

# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

## NEWSLETTER—MARCH 2014



### 350 Odd Newsletters Later!!!

*Needing a little inspiration for this newsletter. I guess that tends to happen after 350 odd newsletters. I thought I would look back at some of the first newsletters I produced.*

**Some things change while others never seem to. For example, these first newsletters contained articles on:**

- ◆ Not putting the ram out and farming for wool only in hill country.
- ◆ Barbers pole worm was a constant summer / autumn threat!! Out breaks were very common and severe. The advent of Vetdectin / Cydectin was a major step forward in barbers pole worm control. (Late eighties.)
- ◆ We reported on our first case of drench resistance (resistance to white drench) and the major threat this posed to livestock farmers. Thirty years later with the advent of combination drenches, and now two new drench families, we are still farming happily and no one I know has gone broke because of worms! Hopefully some of the advice we have given has been of assistance!!
- ◆ We were promoting Ralgrow—an oestrogen based implant to speed steer growth ratios by up to 20%. This product and later ones did just this but despite the fact that these treatments used natural hormones that are undetectable in the carcass, consumer opinion and politics have seen these products sidelined. This is especially frustrating as I have seen no other treatment in livestock systems that could give anything like the cost benefit returns of these products. (Little wonder then that black market growth promotants are a huge business throughout Europe.)
- ◆ Cow pregnancy test rates were reported. Ironically I'm not sure too much has changed—90% in calf was talked about as being the average pregnancy testing result (not too dissimilar to today). However our calf weaning weights are consistently higher.
- ◆ Major outbreaks of Salmonellosis and Campylobacter were frequently seen. Excellent vaccines now control these diseases and outbreaks are much less common.
- ◆ 20L of Nilverm (a Levamasole drench) was advertised at \$350. Not that we would advise you to but you can now purchase 20L of this type of drench for \$140 so not all things are more expensive today!!!

### **Amaranthus / Red Root Kills Cattle**

In last months newsletter we discussed some of the weeds frequently found in crops and their potential toxicity.

Since then Dave has confirmed deaths in cattle used to clean up a summer brassica crop containing a lot of Amaranthus. These cattle died of kidney failure as a result of the damage that amaranthus does to kidneys.

With spray and pray cropping techniques, heavy burdens of amaranthus can develop in crops that will pose a threat to grazing stock. For many types of crops sprays are available to remove amaranthus and could be well worth consideration if contamination of the crop is heavy.



### **Faecal Egg Count Up Dates**

Recent faecal egg counts have demonstrated the following general trends.

- 1) Samples taken from lambs 4 weeks after the last drench show significant worm populations have re-established, and redrenching is required. Do not extend your drench intervals without very close monitoring.
- 2) Many 2.2th flocks demonstrate rising or highish worm burdens. Drenching has been necessary.
- 3) Most mixed age ewe flocks have low worm counts and given that the ewes are generally in good order, drenching in most instances has not been necessary.

**NOTE: If taking FEC's ensure that samples are refrigerated but NOT FROZEN as soon as possible after collection. If collecting in egg cartons, put the carton in a sealed plastic bag to prevent samples drying out.**

### **Dry Cow Shortages**

Due to one company withdrawing from the dry cow market the supply of cephalosporim based dry cow product, Cephafort or Cephavin, is likely to fall short of demand this autumn. If you use these products or are giving consideration to using them it would be great if you could assist us with forward orders. This will help us to source and secure sufficient quantities.

# Teatseal Update

Following the analysis of teatsealing procedures there are some changes in the recommendations for use this season. (Problems had been experienced with failure to effectively seal the teat.)

The changes in advice are:

- i. Do not heat excessively teatseal products prior to use.
- ii. If using dry cow therapy before teatseal make sure you massage it well up the teat canal to prevent it mixing with the teatseal.

We will discuss these changes with you during dry cow consults this season.



## Mating Hoggets

It would appear that more hoggets will be mated this year than last year and I have fielded several questions about best practice. Some suggestions are:

- ⇒ *Use plenty of rams or rams lambs. 1—40 is a good ratio to aim for.*
- ⇒ **Use teasers for 3—4 weeks before mating if possible.**
- ⇒ *As a general rule put the rams out in the first 10 days of May. The longer you leave the rams out for, the more hoggets that will get in lamb. But they will also lamb very late. About 30 days of mating tends to be optimal.*
- ⇒ **Pregnant hoggets can be very susceptible to toxo, and campylobacter is also a risk, so vaccinating if you expect to get a large proportion of hoggets pregnant is a good practice.**
- ⇒ *Use ram types that will consistently give lower birthweight lambs. (Many black faced breeds, texels and poll dorsets do not fall into this category!) Perendales, cheviots, compact romneys and some southdowns can be good options and in my experience consistently give the best results.*
- ⇒ **The 40 kg minimum weight!!! While this may be optimal I still remain unconvinced you can't successfully mate lighter hoggets! From my observations hoggets as light as 36kgs can be successfully mated. The mature body weight of your ewes should be taken into account when determining cut off weights. However if you mate lighter hoggets, good winter and prelamb feeding is even more important.**



## Clocks

A man died and went to Heaven. As he stood in front of the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. He asked, "What are all those clocks?"

St Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone who has ever been on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock move."

"Oh," said the man. "Whose clock is that?"

"That's Mother Tereasa's," replied St Peter. "The hands have never moved indicating that she has never told a lie."

"Incredible," said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"

St Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abraham only told two lies in his entire life."

"Where's Len Brown's Clock?"

St Peter replied, "We are using it as a ceiling fan."

## Hunterville Rugby Club Fat Lamb Competition

Congratulations to the prize winners of this years Fat Lamb Competition.



*We are proud to be sponsors of this event.*

### After Hours Vet

**Emergencies:** Phone 06 322 8058

**Shop Hours:** 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

**Email:** [huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz)

**Website:** [www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz](http://www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz)

