

# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

## NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2015



### **A Real Winter!!**

Conditions this winter have been a little more challenging than those we have experienced in previous years. High rainfall, sodden soils and a few cracker frosts thrown in have had a negative impact on pasture growth and grass utilisation.

**August and September are critical months for feeding stock adequately on any type of farm. Underfeeding of cows or ewes will result in less milk production and body weight loss resulting in:**

- \* **Less milk in the vat.**
- \* **Poor herd mating results.**
- \* **Fewer and smaller lambs at weaning.**
- \* **Reduced ewe live weight at weaning.**



While dairy farmers need to cut costs wherever possible, underfeeding cows at this critical time needs to be avoided at all costs. Some expenditure on urea or extra supplementary feeds such as PK or other feeds at 2 to 3kgs a day even with the likely milk pay out could well be highly cost effective in the long run.

On sheep and beef farms especially where high lamb drops are expected, good feed levels are essential. If feed deficits exist it is not too late to take remedial action whether it be applying nitrogen, or reducing numbers by grazing stock off or selling stock.

If things are tighter than you would like, seek advice ASAP from your farm consultant, nutritionist or mate who's views you trust. Don't just stick your head in the sand (or should that be mud!) and do nothing.

### **Some Good News—\$\$\$** ↓

Once again the vet club has had a very good financial year. Following the vet club committee meeting in July it was decided to reduce our standard farm call out fee **from \$35 GST inclusive to \$25** for all members who have been with our club for 4 years or more.

### **Milk Fever in Ewes**

Over July we have had more cases of milk fever in early lambing ewes than in previous years. A lot of this problem has been to do with climatic conditions and sudden changes in feed quality and types. 99% of cases of milk fever in ewes occur in triplet or twin bearing ewes. There is a number of things that can be done to avoid the problem.

- ◆ ***Don't change the type of feed multiple bearing ewes are on from 4 weeks before lambing. Avoid changes such as grass to crops (swedes / kale etc), plantain / chickory to grass (see our last newsletter about plantain) and new grass to old grass.***
- ◆ ***Minimise ewe yarding time for vaccinations or late crutching. Get ewes back on grass as soon as possible. This may mean processing ewes in batches rather than whole flocks at one time.***

Milk fever ewes can be successfully treated if caught early. It always pays to have some injectable calcium and oral calcium on hand at this time of the year to treat ewes ASAP. Don't confuse milk fever with sleepy sickness. The two conditions are similar however milk fever tends to:

- ◆ ***Often be more rapid in onset.***
- ◆ ***Affect more ewes all at once.***
- ◆ ***Be associated with feed changes rather than an outright lack of feed.***
- ◆ ***Often milk fever ewes assume a sitting position with their legs out behind them and have a clear discharge from the nostrils. They may get up when disturbed and waddle off a small distance before stopping and sitting down again.***



## A Stitch In Time Saves Nine!!

This certainly applies to animal health as in many other areas of life. At this time of year delays attending to sick or pregnant animals can result in the rapid escalation of the problem and consequently the costs eventually incurred in rectifying the situation.

As we are all aware dairy farmers in particular need to watch and cut costs as much as possible this season. However we would urge you not to delay in attending to the likes of sick cows or calvings in the hope of saving money. Delays are only likely to add cost to the case in terms of drugs and the time involved. If you are not certain as to what you should do **it still costs nothing** to give us a call early on and discuss the problem!!

## Dog Food Deals

Once docking begins, working dogs have several months of high work loads in front of them. This is the time of the year when feeding a premium quality dog food that can supply the energy and protein requirements your team of dogs needs can be of real benefit.

If you would like to consider using premium dogs foods as part of your feeding regime, contact the clinic to discuss deals and loyalty programmes.



Congratulations to the following people whose names have been drawn out in the 'Pre-Lamb Vaccine and Drench Order' draw. They will each receive a \$60 MTA voucher.

- Shane and Marie Brennan
- Leanne Huston
- Malcolm Leary
- Sam and Pip Trotter
- Damon and Fiona Hurley

Also to Jim Rainey who was drawn out to receive a \$60 voucher in the 'Calf Rearing' draw, and to Jack Brice who will be getting a bottle of Whiskey in the 'Scabby Mouth' draw.

## **WEBSITE**

**<http://huntervillevetclub.co.nz>**

Just a reminder of our website which as well as containing the usual contact details, you will find copies of our current and past newsletters which are a great source of information.

We also have a FOR SALE section that we are happy to advertise and stock, farming equipment, etc that you may have to sell or perhaps you may want to purchase.

## **Our vet Jordan, the day after Hunterville lost the rugby final.**



### **FOR SALE**

**2007 Suzuki JRX 350 4WD**

**13,000 km**

**\$4000 plus GST**

**Phone John Bismark 06 3228021**

**for further details**

### **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

### **HOW TO GROW GOOD VEGES**

A woman loved growing tomatoes, but couldn't seem to get her tomatoes to turn red. One day, while taking a stroll, she came upon a gentleman neighbour who had the most beautiful garden full of huge red tomatoes. The woman asked the gentleman, "What do you do to get your tomatoes so red?" The gentleman responded, "Well, twice a day I stand in front of my tomato garden naked in my trench coat and flash them. My tomatoes turn red from blushing so much."

Well, the woman was so impressed; she decided to try doing the same thing to her tomato garden to see if it would work. So twice a day for two weeks she flashed her garden hoping for the best.

One day the gentleman was passing by and asked the woman, "By the way, how did you make out? Did your tomatoes turn red?" "No", she replied, "but my cucumbers are enormous."