

Dodged a Bullet???

Facial eczema has been rampant around much of the country and we have seen and had cases reported to us. Recent rain did cause spore counts to rise significantly just prior to Easter, especially in warm sheltered areas that caught a shower or two in early March as well.

Fortunately night temperatures have started to cool significantly and spore production appears to have slowed in most areas. We are very fortunate that rain did not arrive 2-3 weeks earlier or things may have been much worse.

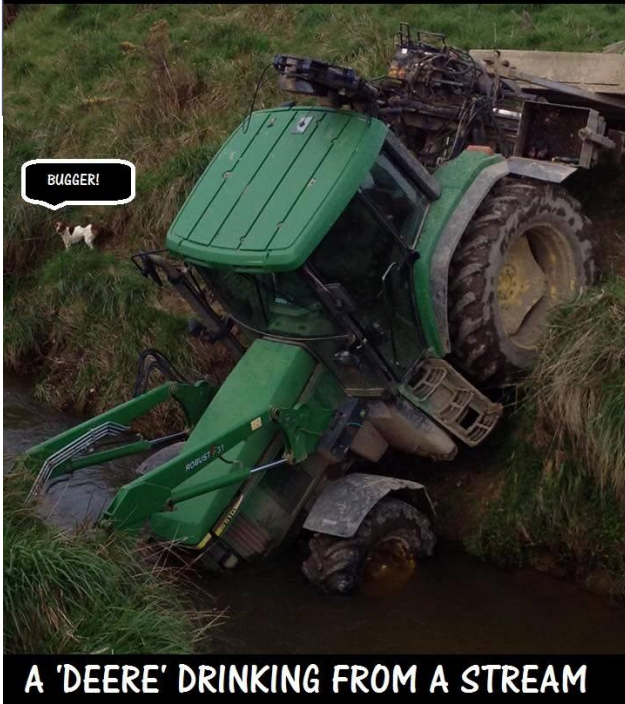
Where clinical cases of eczema are seen it is likely that significant numbers of animals will have been affected without apparent symptoms. It will be interesting to see what this does to scanning percentages this year as on many properties the eczema challenge has coincided with mating.

If you have stock suffering from eczema the following management gives the best chance of recovery.

- Provide very good shade (even a shed where stock can get out of the sun).
- Affected stock require high quality feed that is easy to digest. This reduces the demand on the damaged liver.
- Ensure further exposure to spores is minimised. Use paddocks known or likely to have low spore counts, crops, or feed silage.
- Drenching with Manderson's Mix has been reported to assist affected animals in recovery.
- Dry off any cows showing signs of eczema but continue to feed well.

Animals with clinical eczema that survive but fail to thrive should be culled. It is probably best to cull all hoggets that show any symptoms of eczema, and also give consideration to culling hoggets that seem to lack constitution and perform poorly over Autumn and Winter. (These animals are likely to have sustained liver damage without the classical signs of eczema.)

NZ WILDLIFE

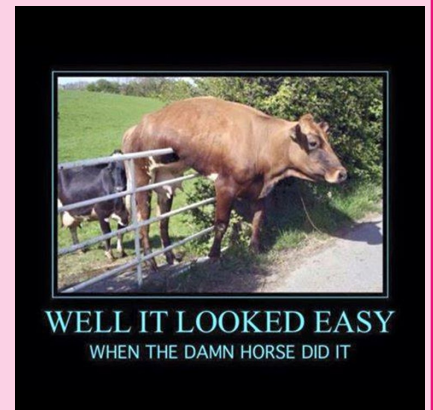


A 'DEERE' DRINKING FROM A STREAM

Autumn Worm Challenges

As has been the norm in the last few seasons we are once again seeing some significant worm challenges on properties. Lambs, 2.2ths and older ewes can all be susceptible especially where feed levels have been limited in recent weeks. The best advice we can give is to:

- Watch all classes of stock for signs of worm challenges—weight loss, failure to put on weight despite good feeding, scouring.
- Continue lamb drenching programmes and do not lengthen intervals without being sure of worm challenges.
- Faecal egg count to check worm burdens and re-infection rates. These samples can also be used to check for the presence of **liver fluke** in ewe flocks where fluke can be a threat.



Autumn Drenching With New Generation Drenches

April is an excellent month to consider the use of the new generation drench families—Zolvix or Startect—as knock out drenches in lambs that are to be wintered. ie. Ewe hogget replacements and long term trade lambs.

Drenching lambs with these drenches will kill worms in the lambs that have survived previous drenches due to their resistant genetics.

Failure to remove these surviving worms allows them to seed your property with eggs that will develop into worms with drench resistant genetics thus allowing further resistance to develop.

Current science and computer modelling supports the theory that using a new family of drench that is 100% effective in the Autumn will significantly slow the development of drench resistance on most properties.

After Hours Vet

Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058

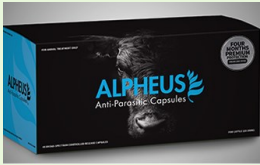
Shop Hours: 8am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday

Email: huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz



Long Acting Drench Capsules for Cattle—Alpheus



This new product has recently been introduced to the market targeting rising 1 year cattle. The capsules contain a combination of Abamectin, Oxfendazole and Levamisole HCl and pay out over 125 days. These capsules may have a place in cattle grazing pastures with high worm burdens such as: ***Bull beef units ***Heifer grazing blocks

On such properties we know the constant worm larval challenge can significantly reduce weight gains and treatment with these capsules could significantly improve performance.

However on many of our clients properties existing drenching programmes combined with good management should be effective in minimising larval challenges meaning there would be little benefit in using these capsules.

As with all persistent long acting products, the use of these capsules has the potential to promote drench resistance if not properly managed.

If you have any questions or interest in using these capsules this Autumn please contact the clinic.



Theileria Update

Over recent months several cases of Theileria have been diagnosed in the Manawatu / Rangitikei region. Theileria has been identified on a farm in Hunterville by our practice.

This disease is spread by ticks and causes anaemia in cattle which can be fatal especially in stressed stock. Ticks tend to be very mobile hitching rides between properties on dogs, horses, deer and trading stock. We expect to see cases of Theileria occur on new properties as infected ticks spread.

Reports from areas where Theileria is a problem suggest that the disease is most significant over late autumn and winter as cows are challenged by the demands of late pregnancy and early lactation.

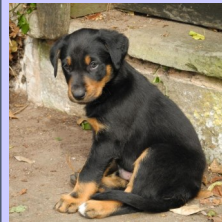
Farmers should be looking for the following signs in cattle that may be caused by Theileria:

- Weight loss and lethargy
- Poor weight gain in dry stock
- Anaemia (pale mucus membranes)

Blood tests will confirm infection.

Farmers sending stock out grazing should establish whether Theileria is a risk factor on the property (especially for pregnant stock).

Contact the clinic for further advice.



Dog Matters

Parvo Pup

We recently treated a pup for parvo at the clinic. Fortunately this has been our first case of parvo for some time as most clients are very good at following vaccination programmes.

Just a reminder:

- ***Vaccinate pregnant bitches 2 weeks prior to whelping**
- ***Vaccinate pups at least twice from 6 weeks of age**

Worming Pregnant Bitches

Any worms a bitch is carrying around whelping are a very important source of infection for her pups. Pregnant bitches should be wormed 14 days prior to the planned whelping date to remove this threat. (She should also receive a parvo vaccination at this time.)

Dry Cow treatments—To Treat Or Not??

Things to consider:

- It is thought that as much as 50% of early season mastitis is contracted over the dry period
- Cows with a history of mastitis or high cell counts are 3 times more likely to get mastitis next season
- Dry cow therapy can be expected to reduce the incidence of peri-calving infections 3 fold
- Cows with poor udder conformation are at significantly greater risk of mastitis
- Aged cows are more susceptible to mastitis
- Heifers are more susceptible to peri-calving mastitis than older cows

Industry advice for dry cow decisions:

- DCT cows with a history of mastitis or other risk factors (poor udder conformation, etc)
- DCT heifers > 120,000 ISCC during any stage of lactation
- DCT cows > 150,000 ISCC during any stage of lactation
- Consider teat seal combined with short acting DCT for cows where peri-calving mastitis has been a significant problem in past seasons.
- Teat sealing heifers where mastitis around calving has been identified as a problem.
- Consider teat sealing for cows / heifers wintered in challenging weather environments (ie grazing crops—fodder beet / kale—or where stand off pads are used).

Best Senior Reply Ever

Two obnoxious businessmen in a new shopping mall were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new shop. As yet, the shop wasn't ready, with only a few shelves set up. One said to the other, "I bet any minute now some senior pensioner is going to walk by, put their face to the window, and ask what we're selling." No sooner were the words out of his mouth when, sure enough, a curious old woman walked to the window, had a peek, and in a soft voice asked, "What are you selling here?" One of the men replied sarcastically, "We're selling ass-holes." Without skipping a beat, the old dear said, "Must be doing well... only two left."