

## BULL POWER

Dairy farmers should be making plans to ensure they have sufficient bull power on hand this season. Last year at pregnancy testing we identified properties where high empty rates were related to insufficient bull power. (Either from a simple lack of bulls or a high rate of bull failure).

As a very minimum you require 1 sound, mature bull for every 30 empty cows you expect to have at the end of AI. You can obviously reduce bull requirements by extending AI programmes. It is also necessary to be confident about the conception rates you are likely to achieve.

We would urge caution whenever yearling bulls are considered. They must be well grown and we would advise

checking semen quality to ensure they are sufficiently mature. On occasions when testing yearlings we find high numbers that have poor fertility, generally due to being under grown or too young.

Remember when purchasing bulls they should be:

- BVD blood tested clear
- EBL blood tested clear
- Fully BVD vaccinated  
*(ie 2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart)*
- Fully lepto vaccinated  
*(ie 2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart)*

And remember to BVD and lepto older bulls you may have on hand.



# HVC

## YOUR CLUB

# SEP 16

## AGM REMINDER

We are having our AGM on the 15th of September at 7.30pm, held at the Rangatira Golf Club. Guest Speaker is Te Radar.

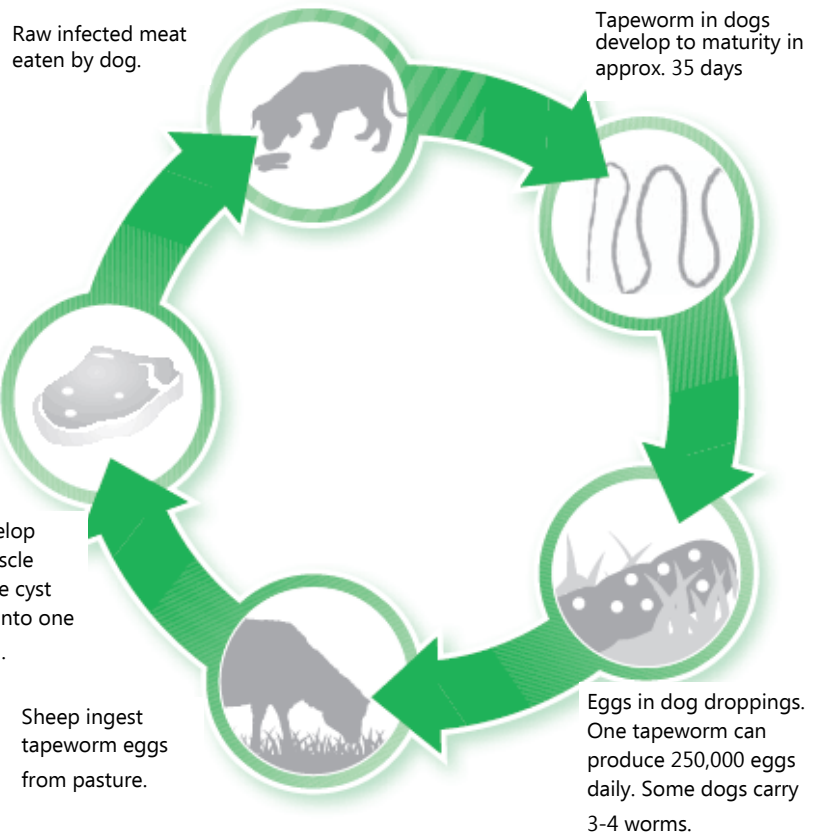
**Please RSVP by 9th September.**

## SHEEP MEASLES TIME

This is the time of the year with increased numbers of dead ewes and lambs around that dogs are most likely to become infected with sheep measles. The best idea to avoid this problem is to ensure you dose your dogs every 4-6 weeks.

Sheep measles remains a very real threat as outlined in a recent report we received from Ovis Management NZ. A line of 293 at slaughter had 263 with Ovis lesions, of which 38 were condemned. Serious discussion was held around condemning the whole line!!

If you don't have your dogs on a regular dosing program contact the clinic and we can set one up for you.



## ODD REQUEST

Bert went to visit his local vet, "Doc," he said sadly, "I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to please cut off my dog's tail." The vet stepped back, shocked. "Bert, why would I want to do such a terrible thing?" Well, my mother-in-law's arriving tomorrow, and I don't want anything to make her think she's welcome."



## 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)**

## 10 IN 1 VERSUS 5 IN 1

We seemed to have received several enquiries from farmers recently as to whether they should be using 10 in 1 vaccination as opposed to 5 in 1.

5 in 1 vaccination has been used for many years to control the most common clostridial diseases seen in NZ. However there are several other strains of clostridia that can also cause deaths in ruminants under the right conditions. These conditions do not normally occur with sheep / cattle grazing grass pastures but may occur when stock have access to high quality feeds (brassicas, plantain/chicory, grain diets, etc).

The cost of 10 in 1 versus 5 in 1 is \$1.19inc as opposed to \$0.59inc based on cattle dose rates.

10 in 1 vaccination should be considered in the following circumstances.

- On properties where there seem to be too many unexplained sudden deaths in sheep or cattle despite 5 in 1 vaccinations.
- For stock, (especially cattle given their high value) that are likely to graze brassicas, high quality forages or cereals.

Contact the office for more info.



## BEEF COW MAG LEVELS

If you have worries about the risks that grass staggers might pose to your cow herd over the next month or two give consideration to blood testing some older cows to assess magnesium levels.

Magnesium deficiency is more likely to occur in the following circumstances:

- Older cows (staggers are very rare in first calvers).
- Cows grazing short spring grown grass.
- Cows grazing pastures where soil magnesium levels are low and potash levels are high.
- Cows grazing pastures treated with nitrogen.

## LOUSY CATTLE, TO TREAT OR NOT?!

At this time of year we often field calls from clients worried about lousy cattle with bare necks and whether they should treat them. While lice infestations in cattle can look bad there is very little data to show any production responses to treatment, provided the animals are being well fed. So decisions around treatment really come down to choices around how you like your cattle to look!!

Untreated cattle will generally do a lot of rubbing, lose those winter coats and lice populations will decline as spring and summer advance. For cow herds where weaners are sold there may be an argument to treat cows before calving to prevent the transfer of lice to their calves thus ensuring their calves look in top order at weaning. This would also apply to store cattle to be sold in late spring or early summer.

The one time treatment should definitely occur is where cattle have been severely stressed and are in very poor order. Such animals can harbour extremely high lice populations.

Treatment options can be

- Simple lice pour-ons (Tempor) which treat lice only, priced around \$1.39 for a 500kg animal.
- Ivermectin/Cydectin based Pour Ons which also offer worm control, from \$1.43 for a 500kg animal. (Price of the Combat Topline P/O).

*Note that Ivermectin injections will kill sucking lice but can struggle to kill biting lice.*



## LAMB OR CHICKEN?

In an attempt to breed the perfect roast lamb, Martin lambed this deformed animal. It's doubtful you'll be seeing any of these grazing (would be hard considering it has no head) or making it to the supermarket shelves, but it does look a lot like a 90's cartoon character.



## DOCKING FEC COUNTS

We have started to do the first faecal egg counts from early lambing ewes that are about to have lambs docked. Some high egg counts have been seen in both ewes that were drenched prior to lambing and in ewes that were undrenched pre-lamb. Where these high counts correlate with poor ewe condition, the ewes are most likely to benefit from a docking drench.

Remember if you used capsules or long acting injection to collect faecal samples at or around docking to assess how well they have worked on your property. These counts will be carried out **free of charge**.

**Just a reminder to get those Docking Order Forms in ASAP, Thank You!**