



Exit Drenching—Think About It Now!!

We have mentioned this in plenty of previous newsletters. Extensive computer modelling of worm populations demonstrates that this strategy, if adopted before older drenches are severely failing, will significantly extend the useful life of these drenches.

Mid to late autumn is the time to consider an exit drench for your ewe lambs and remaining store lambs. Drenching with Startect or Zolvix at this time will remove worms that have survived your drenching programme to this point. These worms, if left to survive, being resistant to your earlier drenches, will happily continue to produce eggs and seed your property with resistant genetics which will be on the ground to infect ewes and lambs over the winter and next spring.

Talk to us now about the merits of exit drenching on your property and options and costs of recommended drenches.

Ergot Poisoning

I was recently called to a property where the owner had noted the onset of severe lameness in a number of beef cows.

On examination the affected cows were displaying symptoms of swelling in the hind feet around the coronet. Given these symptoms and the history, Ergot poisoning was considered a possibility.

Normally cases of ergot poisoning in cattle are related to the ergot fungus infecting the seed head of wild grasses on banks, sidlings, and road sides, etc. In this case however ergot was discovered in a new rye grass paddock that had gone to seed and was being cleaned up by the cows. The black ergot fungus could be seen in a significant quantity of the rye grass seed head.

There is no practical treatment for ergot poisoning in this situation. The cows were immediately removed from the paddock to safe pasture. In severe cases of ergot poisoning the affected feet can drop off and cattle or sheep need to be destroyed. In this case the problem was discovered relatively early and hopefully most cows have recovered.

With regard to dealing with the affected paddock, topping is possible to get the seed head on the ground and rotted down, otherwise the paddock has to be left until the seed heads have broken down and can no longer be grazed by stock. (Sheep tend to be less susceptible to poisoning than cattle as their grazing habits mean they tend to leave seed head behind.)



Rats... Moving In

As autumn moves in and crops are harvested, especially maize, rats and mice look for new homes especially around kennels, sheds and houses.

Rodents carry a strain of leptospirosis that is a threat to your dogs and personal health for that matter. Getting poison baits out early is a good idea to control rodents early. Just a reminder to place baits out safely where your dogs can't get them, store bait in safe places and dispose of dead rats if you come across them. Doing this will help to avoid the cases of poisoning we see at this time of the year and over winter.

Worm Challenges When It Rains

Once again we are experiencing a season where high worm challenges could occur when it rains. Currently worm challenges on most properties appear to be low and ewe flock faecal egg counts in particular are low.

With feed covers diminishing, when it rains quite high larval challenges are likely to come if it stays warm. Keep a close eye on your ewes and 2.2ths and in most situations do not extend lamb drench intervals without very close monitoring. (In fact it may be good management to drench lambs under 4 weeks from their last drench.)

P.S. Don't drench as soon as it rains. It will take 2—3 weeks for sheep to pick up worm burdens so this will be the time to drench if it is required.

Scottish Wedding

At the Scottish wedding reception the D.J. yelled...

“Would all married men please stand next to the person who has made your life worth living.”

The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Dairy Pregnancy Test Results

Despite the excellent spring , dairy herd pregnancy test results are similar to last year. One or two herds have been a little bit better while others have been slightly poorer. In general empty rates fell between 7% and 15% with a few higher empty rates, especially where bulls were pulled out in early January.

Early bull removal, while concentrating the calving, always runs the risk of more empties. Later calving cows, if the bull is left out longer, can be easily identified by pregnancy testing at the correct time and unlike an empty cow, at least you still have options.

- Calve the cow late.
- Abort the cow now and carry over to next year.
- Cull or sell a late calving cow.

Think seriously about the merits of early bull removal, especially in years where you are not certain about how well mating has gone.



Interestingly in some herds later calving cows have had pregnancy rates as good as early calving cows. In these herds a large part of this result was due to cow condition at early calving. Early calving cows tended to calve in lighter condition (as a result of last years drought) and then milked well but did not cycle as well, while later calving cows had longer to put condition on in a great spring before calving.

Once again we have run into a late dry period. Loss of cow condition now, especially in early calving, younger cows, will create the same problems next year in getting these cows back in calf. (And the spring or winter may not be quite as kind!!)

Dave Is Leaving Us

As you may have heard, Dave has handed in his notice and is heading down south to the cold and a new challenge. Dave has been a vet here for 9 years and has been a valued member of our staff. We wish Dave and his family all the best with his new venture. He will be greatly missed by both staff and clients alike.

We would like to invite you to come to town and have a drink with Dave on Thursday May 8 at 4pm, at the shop to farewell him. We look forward to seeing you then.

Rapid Numbers

We are currently updating our computer records and would like to add your rural rapid numbers to your client details. This will help new vets when they are out and about in the field looking for you.

Next time you are in the clinic or on the phone to us could you please tell us your rural rapid number / numbers and we will make a note of them.

Thanks.

Worming Programme

For those of you currently on our worming programme we would like to know how you are finding it. If you have any problems, questions or queries please let us know.

For those of you who are not currently on this programme, please give us a call if you would like any further information.

On Friday, a hooded robber burst into a bank and, at gunpoint, forced the tellers to load their cash into a brown paper bag. As the robber approached the door, one brave customer grabbed the hood and pulled it off, revealing the robbers face. Without a moments hesitation the robber shot the customer.

He then looked around the bank and noticed one of the tellers looking straight at him. The robber instantly shot him also. Everyone in the bank, by now horrified, stared down at the floor in silence. The robber yelled, "Well, did anyone else see my face?"

There was a long moment of dead silence during which everyone was terrified to speak. Then one old Australian named Bernie cautiously raised his hand and said, "My wife got a pretty good look at you!!!"

After Hours Vet

Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058

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

Email: huntermvillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.huntermvillevetclub.co.nz

