



SUNDAY ROAST

What's Inside

Post Mortem Exam	2
Biosecurity Update	3
Exit Drenching	4
Scabby Mouth Vaccine	4
Spring Reminders	5
Preventable Late Term Abortions in Cattle	6

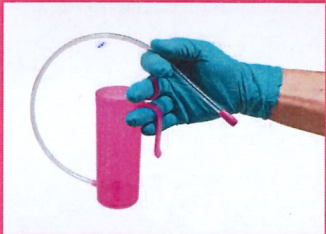
After being blessed with a very kind winter thus far, the rain was always going to come—it was just a matter of when. With a decent amount of surface water around be mindful of diseases that occur more commonly with surface water. Lepto in sheep is one such disease.

Leptospirosis outbreaks in sheep are usually preceded by exceptional rainfall, with surface water accumulating in paddocks grazed by the affected sheep. In outbreaks of lepto in sheep a few animals may be found dead while others might be off-colour and sluggish. There may or may not be red staining of the wool around the crutch and hind legs. Diagnosis is usually made on post mortem with histology performed on the kidneys showing characteristic changes. In an outbreak sick animals can be treated with antibiotics and the mob should be vaccinated to reduce the risk of disease. The value of post mortems can not be underestimated when investigating outbreaks of disease or death (see page 2).

We are all turning our attention to spring and the fun that comes along with the season. Both clinics are bursting with spring supplies so be sure to call in if you have any animal health needs. We have a new product this year called Biosupport®, which helps reduce the risk of abomasal bloat in hand reared lambs (see page 5).

Hopefully it is a smooth spring for all of us with lots of healthy animals and minimal stress, lots of sleep and healthy meals for the humans!

Last year we started stocking the **Trusti® Tuber** for lambs and kid goats, designed to ease your mind along with those newborn stomachs.



- One handed operation • Safety indicators • Specialised tube tip
- Stable base - allows you to pre fill the cup • Hole at the end not the side for good flow and cleaning the whole tube • Transparent tube—to see milk flow and cleanliness • Gravity flow • Easy hold cup • 240ml capacity • Flexible gentle tube •



Are your calving cows covered for magnesium?

rumetrace®
Magnesium Capsules

Providing insurance against grass staggers

Reliably providing Magnesium every day for 9-12 weeks

Biosecurity update—Protecting your farm

Biosecurity is still a hot topic, and is about reducing the risk of disease, weeds or pests entering, spreading or leaving your farm. It is about protecting your profits: disease outbreaks, new pasture pests and weeds can have serious long term financial impacts. It is also about protecting health: some diseases can be passed from animals to humans. Biosecurity planning helps protect the health of your stock, family, farm team and visitors.

- **Livestock movements**—Direct contact between a healthy animal and an infected animal is the most common way for pests and diseases to spread, therefore managing livestock movements and the introduction of new animals is particularly important. Check the health status of stock before purchasing. e.g. the results of TB, BVD or Johne's disease tests and farm of origin history. Hold stock in quarantine (especially important if buying through saleyards as animals in saleyards come into close contact with many stock from different sources so represent a particularly high biosecurity risk). ALWAYS comply with your legal requirement to fully and accurately complete ASD and NAIT obligations.
- **Animal Health Management**— Disease prevention and control require regular attention to stock health, knowledge, planning, good record keeping and compliance with domestic regulations. Health management is two fold:
 - 1) *Prevention*: develop a farm animal health plan with your vet and don't forget about dog health and prevent the access of other dogs onto the property – dogs can spread disease to your stock.
 - 2) *Treatment*: regularly inspect your animals and know the signs of disease to ensure problems are detected early. Seek early advice from your vet in relation to any unusual signs, sickness or death or where a large number of animals are affected. Isolate and treat animals appropriately for the specific infection they are suffering from—including animals in the mob that do not yet show signs if this is recommended. Always follow veterinary or label advice when using veterinary medicines or other agricomps and ensure that you observe withholding periods. Ensure that you use clean needles or syringes when vaccinating, and that you follow the advice of your veterinarian with regards to good management practice when vaccinating or drenching animals. Certain diseases can be spread from animal to animal through the use of contaminated needles or equipment. Keep records accurate and up to date.
- **People and Equipment**— Contamination can be readily brought onto and spread around your farm by visitors, their vehicles or via equipment that has been used on other farms or at sale yards. Visitors arrive with clean equipment, clothing and footwear and ideal have facilitated for them to disinfect on arrival. Provide a scrubbing brush, water and a disinfectant spray of footbath for visitors.
- **Feed and Water**— potential weeds and pasture pests are identified and prevented—check with the regional council and the agpest website for advice and information. Inspect stock feed on delivery for evidence of pests, damage and contaminants and manage appropriately. Remember that baleage and other supplementary crops represent a significant risk for the introduction of weed species. Rodent control is especially important for minimising the risk of leptospirosis.
- **Animal Waste and Carcass Management**— dead animals and waste are a high risk source for some diseases. The life cycle of many pests involves them being shed in urine or faeces and the contaminated pasture being re-ingested. Some animals are super-shedders whose waste is highly infectious. Check regularly for dead stock and remove carcasses immediately. Carcass and waste disposal areas should be well away from paddocks, yards and sheds.
- **Share Knowledge and Understanding**—for on-farm biosecurity to be effective, everyone involved in your farming business must be aware of your requirements and why they are important.

Your farm is your island and you need to protect it. The above biosecurity measures are available in more detail in the Drystock Biosecurity Guidelines book available on the Beef and Lamb website.

Drenching after Pre-lamb Treatments

If you have used any pre lamb drenches (capsules or long acting injections) then Exit drenching is the use of a drench given towards the end of the persistent activity period of an anthelmintic, to kill any re-emerging parasites that managed to survive. This is an exercise that should be practiced every time long acting pre-lamb products are used.

One particular worm species has become a major threat to the future of sheep and beef pastoral farming in New Zealand. Its name is *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*. This worm lives in the small intestine and is a major clinical parasitism in lambs, usually during the autumn months. It is also known as the **black scour** worm. Over the past few years triple drench resistance in this species has been diagnosed at an alarming rate. The conventional drench products not working on many farms is going to become the new 'norm'. This parasite can live for very long periods both on the pasture and in the animal (pasture = 1-2 years, animal = 1 year).

If *Trichostrongylus* (or any resistant parasites) are present and your ewes do not receive an exit drench they could be harbouring these worms for up to a year after treatment, allowing their spread around your property.

When using a quarantine drench, an exit drench should be the best available drench combination; this means the option of only **Zolvix Plus®** or **Startect®**. It should be given towards the end of the drenches activity which will depend on which product you use (e.g. Eweguard®, Cydectin LA®, Bionic® etc) please give us a call if you need like advice on the best time to apply an exit drench.

SCABBY MOUTH VACCINE

Scabby mouth is a highly contagious viral disease of sheep which can significantly affect the profitability of your farming operation. The virus damages skin and causes painful scabby growths, most commonly around the lips and nose, but also the feet and udders. The scabs can restrict grazing activity and cause lameness. There is no treatment for scabby mouth and the disease is usually left to run its course. Fortunately you can prevent the disease by vaccinating your lambs. The two vaccines available this year are the same as last year: Phenax® Classic and Eweguard®.

Phenax Classic is the 'pen-style' vaccine that many of you have used for a number of years now. The vaccine works by creating a skin lesion. Feedback from some of you reported that the vaccine was quite thick and when the scratch was made some vaccine did not come out therefore they did it again. This meant that they didn't get a full 150 doses from the scratch. Bear this in mind that you may need to slightly over estimate the number of doses required for this reason.

Eweguard® is delivered using a gun and delivers a precise dosage, 250 doses every vial every time. Only one skin lesion is required, speeding up the procedure. The applicator gun has been modified slightly over the years.

Whichever vaccine you choose to use it is imperative you check that the vaccine 'takes' by checking the skin 48 hours after vaccination to ensure immunity has developed. A 'take' will appear as a reddened line along the scratch which later develops into scabs.



Spring Reminders

Sleepy sickness in ewes

Prevention is crucial when it comes to metabolic disease. Providing enough feed and reducing stressors can significantly reduce metabolic problems in late pregnancy and lactation. If there is no sign of other disease, heavily pregnant ewes that are lethargic or unable to stand should be treated for sleepy sickness/ milk fever. Treatment is giving Keto-Aid orally and Glucalpos under the skin.



Glucalpos 100ml packs are no longer available, but the cow size 500ml packs contain enough to treat up to 5 ewes.

Mag supplementation in beef cows

Grass staggers from low magnesium is something we still see in beef cows every year, and can be rapidly fatal. Putting magnesium through water or dusting magnesium oxide are both good ways to supplement cattle, however this is not always practical on some beef breeding farms. Rumetrace® magnesium capsules release magnesium at a constant rate over a period of 9-12 weeks. This is a far more reliable way of ensuring all cattle are receiving adequate magnesium supplementation than putting out salt licks.



Pre-lamb vaccines

Vaccinate ewes 2-4 weeks pre-lamb with a clostridial vaccine such as Coglavax 8-in-1®, 5-in-1 or Covexin 10-in-1®, to ensure passive protection to lambs (which lasts up to 16 weeks). If the ewes have never been vaccinated before they require a booster vaccination 4 weeks later.

Note: If your ewes have historically been vaccinated with 5-in-1 and you are vaccinating with Coglavax 8-in-1 this year, they will not have full protection against the three extra clostridial strains. They will however still have the full 5-in-1 cover, and if you continue using the 8-in-1, the herd immunity as a whole will build up to full protection over the course of several years.



BIOSUPPORT

NEW
PRODUCT

For those of you that have been 'yoghurtising' milk replacer to reduce abomasal bloat in lambs, this is a product for you! Biosupport is a dairy based animal supplement that contains a powerful probiotic suspended in dry milk powder. It contains a patented probiotic that can aid in enhancing the immune system and help promote the gut health of young animals. Biosupport is suitable to add to liquid milk or milk replacer from newborn age. Being a powder, the good bacteria lie dormant until introduced to liquid, meaning no bacteria degradation.

Contains patented Fonterra manufactured probiotic *Bifi dobacterium Animalis* WO 99/10476 Bacterial count of one billion good bacteria per gram

- ◆ Good solubility and flow properties
- ◆ 100% dairy milk powder
- ◆ Readily digestible
- ◆ 18-month shelf life from time of opening



Mixing rate is 1g/litre of warm milk – approx. 38°C, then feed cooled. 1kg Biosupport treats 1000L milk which is roughly enough to rear 20 lambs. We will stock 1kg tubs.

Preventable late term abortions in cattle

Pregnancy loss in beef farming operations is simply a fact of life and in general circumstances a loss of 1-2% after scanning is considered 'normal' and shouldn't warrant an investigation. Late term abortions are however very alarming (as they are actually noticed!), and a number of causes are actually preventable, so it is often still worth giving us a call if you notice a fresh aborted fetus in your paddock.

Infectious causes:

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea has been a hot topic in the clinic lately with severe cases investigated in both dairy and beef clients this year. This disease can cause abortions throughout the whole course of pregnancy and it can also cause the birth of stillborn and weak calves at full term. If diagnosed through a late term abortion there isn't much that can be done during the present calving period, but the knowledge gained can be vital for minimizing losses and preventing disease in future seasons. BVD is very common in New Zealand beef farms and transmits easily across fences so even if your herd has never been exposed it is often just a matter of time if you have neighbors with cattle.

Leptospirosis like BVD can also cause abortions throughout gestation along with the birth of weak and stillborn calves. This disease has the added challenge of also being a zoonotic disease so contact with infected material can make you sick! Lepto is spread readily by wildlife such as rats, deer and feral pigs. It also spreads easily in surface water so the risk of transmission is increased during high rainfall.

Salmonella is a less common cause of late term abortions in cattle but is still worth mentioning as outbreaks can be severe and there is also a zoonotic risk.

BVD, Lepto and salmonella abortions are usually readily diagnosed from testing on various samples (foetal, placenta and blood from the Dam) and all three can be prevented by appropriate vaccination programs.

Non-infectious causes:

Isocupressic acid is a molecule found in a variety of conifer trees, with the most toxic levels being found in **Macrocarpa**. This molecule causes vasoconstriction, reducing blood flow to the late term fetus causing its death, abortion usually follows within 2-3 days. There are no reliable tests to confirm this cause of abortion so diagnosis is usually presumed based on history.

Nitrate poisoning from grazing new grasses late in gestation has long been associated with late term abortion. The mode by which this arises is likely multifactorial but its not uncommon to have an absence of deaths in the mob of cows themselves, but a number of abortions within days of eating toxic feed. Both causes are easily avoidable through not allowing access to toxic feed. Macrocarpa is however, a very common shelter tree on New Zealand farms so avoidance is sometimes impossible, if this is the case then make sure the cows are either not in late gestation or not hungry (due to plentiful grass and supplements), when grazing near conifers.



Lamb Supplies

IN STORE NOW

Anlamb milk powder 5, 10 & 20kg

Woolover lamb covers

Jumpstart colostrum

Bottles & teats

Biosupport Probiotics



**N
E
W**