



# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

## NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2014



### More Lambs On Board, Less Feed Than You Need? Do Something About It.

In the past 12 months there have been some very significant reductions in the prices of DAP and urea. If your feed budgets and grass covers are looking a little tight, the judicious use of these products may well be an excellent idea this season.

Where airstrips can still be used, the use of DAP in early Spring rather than applying your fertiliser later on can allow you to apply a significant amount of nitrogen to accelerate Spring growth, promoting ewe lactation and lamb live-weight gains for very little cost (\$2 to \$3 per stock unit). Where strips cannot be used, helicopter application can still be a viable option!

**Having well fed ewes from lambing results in:**

- Heavier lambs at weaning from increased ewe milk production.
- Heavier ewes at weaning.
- Better lamb survival.

Don't miss out on optimising your farms potential this Spring.

*P.S. The Spring nitrogen argument will also hold true for many beef finishing and cow systems.*



### Don't Forget Iodine

If you have grazed pregnant sheep on brassica crops remember that it is recommended that they receive **iodine supplementation**.

Brassica crops fed during pregnancy can precipitate low iodine levels in the lambs born resulting in poor heat production and body temperature control in these lambs leading to more deaths from exposure.

**Contact us to discuss supplementation options (they are very cheap and simple).**



### New Zealand Needs Brains

To maintain our BSE and Scrapie free status New Zealand needs to examine a significant number of brains from sheep, goats and cattle that have problems that could be neurologically related. Eg. Staggers, blindness, circling, behavioural changes, inability to stand, downer cows, etc.

You will be paid \$50 ex for a sheep's brain and \$150 ex for a cattle brain. Some age restrictions are in place. So if you have animals with these types of symptoms, please contact the clinic to find out if they qualify.

*P.S. The testing carried out, while 'hopefully' proving it is not BSE or Scrapie, will often diagnose the cause of the problem.*

### Theileria-update

Anecdotal evidence suggests that a case of Theileriosis was recently **diagnosed in Manawatu**. In areas where Theileria occurs spring and autumn have been the predominant disease periods, in particular spring 2013, with a concerning 'spike' in cases in autumn/spring 2014.

Stock movements, environmental conditions, stress in the herd, concurrent disease, tick populations and prior exposure to the disease are likely contributing factors.

The disease is not spread by direct animal-to-animal contact in the absence of ticks. There are no human health or food safety risks associated with Theileria.

#### What to look out for

- lethargy, weakness, depression, inappetence, poor milk production, mortality
- pale or yellow mucous membranes ie. gums, vulva and sclera
- increased respiration and heart rates, raised temperatures
- bloody urine



Farmers who suspect they have animals with anaemia should contact a veterinarian for advice.

#### Prevention

If you have animals (cows/heifers and bulls) coming on to your farms from infected areas—warmer northern or eastern areas (Northland/Waikato/Bay of Plenty/East Coast) treat them with Bayticol, keep them separate and blood sample sick/pale animals.



## How Close Is Too Close?

I have fielded several enquiries about low long ewes can stay on crops before lambing. Multiple and single bearing ewes must be considered differently.

We would recommend that twin bearing ewes be off crops at least 3 weeks before lambing. Any closer can result in metabolic problems and weight loss (especially with swedes and turnips).

Single bearing ewes can generally be grazed on crops right up to lambing provided there is sufficient crop left to ensure they can get a feed. It is a good idea to go through ewes and draft off those that are obviously not coping so well with the crop.

## Please Use The Back Door For Dogs

Some of our newer members may be unaware that they can drive to the back of the Clinic, park their cars and bring their dogs into the waiting area via the back door.

This avoids dirty paws on the shop carpets and other 'accidents' that occur from time to time.

## Mastitis Sample Kits

Cosmin has made up some kits containing pottles, swabs and meths for taking good quality milk samples for mastitis cases.

We would encourage all dairy farmers to pick up a kit and sample some of their early season mastitis cases before treatment. Label the sample and freeze it. If the case does not respond to treatment or mastitis cases become an issue, these frozen samples can be very useful for milk culture and bacterial identification.



## Watch With-holding Periods

A lot of dairy cows now get milked on pretty late in the season meaning the dry period can be quite short. If you have used a long acting, dry cow therapy such as Cloxamp 600 or Cefamaster, be careful milk from these cows does not enter the vat within the with-holding period (56 days). If the cow calves within the with-holding period, milk must be held until the with-holding period is over.

## Sit Cows Up!!

Many cows that get milk fever often die of bloat or pneumonia from inhaling rumen content that they regurgitate.

If at all possible, after treating cows make sure you try to sit them up. This will help to minimise bloating and the chance of rumen content inhalation. Use the quad or hay bales etc to support the cow in a sitting position. Make sure new and inexperienced staff know how to do this.



If the cow is not up within 4 hours of the treatment, call us to discuss the case. More cows will get up following early, aggressive intervention rather than giving the cow a few more hours to see what happens!

## Plantain and Pregnant Ewes

Last season (fortunately not in our patch), many cases of milk fever in ewes in late pregnancy that had been grazed on plantain pastures were reported. These ewes developed milk fever when moved off the plantain and onto grass.

Plantain contains very high calcium levels. Once you put multiple bearing ewes on it from 3 weeks before lambing **DON'T TAKE THEM OFF AGAIN.** If you do you are very likely to induce milk fever back as grass pasture has a much lower calcium content.

## Wanted...

**Accommodation from December onwards for our new young vet. If you have or know of anything suitable please let us know.**

**The Yorkshire Vet** - A Yorkshire man takes his cat to the vet.  
Yorkshireman: Ayup, lad, I need to talk to thee about me cat.  
Vet: Is it a Tom?  
Yorkshireman: Nay, I've browt it with us.

## The Four Moods of a male...

*- I am too old for this shit.      - I am too tired for this shit.  
- I am too sober for this shit.    - I don't have time for this shit.*

**Congratulations to the following people who were drawn out from our pre-lamb order form draw. They have all won \$50 vouchers. Remember—you have to be in to win!!!**

- Stu Addenbrook
- Mark Hobson
- Manson Bell
- Bruce Roberts
- Lance Kelly

## After Hours Vet



**Emergencies:** Phone 06 322 8058  
**Shop Hours:** 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
**Email:** huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz  
**Website:** www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz