



HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

NEWSLETTER—MARCH 2015



Nitrogen No Brainer

It would seem that pressure on killing space has allowed the works to once again drag the schedules back. When the rain comes and slaughter numbers begin to fall, the competition for the remaining stock will see significant rises in the schedules and store stock values.

If you agree with this scenario occurring and still have tradable stock on hand, given the current price of urea, applying urea (or DAP) this Autumn should be a very profitable option.

Working on the premise that things will green up in March or early April and the ground stays warm you can expect to get very good responses to nitrogen. Calculations carried out with one client showed a 400% return on money spent. (ie. Spend \$1000, get \$4000 back!!) This was working on a lamb currently valued at \$65 being sold for \$95 in 60 to 90 days which would not seem unrealistic.

Calculations for cattle also look favourable. Don't miss out on the opportunity that Autumn nitrogen may offer you. Give us a call if you would like to discuss your own situation.



Kennel Cough Outbreak

A recent outbreak of Kennel Cough has been seen in our area and has spread around via the dog trial circuit.

Kennel Cough is generally caused by a virus or a bacterial infection. The vaccine we use to vaccinate your dogs contains a viral component but not the bacterial component. The bacterial infection (Bordatella) can be vaccinated against with a specific kennel cough vaccine.

While kennel cough is a nuisance particularly in Huntaways, with rest and antibiotics the vast majority of dogs will recover relatively quickly.

Vaccination should be considered by those who:

- *Go to dog trials.*
- *Have dogs that mix with other dogs on a regular basis.*
- *Just couldn't do without a particular dog or dogs for a couple of weeks if they were to contract the disease.*
- *Just don't want the hassle of infected dogs and the threat they pose to other people's dogs.*

Vaccination gives protection in 72 to 96 hours and dogs require annual vaccination to maintain protection.

Contact the clinic if you would like your dogs vaccinated or if you have any further questions.



Vet Certs For Stock

While things have certainly tightened up in this area, with a little planning and lateral thinking it is still possible to safely get compromised animals into the closest works.

I have recently got two animals killed successfully where the owners believed killing at the works was not an option. One case involved bandaging the foot in an inner tube to avoid bleeding and damage.

Call the clinic to discuss any animals you are unsure about sending to the works.

Note: *The same welfare requirements for cattle also apply to sheep or deer!! Do NOT send these animals without certificates if they have conditions that compromise their welfare (broken legs / joints, wounds, cancers / growths, eczema, leisons, etc).*



Timing Of Liver Fluke Treatment

With hot, dry conditions, stock have been foraging into wet / swampy areas. These are the places where liver fluke are most likely to be picked up. In our area the infectious stages of liver fluke tend to be picked up from December through to March.

On properties where liver fluke have been identified as a problem, preventative Autumn treatments are required for ewe flocks. If the presence of liver fluke is suspected, suspicions can be confirmed by:

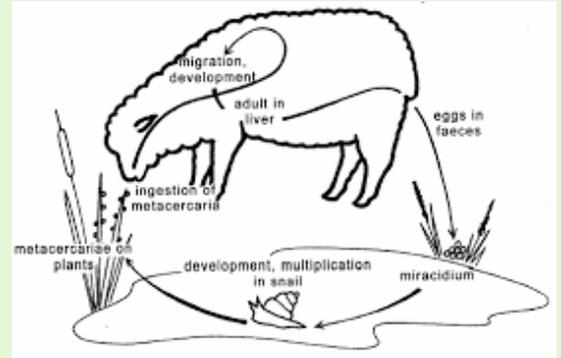
- Post mortem examination of light ewes for the presence of liver fluke in the liver.
- Carrying out faecal egg counts for liver fluke eggs.

Autumn treatments with Fasinex or Genesis Ultra can break the liver fluke life cycle and remove infections before losses occur.

With respect to cattle, although liver fluke in cattle do not generally cause significant productivity losses in our area, they do present a threat.

If untreated, infected cattle will allow fluke to complete their life cycle and shed eggs back onto the pasture posing a threat to sheep especially next summer.

Cattle likely to be harbouring fluke infections should be treated in April, May to remove the infection with products such as Ivomec Plus or Noromectin Plus.



Pneumonia Outbreaks

Following the sudden deaths of lambs we have carried out post mortem examinations for a number of clients. The cause of death has been identified as pneumonia. Interestingly a number of these lambs were still in very good condition. On two properties the number of deaths had been sufficient to warrant treatment of the remaining animals with antibiotics. On one property it was decided to treat 'shelly' lambs that were obviously suffering the chronic effects of pneumonia. (Generally this treatment will turn these lambs around more quickly and stop further deaths.)

If you notice sudden deaths or have lambs that lose condition rapidly (not because the feed runs out!!), consider pneumonia. Either contact us about carrying out post mortem examinations or open the chest up and have a look yourself for pus and solidified lungs stuck to the rib cage.



Keeping Weaners Growing

Current feed conditions are not conducive for good growth rates in weaners. With the current price of palm kernel it may be a good option as a supplementary feed to feed with lower quality pastures at 25—30 cents / kg for PK and current beef schedules, an extra weight gain of 100gms per day can cover the cost of the feed and anything over 100gms will be a profit.

Ensure your weaners are not subjected to other challenges which may also reduce performance especially when feed quality is poor.



- ♦ **WORMS**—ensure drenches are up to date, frequent enough and that the drenches you choose do work. (Take faecal samples 10 days after drenching, there should be no worm eggs present if the drench has worked properly.)
- ♦ **ENSURE SELENIUM AND COPPER** requirements are covered. (Note—don't supplement with copper when feeding PK which has high copper levels—see last months newsletter.)
- ♦ **CONTROL BVD** which tends to circulate at this time of the year. This can involve blood testing and vaccinating. Contact the clinic to discuss this.

Anna's Corner

Toxovax: As it is late in the season it is harder to secure short notice toxo. Hopefully we can service your needs. The more warning, the better.

Pets: If you are wanting a kitten please let us know. If we do not have one to rehome, we may have a notice on our board. Alternatively, if you have kittens to rehome we can put a notice on our website or notice board.

Cheers, Anna ☺



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