



HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB



NEWSLETTER - May 2016

Pleurisy / Pneumonia In Lambs

Over recent weeks we have fielded many calls regarding sudden death in 'good lambs'. This problem has coincided with high percentages of lambs being reported with pleurisy on kill sheets from many properties.

The pleura is the layer of tissue that covers the lungs, chest wall and diaphragm. When this tissue becomes inflamed adhesions form between the lungs and chest wall or diaphragm. This inflammation is normally the result of lambs suffering from enzootic pneumonia.

Enzootic pneumonia in lambs in New Zealand is an age old problem. It occurs to some extent in most flocks during late summer and autumn, and is caused by a combination of viral and bacterial infections. The number of lambs affected and severity of the condition has been associated with:

- **Shearing at weaning.**
- **Dehydration / poor water**
- **Prolonged yarding / mustering especially in hot dry conditions**
- **Poor quality pastures with fungal toxins present (quite wide spread this year as indicated by the presence of eczema fungi!!)**
- **Other stresses such as high worm challenges**



In a percentage of lambs with pneumonia, the bacteria involved break out into the blood stream and cause a **septicaemia** that results in sudden death. This syndrome can affect better lambs as opposed to the shelly 'chronic' pneumonia lambs.

As pneumonia has a bacterial component to it, those lambs that are chronically affected and end up in very poor condition can often benefit from a treatment with **long acting antibiotics**. Contact the clinic if you have lambs in this category.

High Worm Challenges

As predicted last month we have seen deaths and severe weight loss in lambs due to worms, where drench intervals were extended beyond 3-4 weeks—not always on purpose!!

Don't extend drench intervals for lambs on pasture beyond 3-4 weeks unless you are very certain of the worm challenges likely to have occurred. Four week faecal egg counts can help you get things right!!

PS. These lambs also had problems with pneumonia / pleurisy and facial eczema. These health problems would have compromised the lambs ability to deal with worm challenges.

Nitrate Update

We have begun testing crops / new grasses for nitrate levels before grazing. Dangerous levels have been identified. If the current dry spell continues, nitrate levels are likely to rise when rain does eventually occur and plants begin to grow again and take up nitrogen that has accumulated in the soil after the dry period.

Angus Broon of Glasgow, Scotland, comes to the little lady of the house exclaiming,
"Maggie, cud ya be sewin on a wee button that's come off of ma fly? I can't button ma pants."
"Oh Angus, I've got ma hands in the dishpan, go next door and see if Mrs. MacDonald could be helpin ya with it."
About 5 minutes later, there's a terrible crash, a bang, a bit of yelling and the sound of a body falling down stairs.
Walking back in the door with a blackened eye and a bloody nose comes Angus.

The little lady looks at him and says, "My god, what happened to ya? Did you ask her like I told you?"

"Aye," says Angus. "I asked her to sew on the wee button, an she did, everything was goin' fine but when she bent doon to bite off the wee thread, Mr MacDonald walked in."

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



Genetic Susceptibility to Eczema in Sheep and Cattle

Observing eczema outbreaks in recent weeks has reinforced the fact that there are significant differences between breeds and within breeds in both sheep and cattle when it comes to eczema susceptibility.

There have been numerous cases of eczema outbreaks on farms where next door neighbours have had very little eczema, or even within farms where problems have been worse in certain types of genetics.

For the past 5 years we have watched spore counts rise toward dangerous levels but things have settled just in time. If our summer and autumns are going to follow recent trends the threat of facial eczema outbreaks is likely to grow. Eczema was widespread in Ohakune and Raetihi for the first time ever this year!! If this is the case we probably need to review the value of identifying and using sires with proven eczema resistance.

From a dairy perspective information coming out of the Waikato has highlighted the fact that a lot of overseas dairy genetics have very limited tolerance to eczema (although there do appear to be certain strains that do).

Drenches For Weaner Cattle

As is the case with lamb drenches, current advice is to use 'combination type' drenches in young cattle. If oral drenching is practical (quiet stock and good head bails!) double and triple combination products are a good option—Matrix and Switch.

When oral drenching is not practical, injectable combination drenches—Eclipse E and Boss—are very cost effective (\$3.00 for a 300kg weaner).



An 82 year old man went to the doctor for a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking along the street whistling with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great aren't you." "Just doing what you said doc; Get a hot mamma and be cheerful." The doctor said, "I didn't say that... I said, You've got a heart murmur, be careful!"

Addresses for Mail Outs

Every so often we send out a message via email containing some timely information. If you would like to be included on this list please either phone the vet club or send an email to kerin@huntervillevetclub.co.nz.

Bathtub Test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a Nursing Home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"



Palm Kernel / Grain for Cattle

With the dairy down turn the cost of PK and grain have come back significantly. With current beef values using these feeds to assist in wintering cattle and promoting growth rates may be a viable option. They are a cheaper feed source than baleage at \$80 / bale. Experience over recent winters has demonstrated that making such feeds available to cattle on crops or being break fed can significantly enhance growth rates. There are some pitfalls / traps that need to be negotiated but these are quite manageable.

Contact the clinic if you would like to discuss options.



New Digital X-ray Processor

We have recently invested in a \$35,000 Digital X-ray processor. This machine will significantly improve the speed we can process x-rays and as well, makes a great improvement in the quality and diagnostic value of our x-rays. This will be a real asset to our small animal business given the number of small animal cases we now do.