



HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

NEWSLETTER—MAY 2013



What A Difference Some Rain Makes!!!

Rainfall has been widespread but very variable in quantity over the clients farms we service. For those who got plenty of rain in early April and have had follow ups, grass growth has been exceptional and the drought is pretty much a thing of the past.

However, many areas have a long way to go. The grass has certainly greened up and depending on the amount of rainfall received, it is growing at various rates. The good news is that soil temperatures are still good and if further follow up rain occurs, better than average growth rates will occur.

From my observations, where enough rain has fallen to allow the use of nitrogen, growth rate responses have been exceptional and nitrogen applications in May can be considered, given the above average soil temperatures.

The secret now where feed covers are less than optimal is to try to build covers based on the logic that 'grass grows grass'. Tighten up stock whose condition is acceptable (as opposed to optimal) and try to spell as many paddocks as possible—for many this will mean getting the rotation going. These areas may be a target for nitrogen especially if they are North facing and warm.

Stock that are in poor condition should be given the highest priority. Very light ewes or cows are candidates for disaster this Spring. However, many of these animals will make a surprisingly rapid turnaround if the pressure is removed, they are drenched and well fed. You can then make decisions about wintering or selling these animals as Winter unfolds.



ACORN POISONING

I recently observed cattle with not a lot to eat, grazing under oak trees and appearing to eat the acorns that

were lying on the ground. While ducks and pigs can eat acorns they are poisonous to sheep and cattle and over the years we have seen cases of poisoning.

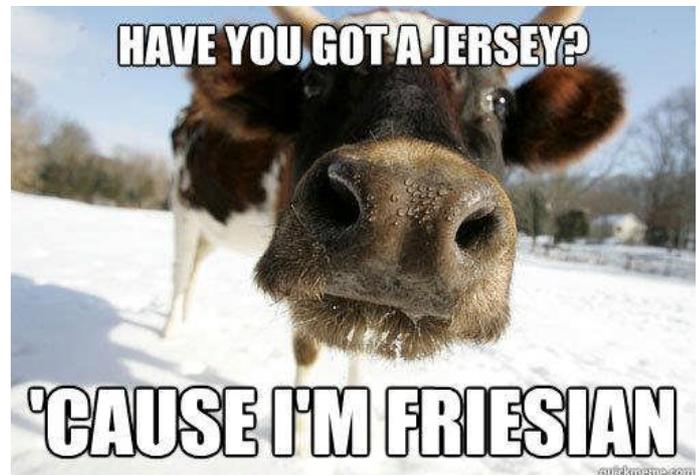
Normally this involves one or two animals in a mob that take a liking to the acorns as stock graze in paddocks with oak trees and tends to occur more frequently when feed is short.

Acorns contain toxins that damage ruminant kidneys causing kidney failure, weight loss and eventual death.

Late Worm Challenge

Worm problems seem to be very variable out there. Faecal egg counts in ewes and lambs are giving widely ranging results from low to high burdens. Our expectations are that with the mild conditions worm challenges, especially in lambs, could remain high on some properties for the next couple of months.

Drenching programmes and monitoring should be kept up to date.



Possible Shortage Of Magnesium Capsules

It appears that Magnesium Capsules for cows could be in short supply this Spring as the drought and lack of cow feed on many farms is likely to cause high demand.

If you are giving consideration to using these capsules this Spring, please contact the Clinic so we can ensure they are available.

Be Careful With Rat Baits

As everyone reaches for the rat bait as rats and mice move inside for the Winter, we normally begin to see cases of rat bait poisoning in dogs and very occasionally cats.

Some dogs, especially, (normally the fox terrier or lab!) seem to find rat baits worth eating.

- Try to place baits where your dog can not get to them.
- Put out repeated small quantities of bait to prevent rats carrying it all to spots that dogs eventually find.
- Store containers of baits in safe areas.
- Dispose of dead rats and mice.
- Choose a safe form of bait. With some types of bait secondary poisoning where the dog or cat eats a dead rat is much more likely to occur.



ROTAVEC USERS

If you are intending to use Rotovac this season can you please let us know how many doses you require so that we can ensure we have plenty in stock for your use.

Thank you

NATIONAL TUX PROMOTION

Please note, the latest Tux Dog Biscuit promotion gives you the chance to win the 'Trip of Your Dreams' with 2 chances of \$20,000 worth of travel vouchers to be won.

We will be entering everyone who purchases Tux dog biscuits from us into this draw.



Nitrate Warning

High Nitrate Levels are being found in crops and grass samples that we have tested recently. Climatic conditions are such that nitrate poisoning is a risk when crops and / or one or two year old grasses are being grazed after being shut up. If you feel there is any risk, testing before grazing would be a very prudent option.



Turning Bulls Into Steers

Bopriva is a product that a small number of farmers have used to improve the Winter management of rising 2 year bulls. The result of using Bopriva has generally been very pleasing.

Bopriva causes immunocastration of the treated bulls for 3 to 5 months depending on the treatment protocol and as a result bulls lose their 'bull behaviour' and can be farmed like steers. For example:

- Grazed in large mobs on Winter rotations.
- Break fed in large mobs.
- Run on silage pads without riding or fighting.

Once Spring comes the effect of treatment wears off and bulls revert to their normal bull behaviour and growth rates.

Contact the Clinic if you have and interest in using this product.

HOUSE KEEPING

1. You will notice this month your accounts are on coloured paper. This was suggested to us as a way of clearly identifying the Vet Club Accounts. Please let us know what you think.
2. Malcolm, our small animal vet, is away for the next 9 weeks on an overseas trip. Gary and Martin will be covering this area until Malcolm returns.
3. It appears that some clients did not receive their February accounts. If you need a copy of this account please let us know.

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