

## LOW PHOSPHORUS LEVELS ON FODDER BEET

In recent weeks we have blood tested cows on fodder beet to assess mineral status. A constant finding has been generalised low blood phosphorus levels, despite cows being supplemented with phosphorus.

Low phosphorus levels that persist to calving can complicate and intensify milk fever issues close to and at calving. Ensuring cows get back onto grass for at least 3 weeks prior to calving will help improve blood phosphorus levels (grass has excellent phosphorus levels).

However we have also recommended that phosphorus supplementation to cows on beets be improved.



Mineral supplementation licks have not been proven to be sufficient, it has also been necessary to dust hay or silage with a slurry of DCP powder (not dry powder as it just falls off the feed!!).

If you have cows on fodder beet and have not checked phosphorus levels it may pay to do so.



## LOW EGG COUNTS

A good portion of the mixed age ewes we carried out faecal egg counts on in July had results indicating low levels of a worm challenge in the ewe flock. These results tended to support the owners views on ewe condition being pretty good.

Where this situation has occurred pre lamb drenching with short acting oral drenches is of limited benefit (there are not many worms to kill!!) and our recommendation has been to drench light ewes only pre-lamb.

Once ewes lamb and begin to lactate their immunity to worms will drop away and a worm burden may build up, but short term drenches pre lamb will not prevent this. Drenching ewes at docking is a more appropriate way to deal with this worm build up if it occurs.

## A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Cinderella is now 95 years old. After a fulfilling life, she is now a widow, she happily sits in her rocking chair with her cat Bob to keep her company. One sunny afternoon out of nowhere, the fairy godmother appeared. Cinderella said "Fairy Godmother, what are you doing here after all these years?" The fairy godmother replied "Cinderella, you have lived an exemplary life since I last saw you, is there anything for which your heart still yearns for?"

Cinderella was overjoyed and after some thought replied, "My prince was wonderful, but not much of an investor. I'm living hand to mouth on my pension and I wish to be wealthy again." Instantly her rocking chair turned to solid gold. The fairy godmother then asked, "What do you want for your second wish?" Cinderella looked down at her frail body, and said, "I wish I were young and full of the beauty and youth I once had." At once, her wish became reality and she was young and beautiful again and she felt stirrings inside her that had been dormant for years.

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The fairy godmother spoke once more, "You have one more wish, what shall it be?" Cinderella looked over to the frightened cat in the corner and said, "I wish for you to transform Bob, my old cat, into a kind and handsome young man." Magically, Bob was transformed into the most handsome man Cinderella had ever seen.

The fairy godmother said, "Congratulations Cinderella, enjoy your new life" and disappeared in a flash of blue light. Bob and Cinderella looked lovingly into each other's eyes, he held her in his young muscular arms. Bob leaned in close, blowing her golden hair with his warm breath as he whispered...."Bet you're sorry that you had my nuts cut off!!"

## AFTER HOURS VET

**Emergencies - 06 322 8058**

**Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm**

Monday to Friday

**Email - [huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz)**

## FIELD DAY POINTS

Thanks to all those who attended our recent sheep farmers field day, it was a great turnout. Some of the take home messages were;

### FACIAL ECZEMA

(1) Breeding eczema tolerance into your sheep flock is an excellent option where eczema is a real threat.

- Eczema tolerance has good heritability. (40%)
- Breeders using the FE Gold testing program have the leading proven FE genetics.
- Use the SIL website to identify suitable studs.
- In general the longer breeders have been testing and the higher levels of sporodesmin used for testing the greater the levels of FE tolerance in sale rams.
- Use FE breeding values when selecting rams.
- For advice on Ram selection contact Beef and Lamb genetics.

## FREE EGG COUNTS

Please remember if you use Drench Capsules or Long Acting Injection we are happy to carry out **FREE FECs** on the ewes treated. Generally docking is an excellent time to collect samples.

If you are spending significant sums on these products, it makes sense to check they are working!!! It is also important to realise that these treatments will have to fail significantly before you will be able to observe that they are not working effectively. Faecal egg counts will detect problems at a much earlier stage.

Make sure you check your ewes / hoggets this year!!!

(2) Every farm is different when it comes to FE. Spore counting on your property is the most valuable way of understanding the FE challenge on your property.

### DRENCH RESISTANCE

(3) As from September Zolvix will only be available as a combination drench, (Monepantel and Abamectin). This development is in line with current thinking that combination drenches have distinct advantages over single action drenches.

(4) Ivermectin / Cydectin resistance is widespread at low levels on farms in our patch (as indicated by the low egg counts seen in capsule or long acting injection treated ewes). See the free egg counts article on the importance of checking Faecal egg counts from these ewes at docking.

(5) Farmers need to understand the principle of "Refugia" using an ineffective drench in low Refugia situations can lead to rapid resistance developments. (If you don't understand Refugia talk to a vet or someone else who does!!)

(6) Triple drench resistance has been identified in Hunterville, this situation developed where lambs carrying resistant worms were purchased and drenched with a triple action drench into a "Low Refugia" environment.

(7) Finding (6) now means that triple drenches cannot now be considered the most appropriate quarantine drench. Zolvix or Startect should be considered.

(8) Talking about worms is thirsty work if the amount of beer consumed and the time the stragglers went home is anything to go by!!!!!!

**Anyone looking for Pallets?  
We have plenty! Help yourself at  
the back of the storeroom shed.**

## JOHNES DISEASE IN DAIRY COWS, CONTROLLING THE PROBLEM

This disease can become a real problem in dairy herds if not managed correctly. Many dairy herds in our area have had Johnes Disease animals detected in recent years. To ensure the disease does not get worse the following management programmes should be followed.

- (1) Act quickly to identify and blood test cows that have symptoms typical of Johnes Disease. Cull positives ASAP as they are very infectious to young stock.
- (2) Keep calves away from effluent paddocks.
- (3) Never retain heifer calves from cows infected with Johnes.
- (4) Don't graze replacement heifers in the crook cow paddock or worse still, mix suspicious Johnes cows with young stock.
- (5) Don't feed colostrum from suspicious cows to your calves.

Johnes cows tend to show up at this time of the year, look out for them!  
*(Basically poor condition cows normally with diarrhoea).*

## INDUSTRY FIELD DAY

There is going to be an **Otiwhiti Sheep Industry Field day** that you may be interested in attending.

When - **Wednesday 14th September**

What time - **1.30 - 4.30pm**

Who's speaking - Dr. Richard Lee (Sheep Programme Manager, Focus Genetics, Duncan Thomas (H&T Agronomics) and Martin Walshe followed by a BBQ at 4pm

For more info you can contact Norm Alderson, Focus Genetics on 027 446 9884