



# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2013



## Merry Christmas



As I write this newsletter the country looks great, lambs are doing well, meat schedules look to be holding up and dairying proceeds on its' merry way. A great way to end 2013. While we can't do much about any of this we would like to wish all our members a very merry Christmas and thank them for being such great customers to deal with in the past 12 months. We look forward to doing business with you in 2014 and hope the New Year continues for our clients in the same manner that 2013 appears to be ending.

## Taking Drench Resistance Seriously

While I don't consider drench resistance development to be the big, bad farm ending monster that some people might like you to believe, there is no doubt that it is an issue that all farmers (sheep, cattle and dairy) need to have an understanding of and be proactive in dealing with the threat.

I repeatedly read articles claiming that less than 10% of farmers accurately know how well drenches are working on their properties. While I consider this figure to be low for our clients, there are certainly plenty out there who could know a lot more!!!

This Spring those using drench capsules and long acting injections were offered free faecal egg counts to establish how well these expensive products were working and if drench resistance was a issue. Less than 1/3 of our clients took up this FREE offer!!! Of those that did around 50% appeared to have varying degrees of emerging Ivomec resistance. This problem was not necessarily related to how long or how many capsules have been used. Interestingly all farmers felt the products had worked well.

This emerging resistance is not the end of the world but needs to be taken seriously. With this information drenching strategies and drench types can be chosen which should slow further resistance development.

With a new lamb/calf drenching season up and running **we would encourage all farmers to check how effective their drenches and drenching programmes are.**



While you may not want to carry out a full blown drench test, at least consider collecting faecal samples 10 days post drenching to check how well a drench has worked. (This advice applies equally to dairy heifer replacements and other young cattle.)

*If you still remain unconvinced about the merits of monitoring drench resistance development I am more than happy to have an 'argument'*

### Ear Tag Orders

A note to those of you who order your NAIT and management ear tags through the vet club. We would appreciate your co-operation in getting these orders signed off by you before we go ahead and order them. This will save any confusion that may lead to you receiving an incorrect order. Thanks.



### Not Just A Vet Club

Anna showing off her extended skills attempting to keep some of our vets to a respectable appearance for you and your stock!!!



## **Time To Cull!!**

In many dairy herds there will now be a 'small number' of cows with high cell counts or on-going clinical mastitis problems that two or more treatment programmes have failed to cure. It is time to make the big call to either:

1. ***Cull these cows, or***
2. ***For a very good cow with what appears to be a sound udder (no lumps or bumps) consideration could be given to doing a milk culture identifying the bacteria involved and drying the cow off with an appropriate long acting dry cow therapy.***

Mastitis is an infectious disease. Don't compromise the rest of the herd by continuing to milk these problem cows.



## Weaning and Light Ewes

With weaning underway farmers have an opportunity to make some decisions about light ewes. While feed quality remains good through December and January, one has the greatest opportunity to put condition onto these ewes. Ideally treat these ewes as you would your lambs (this may even include drenching them).

Ewes that respond rapidly to this TLC are probably well worth keeping. The ones that struggle to respond are probably better off the farm. If there appears to be significant numbers in this group, consider getting a few post mortem examinations done to identify any health issues such as liver fluke, Johnes, chronic pneumonia, trace element deficiencies or even teeth problems.

In some circumstances there may be more to be gained from putting light ewes onto crops rather than over valued store lambs when mutton schedules are \$3.80 / kg.



## GRASS SEED PROBLEMS—TAKE ACTION

With summer under way grass seeds start to cause problems in dogs. These seeds are much easier to track down and deal with when symptoms first occur. So keep a look out for the following types of signs and take immediate action.

- **Sore feet and swelling between the toes.**
- **Rapid onset of head shaking and sore ears.**
- **Running, sore eyes or sudden changes in how the eye looks.**
- **Sudden onset of sneezing / coughing or scratching at the nose.**



## Theileria Update

This problem continues to get worse and is spreading like wildfire in areas where herds have become infected and ticks are present (Waikato, Bay of Plenty, etc).

Take particular care if purchasing cattle (beef or dairy) from the North, and seek advice about the risks.

As background information we would be very interested in knowing where ticks have been seen in our practice. We know they occur in the Turakina and Mangahoe Valley and on many spots along the Rangitikei River. If you live outside these areas and have seen ticks at some time please let us know.

## Welcome Jackie

With Rudy moving on to bigger (but not necessarily better!) things we have employed a new vet nurse to take her place.



The new, friendly face you will see is that of Jackie Tapp who comes to us from the Taihape area. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome and be patient while she gets to know the vet club and our clients.

## Monthly Funnies

**How do you make Holy Water? Boil the hell out of it.**

**Politicians are like baby's nappies...they need to be changed frequently and for the same reasons.**

**One man to another...What pet name do you call your wife? Harvey Norman...3 years and no interest.**

**A three-year-old boy was examining his testicles while taking a bath. "Mom" he asked, "are these my brains?"**

**"Not yet," she replied.**

**Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.**

**I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.**



**Martin presenting a cheque from the Vet Club to a very appreciative group from the Hunterville Playcentre to put towards their new playground.**

**After Hours Vet**

**Emergencies:**

**Shop Hours:**

**Email:**

Phone 06 3228 058

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

