs for walks around the hills. She comes skipping along behind without a worry in the world. Since lambing has started and all the newbies coming into the lamb pen she has started turning into a green eyed monster filled with jealousy because I'm giving them more attention than her which she has made very clear.



Horse Reminders

- Brush out last of winter coat
- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in ponies

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PREPARING FOR MATING – CANDLELIT DINNERS OR THE MOVIES??

While you may be still coming out of the stress of calving time, mating is just around the corner! Now is the time to be putting in place the steps required to help you achieve your reproductive targets. Achieving these targets doesn't happen by accident, make sure you have a plan and give yourself enough time to make a difference.

WHAT IS YOUR TARGET? - The reproductive performance of your farm plays a crucial role in the overall performance of your business. Deciding on realistic and achievable targets is the first step - base these off your performance last season and make allowances for how the season is tracking so far. Our top performers in Northern Southland are achieving a 6 week in-calf rate over 75%, so aim high, but be realistic.

DairyNZ InCalf targets

6 week in-calf rate	78%
3 week submission rate	90%
Conception rate	60%
Empty rate	Depends on length of mating (e.g.10% for 9 weeks)

SET PRIORITIES: - If you are a long way off these targets there may be several areas that need improvement, which can become overwhelming. It is important to focus on the areas that are the easiest to change first, remember small changes can make a big difference. There are a number of crucial management areas, which I have listed below - remember if you are having trouble we can help you identify what areas need to be focussed on.

Cow health/nutrition – Metrickcheck, BVD, Trace elements

Cow BCS – Energy intake, Residuals, BCS calving/mating

Heifer management – Weighed, PSM decided, Synchronise??

Heat detection- Training and systems, Staff skills, Paddock checks, Heat detection aids, Natural matings

Non-cycling cows – Early identification, Cow selection criteria, Treatment timing,

AB management – Preparation, Handling, Timing, Discussion with AB tech

Bull management – Bull selection, Bull power, Bull health/vaccinations

Some or all of these areas may apply to you, prioritise those that are most important and put in place a plan to correct them.

DO:

Once you have your targets and priorities sorted, you need to get on and act on these areas proactively. Time is of the essence - get everyone on board and JUST DO IT! If you are considering putting light cows and heifers on once-a-day, then you need to do this ASAP if you want to make a difference. Get that tail paint out and start painting – you cant manage non-cyclers if you don't know who they are – early treatment is the most cost effective.

REVIEW:

Review your performance critically throughout mating. If you are not achieving your targets then recognise and act quickly. DON'T wait until the end of mating to realise that you are not where you want to be. Assess weekly. If you are having trouble – Call us!!! We are trained to help you get on track.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

WORMWATCH OCTOBER 2021

With another wormy autumn and a relatively mild winter you can be sure parasite numbers will be relatively high this spring. This may also be exacerbated by low pasture covers which may further increase larval intake. With lambing underway, the focus should be on hoggets and yearling cattle, particularly those back on pasture after winter crops. Once on pasture for 3-4 weeks parasite burdens will be on the rise, so be sure to keep a watch on these classes of stock and consider a combination drench at this time if needed. Remember, despite a high challenge there is little value in drenching ewes and lambs at tailing. The ewe is regaining her immunity at this time and lambs are not yet eating enough pasture to be at risk. With drench resistance on the rise this would be an unnecessary drench that would only increase your risk for resistance developing.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Deer Reminders

- Hinds - Pre-fawning clostridial vaccination worming and copper
- De-velveting
- Check copper and selenium in pregnant hinds

DON'T FORGET TO VACCINATE YOUR PREGNANT MARES 4-6 WEEKS BEFORE THEIR DUE DATE

- The best way to keep your broodmares annual vaccinations up to date is to time it with her foaling. Not only does this protect the mare but her antibodies are passed to her foal in her colostrum. If she is going off to stud this gives her added protection from the other mares.
- Tetanus and strangles are the vaccinations of choice. Don't worry if she has never been vaccinated, she will just need her first vaccine a little earlier at 10 weeks prior to foaling and a second at 6 weeks prior to foaling.
- If your mare is vaccinated in this window your new-born foal won't need vaccinating until 3 months of age.
- Consider a faecal egg count to see if your brood mare needs worming (check the drench label to ensure the product is safe in pregnant mares).



Shaun Campbell BVSc

BUYING BETTER RAMS

It's almost time for ram buying, which is an investment that will show in your flock for the next 8-10 years. Did you know that rams that are on the SIL (Sheep improvement Limited) database can be benchmarked against each other, so you can choose the best ram within breed, between breeds, and within and between areas where they are from? The higher the NZMW (maternal worth) or NZTW (terminal worth) index the more money they are expected to generate over their lifetime in your flock. The average NZMW is around 1600. This means the ram will generate \$8 more for every lamb that he produces than the average ram in 1995 (only half the value is attributed to him).

But NZMW indexes can be beyond 3000 - that is almost double the average ram. When we do ram team analyses for people, we find that often the NZMW or NZTW of rams are low or all over the place and sometimes they aren't even on SIL so you can't benchmark them at all. They may be an amazing ram, or they may be terrible- we can't know. Often the objectives of the farm owner and the reason that ram was purchased do not line up, i.e. he may have been bought for fast growth in lambs, but the breeding values suggest it is better for wool production! And often these rams are the same price (or even more expensive) than much better rams that can really move you in the direction you want to go.

We can help you find breeders and rams that fit your criteria to help you choose the best rams for your goals. We are all expected to do more with less, including improving production on farm with less sheep! Genetics can help with production efficiencies, worm resistance and soon, greenhouse gas emissions. If you are unsure how to interpret the tools on the SIL website or are interested in ensuring you have the best rams, have a chat with us, we are here to help! (this also applies to bull buying too).



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats & dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment
- Enrol overweight pets in Pet Slimmers

CERVIDAE DRENCH

The long awaited deer specific drench "Cervidae" has arrived.

It has been formulated in response to trial work completed on two properties, a South Island farm with a history of resistance and a North Island farm that had done very little drenching.

Lungworm and gutworm (Ostertagia) are the two parasites that limit production in deer. Moxidectin (ML) has long been known to be highly effective against lungworm but its efficacy against lungworm was not tested with Cervidae oral trial work. Therefore there is no label claim against lungworm. Cervidae was found to be 98.5% effective against gut worm (Ostertagia) in both farm trials. Much of the trial work has been performed on hybrid weaners but efficacy has not been determined on deer less than 30Kg or under 6 months of age. The meat withholding is 28days.

Cervidae contains two times the standard strength of moxidectin (ML), four times the standard strength of oxfendazole (white) and two times the standard strength of levamisole (clear). You will notice there are no new actives in this formulation so judicious use of the product is required to preserve its longevity. The more we use the drench, the more opportunity parasites have to develop resistance to the actives. Each time a drench is used ensure the correct volume for weight is being administered. Drenching is not the only tool we should be utilizing to manage our parasite population. Good practices include:

- Follow up grazing with older deer or other species.
- Do not drench onto 'clean' pastures.
- Practice refugia.
- Increase pasture residuals.
- Do not use pour on's.

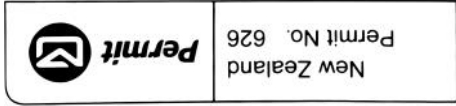
Having a workable registered product specifically for deer, gives confidence to the deer farmers and their industry.



Samantha Edgar BVSc (dist) DipSciTech

Sheep Reminders

- Topdress cobalt & selenium
- Tailing
- Feeding prioritisation
- Pulp kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet drys
- Blood test rams B Ovis
- FEC sample ewes & drench



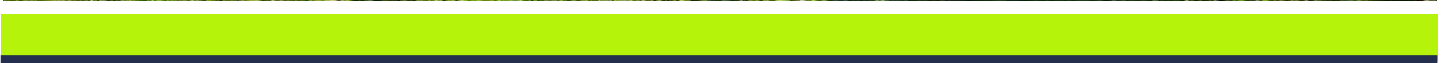
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