

HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

NEWSLETTER—JUNE 2014



Teat Sealing Heifers—It Works!!!

Over the last 2 seasons we have been involved with teat sealing heifers in herds where mastitis in freshly calved heifers had been identified as a significant problem.

The results from teat sealing have been excellent with very significant reductions in mastitis rates noted. This is a very cost effective outcome given the value of these animals with their lifetime production in front of them.

Teat sealing heifers is 'not a fast simple job' and requires high levels of hygiene and patience. Hence we prefer being directly involved in the process and supply staff to assist you. However the procedure is a good way of getting heifers a little more used to the shed!! Teat sealing should ideally occur 4 weeks before the planned start of calving.

If you have had problems with heifer mastitis in the past or would like to discuss this topic further please call the Clinic. Act now before time runs out!!



Good News

Rotagal, a vaccine to control calf scours which was used by a number of our clients last season, has now gained registration as a subcutaneous injection. Previously intra muscular injection had been recommended which can be difficult, a subcutaneous method should make vaccination simpler and easier this season.

Please contact us to place your order so that we can ensure we have enough stock for you.

The Taxi

Nagy and Tony took a taxi back from the conference to their hotel.

On arrival the driver charged them \$60.

Nagy pointed out that he had once been a taxi driver himself and accused the man of overcharging. "That is far too much, it is only worth half of that price. I am going to give you \$30 and not a cent more!"

"And it will be the same from me too," chimed in Tony from the backseat.

Congratulations

To Justin and Mary Vennell who have been named Supreme winners of the 2014 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

A very informative fieldday was held on the Vennell's property development systems and objectives. Justin and Mary now move onto the national finals and we wish them the best of luck.

A Move To The North!!

In the last two years we have experienced very mild, late autumns following dry periods, with growing conditions more akin to the Waikato than the lower North Island. While this has been great for grass growth, it has also presented animal health challenges that are not really what we would expect.

1) Increased worm challenges

We are seeing significant challenges in all classes of stock at a time when historically we would be expecting to see challenges decline. This has meant:

- Monthly lamb drenching programmes have needed to continue (any extension in intervals has resulted in the rapid establishment of high worm burdens and lost productivity).
- Poor weight gains in lambs and ewes going off as they deal with high larval challenges. For lambs this can be a problem even in 3—4 weekly drenching programmes.
- Tail ends developing in ewe flocks, or in some cases in the whole ewe flock requiring drenching. Often these flocks had low worm burdens pre tup.
- Worm challenges in weaner cattle—both beef and dairy.

2) Fly strike in May!!

3) Late spore count rises.

We were very lucky things cooled off after easter. In the days preceding easter spore counts had begun to rise very quickly.

4) On-going flea challenges.

There just hasn't been enough cold weather in the last two years to slow flea life cycles down.

5) Out-breaks of salmonellosis

in unvaccinated sheep flocks and dairy herds.

As I write this newsletter we have had our first 'cracking frost', however it will take a few more to return us to our traditional patterns!!



Cancer Eye Vet Certs

We have been receiving some grief from the works vets regarding animals we have certified as fit for slaughter, especially in relation to cancer eyes.

Very tight protocols have been set which severely restrict the types of eyes that are fit for slaughter. Please ensure you get problem eyes looked at, at the earliest opportunity as delays and progression of the condition may turn

a \$1000 animal into expensive dog tucker. Ideally you should be acting when lesions are small like the one in the picture!!!

Also note that we can now only issue certificates for a week meaning animals must be killed within 7 days of issue or certificates need to be revalidated. An expired certificate **can not** be used!

PS. In some situations removal of the eye can be an option where the animal does not qualify for certification but we can still successfully remove the eye. Once again this procedure needs to be carried out as early as possible.

Time To Think About Ewe Treatments Pre-lambing

- ♦ Scanning is underway and some good results are coming in. It is time to consider how you are going to deal with your ewe flock in terms of worm control.
- ♦ As many of you have experienced and know, capsules and long acting injections do offer very real benefits when used in ewe and hogget flocks. While the 'resistance threat is an issue' it should not be seen as a reason not to give consideration to the use of capsules and injections.
- ♦ All farms are in the business of grazing stock and making money. Using treatments that ensure good levels of productivity and profitability makes sound sense.

The plan for these types of products is to use them in a way which delivers the greatest economic return while minimising the resistance threat. Just how this occurs will vary from farm to farm and we are always happy to be involved in developing a strategy with you that suits your particular property and objectives.



The Clerical Collar

A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally he attended wearing his Priests Collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally the Priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed at the priests neck.

When the priest finally realised what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy if he knew why he was wearing the collar.

The boy nodded his head and replied, "Yes. It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."

Nitrate Testing

Another reminder—test crops before feeding. To date we have seen a very wide variation in nitrate levels. Don't forget about new grass paddocks especially if grazing them for the first time with cattle, they can be a real killer.



Power Outage

We had a power outage at my place this morning and my PC, laptop, TV, DVD, i-pad and my new surround sound music system were all shut down.

Then I discovered my i-phone battery was flat and to top it all off it was raining outside so I couldn't play golf. I went into the kitchen to make coffee and then I remembered that this also needs power so I sat down and talked to my wife for a few hours.



She seems like a nice person.

After Hours Vet



Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058

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

Email: huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

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