

PO BOX 65 • Riversdale 9744 • Southland
NSVETS
 TOTAL VET CARE

CALENDAR COMPETITION

Best artwork takes home \$500 cash

WANTED: Paintings, drawings sketches or cartoons of your interpretation of farming, pets or Vets. Local landscapes are also OK.

There is no age restriction, the competition is open to all (children, students and adults). Artwork needs to be of sufficient quality for our website or 2020 calendar. The contributing artist will be recognised.

Conditions of entry: All art remains the property of NSVets and is able to be used for publicity purposes. It must be of A4 size in the landscape setting. All entries must be delivered to our Riversdale Clinic no later than 5pm 30th September 2019. By entering the entrant agrees to these terms and conditions.



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STAFF COMMENT

A big congratulations to Ashley and Stew on their recent engagement. Once rugby season finished, he had some time on his hands and made a great decision. Wishing you both the very best from all at NSVets.

It's been head down for the vets recently with calving in full swing. Sam leads the annual calving competition race currently with some careful bribing of the front office staff to make sure that the calving calls are filtered her way first. Touch wood, to date we have had more live calvings and less rotten calvings than we normally would. Good work from the farm teams out there keeping a close eye on things.

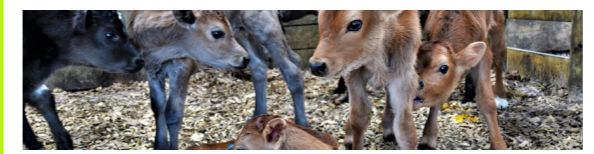
Andrew and Rochelle had another successful Winter Woolies series and followed up with a Better Beef seminar. Andrew's "EweFirst" Facebook page also goes from strength to strength. On the dairy side, the Winter Trainings had good turnouts finished off with the annual Spring Seminar.

It's obviously a stressful time of year for all and we acknowledge all the hard work that goes on. The bulk of lambing is just around the corner and hopefully Mother Nature plays her part in making things as straightforward as possible. Renewed focus on winter grazing and animal welfare and perception versus reality means not only do we have to do the best job possible, but we have to be seen to do this too. Weather events have a big part to play but we are at the stage now where extremes tend to be happening more frequently and we need to plan accordingly.

In general feed covers are very good, with little frost damage compared to normal. Vitamin G is always the most important one!! Scanning percentages are a little back across the region with a noticeable drop off in 2Th levels – a consequence of feed conditions in the autumn. Parasite burdens have continued to be an issue right through winter. Now more than ever it is vital to have a robust plan in place to deal with drench use.

The Cricket World Cup gave us some great highs and lows and hopefully the rugby version gives us as much excitement shortly (as long as the internet connection can cope!!). The Bledisloe is safely tucked away, again, I wonder who'll be saying "four more years"

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS



Contents

Pg 1:
 - Staff Comment
 - Staff Pet Corner

Pg 2:
 - Foaling at home
 - Improving Lamb Survival

Pg 3:
 - Reminder
 - Spring Grooming
 - Early Metri-Checking
 - Non-cycling cow treatment change

Pet Reminders

- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Flea prevention
- Groom month

STAFF PET CORNER



This young fella is Ridge, Kate and Jarrod's pet huntaway. Originally bred to work on a high country station, his career was cut short at 18 months of age when his dodgy elbow started giving him trouble. His previous owners put him up for adoption on the 'Retired Working Dogs' facebook page and that's how we got him.

It soon became clear he liked the ladies (and I mean really "liked" the ladies), so he was quickly castrated upon arriving in Riversdale. Mike Baer has since operated on his elbow and he is essentially a new dog – apart from still being long-legged and gummy. Despite his goofiness, Ridge is a lovely, social boy who seems to make friends with everyone he meets. He tends to expect a hug from everyone – so if you see him running at you, you better prepare yourself or he'll bowl you straight over!

Sheep Reminders

- Lambing
- Check b12 levels in lambs
- Monitor and record lamb deaths
- Get hoggets onto pasture
- Order tailing requirements
- Order scabby mouth vaccine



FOALING AT HOME

The days are getting longer and that means its time to start thinking about your mares. If she is already in foal remember here's a few things you show 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 its 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*

Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate pregnant mares for salmonellosis, Tetanus & strangles
- Watch ponies' condition for founder
- Clip horses out to remove winter coat

IMPROVING LAMB SURVIVAL

Lamb losses are a major component of wastage in sheep farming and can have a significant impact on farm profitability. To begin to understand the cause of this wastage we need to first define where these losses are occurring. Lambs can be lost at any stage between conception and slaughter, but generally wastage is defined as the percentage difference between the number of lambs present at scanning vs those present at tailing. The formula for calculating your loss is as follows:

$$\text{Lamb wastage} = \frac{\text{Scanning \%} - \text{tailing \%}}{\text{Scanning \%}} \times 100$$

The national average is 18 – 20% and due to the climate in Southland it is reasonable to expect that ours might be slightly higher. In general, as scanning percentages get higher we can expect that wastage will also get higher – through loss of triplets etc. Losses occur in 2 ways – directly through death of the lamb (abortion/starvation/exposure/dystocia etc) or indirectly through death of the ewe (cast/bearings/sleepy sickness/dystocia etc). Often I think people under estimate the losses associated with a ewe, particularly when most causes of death are more common in twin and triplet bearing ewes.

If you are worried about lamb wastage, the first place to start is to begin recording all the losses you can see – ewe and lamb deaths (including cause of death). Once we get an idea of where the lambs are going then we can make some management changes to try and decrease this.

There are some general management guidelines that can be used to help decrease losses, some of which need to be implemented prior to mating, but some may help if implemented now. Consider the following:

- Paddock selection – adequate shelter (rushes/tussocks often best), slope (not too steep), dry and free from hazards (where possible)
- Minimise periods of stress/fasting when yarding prior to lambing. This can help to reduce ewe losses from metabolic problems
- Feed – as the saying goes “the best shelter for a lamb is a well fed ewe”. Lambing on good covers will ensure the ewe does not need to walk far from the birth site in search of food and will produce good milk for the lamb
- Preferential care for multiples and skinny ewes – these are the ewes and lambs that will benefit most from the aforementioned
- Minerals – in particular iodine, selenium and vitamin E need to be considered. Iodine in particular needs attention throughout pregnancy, especially if ewes are grazing brassicas
- Disease prevention – abortion vaccines given at the correct time are a useful tool to prevent lamb losses from common causes of abortion
- Body condition – Maintaining a ewe at body condition score 3 from mating to lambing will help to ensure the ewe is well equipped to cope with lambing and that the lamb is a good size at birth
- Breed/genetics – Ram selection can play a significant role in survival, both breed choice and survival indexes are worth considering
- Pre-lamb shearing – when managed well this can improve lamb survival, when managed poorly it can result in ewe deaths and therefore an increase wastage

Andrew Cochrane BVSc BAppSci Ag

REMINDER

Disbudding of calves and dehorning is a painful procedure. Studies have proven welfare and production benefits for disbudding with the use of local anesthetic, and even more favorable results when sedation is used as well. As of 1st of October 2019 disbudding of calves require local anaesthetic by law. There are four options.

1. Use the vets to sedate, local anesthetic, and disbud your calves.
2. Become trained by your vet to administer local anesthetic to disbud your own calves.
3. Use a disbudding technician that has been approved to administer local anesthetic .
4. Don't disbud – Strongly discouraged due to welfare risk and management issues later on.

Get in early to book your disbudding for your preferred date, or to find out more about local anaesthetic assessments.

SPRING GROOMING

Grooming is more than having a pretty pet, you're also tackling potential health issues such as skin conditions, foreign bodies such as barley grass, and eye problems. When I discuss regular grooming, I'm not just talking about brushing and bathing, the entire body needs groomed; ears, eyes, feet and teeth.

Eyes and mouth are an important aspect of the grooming routine, when your pet gazes up at you with their adoring eyes you should be able to see shiny and moist looking eyes clear of hair which can cause redness, irritation and eye conditions . Clipping the fur away from the mouth will reduce the risk of bad teeth due to food and debris sticking to the fur and will also make for a more pleasant-smelling breath . Spring is time for new growth and that includes puppy's coat, out with the old fuzzy undercoats and in with the new sleek fur (otherwise known as shedding). Shedding tends to be heaviest in spring, so to avoid feathery fur gathering in the corners of your home stay on top of it with regular grooming.



Janece Collins

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves—disbud
- Plan bloat control
- Mastitis - Review control programme
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Metricheck cows
- Blood test bulls for BVD
- BVD vaccination booster
- Plan non-cycler protocol
- Mating plan review

EARLIER METRI-CHECKING PAYS OFF

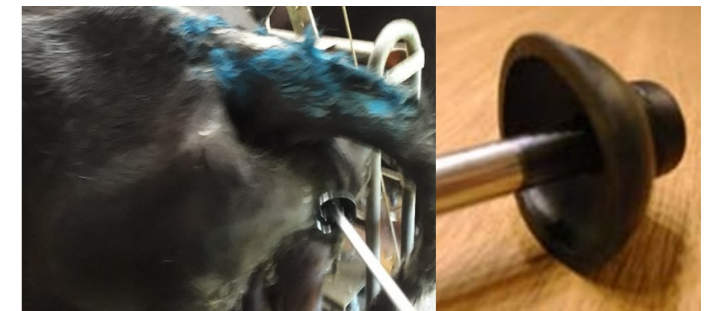
Early Metrichecking will find more infected cows. It is true that more cows will become metricheck negative further from calving. This is because the chances of collecting actual pus has reduced, not that the infection has gone. The risk of the infection causing deeper lasting damage has actually increased.

In a recent study, cows that received treatment compared to cows that 'cured' on their own had a 9% higher 6 week in calf rate and conceived 8 days earlier. While early checking will likely result in more cows treated, the study showed that this is repaid 4 fold in earlier conception rates and more days in milk (cost \$7 extra – returned \$28)

Cows that show highest incidence of metritis were those with lighter BCS followed by 2 year olds.

The ideal time to check is from 7-21 days post calving.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



NON - CYCLING COW TREATMENT CHANGE

We have recently made the decision to modify the non-cycling cow treatment protocols that we use. We have concerns about the continued use of eCG in the dairy industry and the potential negative light that may be associated with its use. Fortunately, the modification that we will use has been recently proven to have similar, if not better, results than the programme containing eCG. The downside is an extra visit and injection for the cows on Day 8 of the programme. The rest of the programme will remain as is without the eCG part of the injection on Day 7. These changes and the reasons for them will need to be explained in more detail and we are encouraging people to take the opportunity to sit down and plan ahead prior to any programme starting.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

Deer Reminders

- Stags—copper pre velvetting
- Hinds—copper pre-calving
- Supplementary feed stags
- Sort stags into velvetting mobs