



SUNDAY ROAST

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We have been blessed with the most amazing spring weather we have had in a number of years—warm, sunny and dry! Which means there has been a lot of grass around to make things easier for everyone, and animal health has been really good. Every now and then we are reminded it is spring as the wind and rain arrives and temperatures drop for a few days.

With the current lamb prices I'm sure you are doing all you can to ensure you get your lambs away early. Talk to us about using B12, drenches and vaccinations to help grow big healthy lambs, therefore getting them away earlier.

Obviously the good weather does come with trade offs—parasites are active earlier and younger animals are likely to need drenching sooner than what you may do normally. You need to take care when drenching young animals as 2 actives (levamisole and abamectin), have very low safety margins and can cause toxicity issues. Ensuring animals are weighed, drenched accurately with accurate guns and not stressed when drenching will help to minimise toxicity issues. Drenches containing abamectin should only be used calves 120kg or more, lambs greater than 20kg. There are alternative combination drenches containing ivermectin that are much safer in young animals.

We have also seen a lot more coccidiosis in both lambs and calves, even in animals fed milk/meal containing a coccidiostat. If you think you may have coccidia in a mob of animals please talk to one of the vets for advice.

Dog vaccination run

Over the next couple of months we will be carrying out our annual farm dog vaccination runs. Vaccinations are vital to protect the health of your hardest workers. If you are currently on the list you will be contacted with further information. It is a great opportunity to take advantage of a small animal vet on farm if you have any queries about your dog or any concerns about their health. If you are not on a vaccination run but would like to be, please contact Michelle at the clinic and we can fit you into the correct run. This is also a great time to update flea and worm treatments and do any blood test for long term medication to save you bringing your dog(s) into the clinic.



Sheep performance vaccines

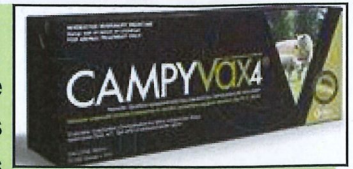
Toxovax®:

Toxoplasmosis is present on every NZ farm. It causes resorption, abortions, and weak lambs that fail to thrive. Two tooth and hoggets are most at risk of contracting the disease, although any susceptible ewe that contracts the disease is at risk. One shot for lifetime protection. A 2ml dose, into the muscle of non pregnant ewes, 4 weeks prior to mating. Toxovax is a live vaccine that is made to order and only has a shelf life of 10 days from date of manufacture. It is vital that you notify us of your requirements, a minimum of 4 weeks before you need to administer it therefore we need your order at least 8 weeks prior to mating



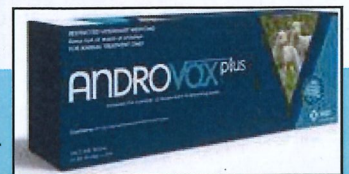
Campyvax4®:

Campylobacter is one of the biggest causes of infectious abortions in ewes. Most farms will experience a low abortion loss level of about 9% a year, a Campylobacter abortion storm could see losses of 20%-70%. Campyvax4 protects against *Campylobacter fetus fetus* strain and the *Campylobacter jejuni* strain. Campyvax4 is a 1ml dose. Previously unvaccinated sheep need a booster, then a sensitiser 4 weeks later, to be completed prior to mating. One yearly booster shot is required thereafter.



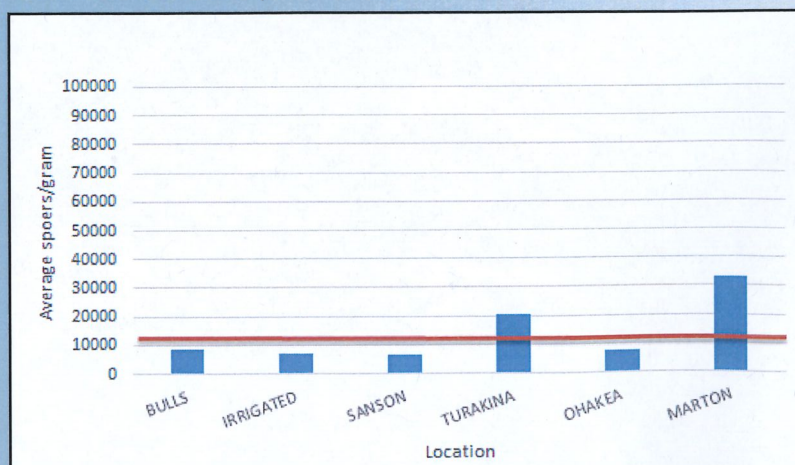
Androvax®:

A vaccination that stimulates antibodies to temporarily block the release of eggs, meaning more eggs mature and are then released at the same time. The result is an instant increase in twinning percentages. For flocks with lambing percentages between 100% and 145%, the increase in lambs born is largely associated with an increase in twin lambs. Ensure there are management strategies in place to ensure enough feed to grow the increased number of lambs at optimum rates. Increase lambing percentage by an average of 20%. It is a 2ml dose vaccine and you need to give a sensitizer shot 8-10 weeks prior to mating start, and a booster shot 4-6 weeks late. Each year after that a booster is required, 4-6 weeks prior to mating. Must not be given within 4 weeks of mating starting.



Upcoming Facial Eczema Season

It is hard to believe we are starting to think about this already. Once again, thanks to the sponsorship of the Southern Rangitikei Veterinary Trust, we will be carrying out our spore counting service at the same sites as last year—thank you to our farmers who provide the sites. We will commence just before Christmas at the Turakina sites and then continue weekly at all sites in the new year, weather permitting. If you wish to receive these results please ensure Michelle has your email address so you can be added to the list (michelle@srvs.co.nz).



Win a Weber Family Q Premium (Q3200) set



PURCHASE ANY BOEHRINGER DRENCH 5L OR LARGER TO GO IN THE DRAW.

One in each clinic to be given away





Boehringer Ham Qualifying Products



Eclipse E plain & B12+Se
2x500ml
(3L B12 +Se 2 hams)



Eclipse
1x2.5L
(1x5L 2 hams)



Matrix Mini Dose
1x10L
(1x20L 2 hams)



Trimox
1x10L
(1x20L 2 hams)



Matrix C
1x20L 2 hams



Arrest Hi Min
2x20L



Arrest C
1x20L



Exodus
1x20L



IverMatrix Tape
2x10L or 1x20L



Switch C
1x20L



IverSwitch Tape
2x10L or 1x20L



Switch Hi Min
1x20L



Matrix Hi Min
1x20L



Eprinex
2x5L



IverMatrix Calf
2x5L



First Hi Min
1x20L



Ivomec Plus Inj
4x500ml



Genesis Inj + B12&Se
4x500ml

Reminder of the NEW Animal Welfare Regulations

We just wanted to remind you about the 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 grown inwards, piercing or damaging any part of the beast's body or causes 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 for castrating 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.

Cyrazin KO—New lice claim!

Last year we introduced you to Cyrazin KO, an addition to the familiar Cyrazin family. Cyromazine has been paired with ivermectin, which is highly effective in killing maggots. Maggots are killed immediately via contact or ingestion. We swapped from Cyrex to CYRAZIN KO as we view it as a superior product for the reasons listed. CYRAZIN KO is also rain fast due to the ivermectin being lipophilic (fat loving). The ivermectin is not absorbed through the skin and therefore has no effect on internal parasites or their resistance.

The update this year is that CYRAZIN KO application for flystrike prevention will also control body lice (*Bovicola ovis*) on coarse wool when applied by jetting onto sheep shorn between 2 and 7 months before treatment. Where lice control is desired, ensure saturation of lice predilection sites (neck, shoulders, withers, flank and rump). The fleece must be saturated to skin level for maximum protection. As with all lousicides, management practices which contribute to good lice control such as clean musters, good fencing and quarantining of newly purchased stock must be practised. Treated sheep should not be mixed with untreated or lousy sheep.



Cyrazin KO—New lice claim! (continued)

WHY USE CYRAZIN KO?

- A unique combination of Cyromazine (IGR) & Ivermectin (ML)
- Two genuine long acting actives with no known resistance in NZ
- Up to 14 weeks flystrike protection
- Lice claim for Bovicola Ovis
- Extensive trials across NZ & Australia
- Fast maggot knock-down – superior to any other active at all stages
- Excellent operator & animal safety profile
- Available in 1L (treats 250 sheep) or 5L (treats 1250 sheep)
- WHPs meat – 21d milk - 35d. Note the longer meat WHP if you are drafting lambs fortnightly

The CYRAZIN Difference

CYRAZIN Spray on

Provides short term fly strike prevention (6 weeks).

Meat WHP 14d. Convenient spray on application. Perfect for lambs.



CYRAZIN Liquid

Provides 12 weeks fly strike prevention. Meat WHP 7d. Requires jetting/dipping.



CYRAZIN KO

Provides up to 14 weeks fly strike prevention, treats active strike, treats lice. Meat WHP 21d. Requires jetting/dipping



Please have a chat to one of the vets if you are after a different product for a certain stock class e.g. long-term protection spray on for ewes, and we will be able to help you out.

Monitoring for Success!

The old saying “you cannot manage what you cannot measure” very closely fits the situation with parasite drench resistance. So for the most part, many farms are not effectively “managing” this growing issue on their farms.

Simple drench checks and drench tests are fantastic tools for shedding a small amount of light on the drench resistance status of your farm. They are cheap, easy to perform, results are quick and the management of your tested mob doesn't need to change. They don't however give a full picture of your farms status, nor can they provide clear guidelines on how to manage a problem if it is found. These tools are designed to start an investigation and monitor a situation once it has been established.

To get a full picture of your farms status there are sadly no shortcuts. The only test that gives us this information is a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT). This test does require a bit more man power, a bit more cost, and a bit more time; but the results are invaluable. We only have a small window from early December till late January to get the most accurate results from a FECRT. This is due to wanting a representative population of all the most common worm species: Teladorsagia, Trichostrongylus and Haemonchus. If we start too early Haemonchus may not be represented or the parasite burdens in general may be low, and if we start too late Haemonchus ends up dominating our samples, distorting the results. There is a small amount of preparation required for a FECRT therefore you should start talking to us in November.

Last season we gave away free drench check packs with certain drench products. Nearly all of those returned, revealed that drench resistance (often triple!) was present on the farm. The next step on these properties should always be to perform a FECRT at the next available opportunity and that time is coming up. I am well aware that many sheep finishing properties think that drench resistance monitoring doesn't apply to them. But the reality is that it applies even more so. Once triple drench resistance is found on these properties we have far less options to manage the situation. The farming model is also completely based around getting weight onto young stock quickly and cheaply, which is where parasites can have their biggest impact. On these properties a FECRT can take a little more planning and some lambs may need to be grazed for longer than usual but the information is vital.

Once again we are able to perform FECRT's at a discounted rate this season, so please do a little bit of future proofing for your farm and choose this year to start monitoring parasite drench resistance.

It is all about the boys!

Healthy and sound rams are essential for good fertility, particularly if you are to be confident in using relatively low ram: ewe ratios (e.g. 1:100). Sperm development takes 8 weeks so the sperm present at mating are those that were formed several months prior. All breeding rams should be checked at least 8 weeks before mating for lameness, flystrike, scrotal mange and pizzle rot and treated promptly if necessary, to ensure that sperm development is not affected for mating.

Shearing rams should also be done at least 8 weeks prior to mating – studies have shown shearing rams 6 weeks beforehand has a negative effect on ram fertility. Improving the body condition and fitness of your rams should be something you are thinking about now – NZ research has found rams lose up to 25-30% of their body weight over the mating period.

Ram palpations

All breeding rams should be palpated by a vet two months before mating to identify the presence of conditions that can indicate reduced fertility, for example genital lesions, chorioptic mange or rams with abnormally small testicles. If you are buying in rams make sure they are from an accredited B. ovis free farm. If we find any suspicious lumps when we palpate them, we take a blood sample to test for Brucellosis. The introduction of B. ovis into your rams can have a devastating impact on fertility.

We recommend giving a clostridial booster vaccine to prevent sudden deaths from blood poisoning at the same time as doing the palpations. Consider zinc boluses in terminal sires pre-mating for facial eczema protection.

Teasers are used to synchronise ewes for a condensed lambing and to start cycling activity in your early bred hoggets. Ewes will begin cycling on exposure to the sight and scent of a ram but the first heat is normally a silent one with a single ovulation. Multiple ovulations are much more likely in subsequent heats, therefore teasers can improve lambing percentage and ensure more ewes have twins at the planned start of mating. Teasers should be created 60 days before using them and should only join with the ewes 17 days before the planned start of mating.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) in Bulls

BVD is widely regarded as the most important viral disease in cattle, with it costing the beef industry an estimated \$3,500/100 beef cattle annually. To date around 80% of herds and 60% of cattle have been exposed to the virus. BVD infection in adult cattle can cause reproductive losses that include infertility, embryonic losses, abortions (slips), stunted or deformed calves, and the birth of dead calves. Other effects include weight loss and immunosuppression, meaning that cattle will have a poorer ability to protect themselves from other diseases.

One significant way that you can introduce BVD into your herd is through infected bulls. Service bulls are introduced into mobs of cattle at the start of mating, which also coincides with the highest risk period of infection being early pregnancy. Infected bulls will disseminate BVD virus by direct contact, via secretion such as saliva, semen, mucus, urine and faeces. Bulls become a high risk animal as their job is to inseminate cattle, which is also a major way of spreading the virus.

If a BVD positive bull is introduced to a mob of beef cattle, it can have devastating effects. Infected bulls will have poor fertility as they produce less semen at a poorer quality. Subsequently conception rates will drop as cows will slip early pregnancies and fail to get in calf. If a cow does get pregnant and produces a calf that is infected, these calves (known as persistently infected, PI) will continue to spread virus through the breeding herd until they die, or are removed at weaning. These calves play an important role in maintaining an active BVD infection in breeding beef cattle. It is estimated that of all PI calves, half will die before 12 months of age, and around 80% are dead before 24 months of age.

All of this can be easily avoided through blood testing and vaccination. As bulls are generally the only new animals entering the farm it is very easy to get them blood tested to prove that the animal is BVD negative, and at the same time get them vaccinated for BVD to protect them from the disease. Animals only need to be blood tested once in their lives to ensure that they are negative, so this is usually when they are young, or before their first mating. All bulls should receive two vaccinations four weeks apart in their first year and then boosted annually before mating each year. Please get in touch with us if you have bulls that are not proven BVD negative so that we can get on to blood testing them and vaccinating them. If you have any further queries about BVD, as it can be a complicated disease, don't hesitate to give us a call to see if we can help you.