



SALMONELLA DEATHS

Noted any deaths in your ewe flock for no obvious reasons this summer? If you have, consider salmonella as a possibility! In wet growthy summers like this one, salmonella death tends to be common; likely due to the salmonella bacteria surviving for much longer in damp conditions than in summer dry conditions.

Salmonella outbreaks often start with the occasional death and multiple deaths are not seen until much later. We dealt with two early stage outbreaks in mid February where owners noted a couple of big fat dead ewes for no reason!!

Vaccination is almost always highly cost effective where salmonella deaths are identified and the savings are greatest where problems are identified early and immediate action is taken.

LADIES LONG LUNCH

On Friday the 24th March, Beef and Lamb NZ and the Western North Island Farm Council are hosting a Ladies Long Lunch at Rathmoy Lodge. The purpose of the day is to celebrate women as critical farming partners. It will be a chance to get off farm and spend time with like minded ladies. Guest speaker is Sarah Donaldson.

Tickets cost \$30 each.

Registration form can be found at: www.beeflambnz.com/news-events/events-calendar/ladies-long-lunch/

Or contact Fi Dalgety 021 222 8460

RAPE SCALD

This summer we have had several enquiries regarding swollen heads and ears in lambs grazing rape crops. The condition known as "Rape Scald" is generally seen when lambs graze immature crops that are still actively growing. With the great growing conditions we have experienced, crops have taken longer to mature than normal.

Various rape cultivars have different "maturity dates" ranging from 70 to 100 days. So where grazing is required sooner after sowing, shorter maturity rape cultivars should be sown.

Although rape scald looks bad on affected lambs, they generally recover rapidly without treatment if they are removed from the crop and given good feed and shade. Added fly protection should also be considered.

When scald does occur, many lambs will not be affected and these lambs can generally be left on the crop.

Finally, if the scald is bad enough to affect the back of the lamb, these lambs should not be sent to slaughter until the lesions have healed and will not bleed if scrapped or knocked.

WOOLLY BALLS

While checking rams over the last few weeks, I noted a number of wool breed rams with **too much wool on their scrotums**. Too much wool leads to high scrotal temperatures that can limit sperm production and quality in hot conditions.

Wool should be removed from scrotums at least 6 weeks prior to mating (the time it takes for sperm to be produced and mature).

Shearers don't seem to be too good at doing this despite the \$\$\$ shearing cost! (as demonstrated by the rams I have checked with woolly scrotums!).

Either insist they do it or do it yourself!!



COMPUTER WIZZ

I had a problem with my computer yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like mission control and asked him to come over.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?" He replied, "it was an ID ten T error." I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, "an, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again". Eric grinned.... "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?" "No," I replied. "Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out." So I wrote it down: ID10T

I used to like Eric, the little bastard.

LIGHT COWS

With pregnancy testing under way in dairy herds, it has been interesting to observe cow condition. While most cows are in good order there are still a number of 'light cows' in most herds. In some cases these cows are empty however where these cows are pregnant they present a challenge.

In seasons such as this with plenty of feed it is easy to assume that 'cows are being well fed' and everything will be fine! For those light cows this will generally not be the case.

AMELIA'S FUN DAY

Amelia Bennett is a 9yr old girl from Wanganui, who has been battling cancer since the 18th of February 2016. There is a Family fun day to fundraise for the Bennett family.

Sunday 12th March 2017 -

Western Line, Wanganui.

There will be Motorbike & Mountain Bike Rides and a Stock & Charity Auction. Registrations from 8am, \$20 per rider for the flat track 9am to 4pm, \$5 per rider for the Family track. Stock & Charity auction to be held @ 12pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Amelia's Family Fun Day.

TO PRE-TUP DRENCH??

Many ewe flocks are in very good order and generally the faecal egg counts we have carried out have shown low worm burdens in MA ewe flocks. Some 2-2th flocks have higher burdens and require drenching. If there are no worms then pre-tup drenching will achieve very little, and not drenching can be a wise option.

If you feel your ewes are in good order and you are not going to drench, just remember to think about selenium. Low selenium levels can affect ewe fertility. If you aren't going to drench with a selenised drench, lack of selenium could be an issue. Selenium requirements can easily be checked by blood testing 4-5 ewes.

You need to actively identify and manage these cows.

There are a lot more options for putting weight on these cows now than in the middle of winter 4-8 weeks before calving!!

Once a day milking, drying off early, increased supplementary feed, and milking and feeding separately are all options. The important point is to act now!

FACIAL ECZEMA

Facial eczema spores are present at most sites we monitor. Levels are generally low 5000 - 10000. One of the sites has shown a rise up to 30000. With cool nights and little rain in the last 2 weeks, weather conditions in our area have not been favourable for rapid increases in spore numbers.

However, last year spore counts at this time were also generally low (it was hot but too dry). Rain from mid March and a very warm damp April saw spore counts explode. A change to warm damp northerly weather patterns could see this happen again, but currently it doesn't seem likely.

Spore count information can be found on the Vet Club website under the blog section and are updated weekly. www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz or phone the clinic if you have queries.

PORINA FLIGHTS

Last week saw some huge Porina flights in this area. The Hunterville Service Centre forecourt looked like it had hailed Porina one morning!!!

If the eggs from these flights hatch and survive it should be possible to identify Porina grubs by digging in 10-12 weeks time. Put that date in your diary if you noticed the flights at your place and dig a few holes to see what the Porina populations are like.

BANK LOAN

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her name plate that the teller's name is Patricia Whack. So, he says, "Mrs. Whack, I'd like to get a loan to buy a boat and go on a long vacation." Patti looks at the frog in disbelief and asks how much he wants to borrow. The frog says "\$30,000." The teller asks his name and the frog says that his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it is OK, he knows the bank manager. Patti explains that \$30,000 is a substantial amount of money and that he will need to secure some collateral against the loan. She asks if he has anything he can use as collateral. The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny pink porcelain pig, about half an inch tall. Bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patti explains that she'll have to consult with the manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the manager and says: "There is a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000. And he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink pig. "I mean, what the heck is this?"

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knick knack, Patti Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."



Photo's of Porina moth and grub



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz