

TRACE ELEMENTS

Copper and Selenium are vital minerals for the growth and overall health of grazing livestock.

Both of these minerals are very low in the soils of our region and supplementation is often required to keep levels adequate, especially in growing or reproducing animals.

We provide superior selenium supplementation for cattle and sheep in the form of Selovin LA®. This is a long acting injection that often only needs to be given once a year.

We also sell individual Copacaps® for cattle, which are long acting boluses for slow release copper supplementation. Sian, our technician is very happy to come out and help you administer these as there is a bit of an art to it.

Mineral supplements can be toxic if given inappropriately, so please have a chat to one of our vets if you have any queries.

ANIMAL HEALTH SUMMER PLANNER

DECEMBER

- Vaccinate lambs, calves and kids with a clostridial vaccine e.g. 7 in 1 OR 5 in 1. Remember to booster 4 weeks later.
- FEC or drench young stock
- Get sheep and alpaca shorn if you haven't already
- Zapp Encore® pour-on to sheep for fly protection. Cyrazin KO if very woolly.

JANUARY

- Booster vaccinate if not completed already
- Zinc bolus cattle & sheep, zinc pellets for Alpaca (FE protection—ring for advice)
- FEC or drench young stock
- Provide trace mineral supplements to young stock—Copacaps® and Selovin LA®

FEBRUARY

- Repeat zinc bolus 6 weeks after first for FE protection, continue pellets for Alpaca
- Barbers pole protection—Exodus® drench to sheep and goats. FEC Alpaca.
- FEC or drench calves
- Fly protection for sheep e.g. Zapp Encore® or Cyrazin KO®



EWE MAIL

DECEMBER 2019

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SERVICE • RESPECT • VALUE • SCIENCE

We had a wonderful spring this year, with reliable rainfall and warm temperatures. This has meant plenty of grass growth with lots of supplements being made. As small holders it can sometimes be difficult to acquire supplements later in the season when everybody needs them. Most supplements will store well (e.g. baleage and hay) so its not a bad idea to purchase some now when they're plentiful to be set aside for a rainy day (or more likely a very dry one!).

The good spring weather also meant very few calving and lambing issues this season. And as a flow on we have seen very few young stock issues on lifestyle blocks. Be prepared though as the mild weather will also increase the fly and internal parasite challenge!

Looking ahead we need to start thinking about weaning all our orphan babies off milk and meal, protecting our sheep from flystrike, preventing internal parasite problems in all lifestyle species and getting ourselves prepared for the facial eczema season.

The SRV Trust is kindly sponsoring our spore counting service again for the 2019/20 season. Our first counts are likely to be taken around Christmas, so keep an eye on the whiteboards in both clinics, or alternatively ring the clinic and ask to be added to the facial eczema mailing list. While these regional spore counts give an idea of the risk of Facial Eczema, remember no two properties (or even paddocks within a property) are the same, so your farm may be higher risk than the site the counts are taken from. Prevention is ALWAYS the best remedy when it comes to facial eczema so if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call and chat to one of our large animal vets.

From the whole team at Southern Rangitikei Vets, we wish you a safe and happy silly season. And we thank you for your continued support. **Merry Christmas!**



Summer Diseases

Internal Parasites

All young livestock on pasture are susceptible to internal parasites. There are plenty of ways to decrease the pasture contamination of larvae e.g. cross species grazing, maintaining good pasture covers and grazing young and old stock together. However in young stock we often can't effectively control internal parasites without regular drenching.

- ⇒ Ideally lambs, calves and goat kids should receive a combination oral drench every 28 days over their first summer/autumn.

Barbers pole (*Haemonchus contortus*) - requires a special mention as unlike the other internal parasites the first sign that your sheep, goats or Alpaca have this worm could be death! This is due to this worm sucking blood and therefore causing anaemia. So prevention is always best. Barbers pole likes warm, humid weather so the major risk period is Jan—March.

- ⇒ Bringing fresh faecal samples in for faecal egg counts is one of the best ways for us to assess worm burdens.
- ⇒ During this period we also advise that our small block holders use a product containing Moxidectin which has persistent activity against this worm e.g. Exodus Se®.



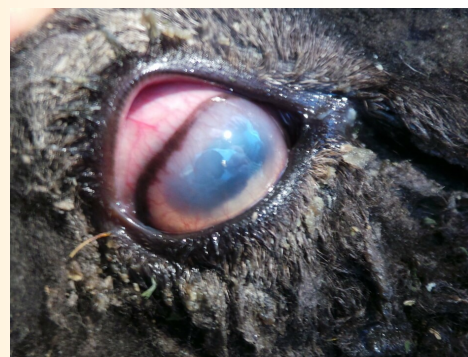
Facial Eczema (FE)

Like Barbers pole, this is also a potentially fatal condition where prevention is far better than cure. FE risk period is also the warm/humid months, so a plan should be put in place prior to January when the counts generally begin to rise.

- ⇒ Alpacas and Llamas should receive specially formulated facial eczema camelid feeds.
- ⇒ Sheep and cattle are best protected through zinc bolusing (e.g. Faceguard) we are more than happy to come out and administer these for you.
- ⇒ Goats can be given Zinc boluses off label but most often we recommend you provide alternative feed sources (e.g. Forage, hard feed, hay, baleage) over this period, as goats tend to preferentially eat these anyway.

Pink eye

This eye condition is also common over the summer months. Mild forms of pink eye in sheep don't always require treatment but the bacteria are very contagious so affected animals should always be separated from the rest of the flock.



Weaning your orphan babies

Lambs, calves, kids and fawns all need to go through a miraculous anatomical change when they transition from a milk drinking “monogastric” in disguise, to a true grass eating ruminant. When and how well this change proceeds is completely dependent on your weaning process.

On their mum's we tend to wean animals a lot later when they have had plenty of time to slowly develop their rumens. Rumen development requires time and increasing consumption of effective fibre and volatile fatty acid (VFA) producing feed stuffs. On mum when time isn't a concern, this process can happen slowly with the consumption of grass alone. Off mum however, time is usually limited and to stop those labour consuming twice daily feeds and expensive milk powder consumption, we need to develop the rumen as fast as possible. This means we need to provide feeds that can fast track this process.

Meal/hard feeds—

carbohydrate abundant feeds, such as grains and corns are a rich source of VFA's for the development of rumen papillae. These rumen papillae effectively increase the surface area of the rumen allowing for far greater absorption. Hard feeds should be available from day one, and the quantity consumed is a very good indicator of rumen development and therefore appropriate weaning time.



Fig. 1: Milk only.

Fig. 2: Milk and hay.

Fig. 3: Milk and grain.

Calves should be consuming at least 1kg of calf meal per day, prior to weaning.

Lambs and goat kids should be consuming at least 200 grams of hard feed (e.g. Sgt Dan Lamb Meal™) per day, prior to weaning.

Hard feeds should remain available for at least a month after weaning, this helps reduce the stress of weaning and mitigates the growth check that can accompany this change in diet. Lambs should ideally stay on ad lib meal until 20kg live weight (may need to restrict at 700g/day/lamb).

Roughage—is important for developing the rumen muscles. All ruminant species should have a small amount of roughage (e.g. grass, hay, FibreGrain) available from day one, they should be eating plenty of these feeds at weaning time.

Weight—is also a good indicator for weaning. Lambs should ideally be 10-15kg and calves should be 20% of their adult live weight: 80kg Jersey, 90kg Kiwi cross, 100kg Friesian and Hereford crosses.

Age— is not a good indicator for weaning, unless you want to wean at the same age as mum—generally 4-6 months!

Reminder of the Changes in the Welfare Regulations

Most of you would have heard that recently there have been a number of changes in the animal welfare regulations so we just wanted to remind you of your legal obligations when dealing with pets and livestock. Changes in the Animal Welfare Regulations that came into effect on 1 October 2019. The main one to be aware of is the regulation around disbudding and dehorning cattle:

- 1) An appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic needs to be applied to the cattle beast that works for the entire dehorning and disbudding procedure. This means a local anaesthetic needs to be injected into the correct site 5 to 10 min before the actual procedure to provide effective pain relief.
- 2) The person who disbuds a calf must be experienced with or have received training about the correct use of the method and able to recognise early signs of distress, injury or ill-health.



It is well acknowledged that both debudding and dehorning are painful procedures and pain relief in the form of local anaesthetic must be used. Farmers may no longer disbud or dehorn cattle without local anaesthetic being used. We have been training farmers to debud their own calves if they have a number of them. If you would like more information please ring one of us at the clinic.

Don't forget about the other regulations that came in to force last year. The more relevant ones being:

- 1) It is an offence to allow horns to have grown inwards, piercing or damaging any part of the beast's body or causing a skin abrasion. This applies to cattle, sheep and goats.
- 2) A person must not use a moving vehicle or any other instrument that doesn't allow for the immediate release of tension for the purpose of traction in calving and lambing..
- 3) A person must not kill a calf by using blunt force to the head. As with older cattle, calves must be shot with an appropriate gun by someone who knows what they are doing. Alternatively, a captive bolt may be used, and once the animal is effectively stunned it must be followed by either pithing the brain stem or bleeding the animal out.
- 4) Dogs on a moving vehicle must be secured in a way that prevents them from falling off or hanging off the open deck, e.g. a short tether or in a cage.
- 5) A person must not remove dewclaws from any legs of a dog unless this person is a veterinarian and the dog is given pain relief at the time of the procedure.

Also remember the ages and rules for castrating and docking animals:

- Bull calves: **Local anaesthetic must be used when castrating or shortening the scrotum of a bull over the age of six months**, or when using a high tension (callicrate) band at any age. You may use normal rubber rings with no pain relief in animals less than 6 months ago.
- It is illegal to dock cattle tails
- Lambs should be castrated before 6 months of age, if they are older than 6 months of age pain relief must be used.
- Tail docking in lambs without pain relief must be performed when they are as young as possible, and not greater than six months of age. When tail docking a sheep over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.

EASY OPTIONS FOR SMALL BLOCKS

Did you know that we have smaller amounts of Animal Health Products available?

1L drench packs

Matrix Hi Min



First Hi Min



Arrest C



Corporal



Dispensed drench

Boss Pour On



Zolvix



Dectomax Inj



Dispensed Fly Strike Prevention & Spot on

Cyrazin KO Jetting



Zapp Encore Spray on



Dispensed Trace Elements

Selovin LA Selenium



CopaCaps



Multimin



250ml dispensed drench

Corporal



Exodus Se



Vaccines



- Ultravac 5in1 100 dose
- Ultravac 5in1 10ml & 50ml dispensed



- Lamb Vaccine 125 dose
- Lamb Vaccine 10ml & 50ml dispensed

PREVENTING FLY STRIKE

Flystrike is a significant animal welfare concern, and as with most animal diseases, prevention is better than cure! With our annual rainfall down from normal December has been forecast as warm and wet, exactly how flies like it. This means we need to be putting measures in place to protect our sheep.

To help minimize the risk of flystrike in your sheep:

- ⇒ **Prevent dagginess** – crutch sheep to stop faecal and urine contamination of the wool. Drench young stock regularly to ensure good parasite control.
- ⇒ **Shearing**—primary strike flies don't need soiled wool to establish, but they do need a moist environment out of direct sunlight. Shearing removes this environment.
- ⇒ **Remove potential fly breeding grounds** – don't leave dead animals (sheep, possums, rabbits) lying around the farm as the carcasses are ideal breeding grounds for blowflies.
- ⇒ **Use fly prevention products:** for small holders we have two products that can be purchased in small quantities. **Zapp Encore®**: is a pour on that can be given off shears. It is an older active which now has some resistance so it always pays to be vigilant even once you've applied a product. The second is **Cyrazin KO®**: this product is a bit more difficult to apply (2L's needs to be sprayed onto each sheep) but the actives are a lot newer and it has very good knockdown against active strike.



SYLVIE'S STORY

We first met Sylvie back in August, she was a gorgeous 2 week old Cria who had had a very unfortunate start to life. First she had come as a big surprise

to the new owners of her parents, secondly her mother had abandoned her at birth and to top it all off she had developed a severe infection in her right eye. Her owners at the time had done their best but genuinely didn't have the time or knowledge to hand raise a young Cria.



SYLVIE'S STORY CONT...

So they brought wee Sylvie in to the clinic to see if we could change her luck.

Despite all her misfortunes, Sylvie was actually in very good health. She was a bit on the light side and her eye was obviously a problem, but it was nothing we couldn't handle in the future if we could just find her a new home.

Luckily one of our experienced alpaca breeding clients, Virginia was willing to take her on. In Virginia's capable hands Sylvie went from strength to strength, she was able to associate with other Alpacas (an absolute must for alpaca orphans!) and with regular bottle feeding she had started to gain lots of weight. The only thing holding her back now was her chronically infected right eye, that was not responding to our medical treatment. It was decided that this eye needed to be removed for Sylvie to have a good chance at a long pain free life.



Eye ablations are common place in both companion and production animal medicine but alpaca general anaesthetic was very new to us all. Let alone the fact that Sylvie was also a neonate (she was only 4 weeks old at this stage!) making her a high risk patient of any species. So this procedure was going to be quite a challenge. We decided a combined department effort was needed for Sylvie's surgery to have the best chance of success.



A team was formed with myself as acting anaesthesiologist, vet Jabin as chief surgeon and a number of wonderful nurses in support. Luckily Sylvie's surgery was a great success and she was awake just in time for her next bottle which Jabin happily provided.

Since her surgery Sylvie's quiet nature and underdog backstory have made her quite the star. Virginia tells me she has been on a number of outings, including a feature at Bull's school pet day and a lovely visit to Edale Retirement Home. I would like to take this chance to thank the companion animal team for helping with Sylvie's surgery and of course Virginia who gave her a wonderful second chance at life! - Vet Stacey

