

## CHANGING DRENCHES TO KNOCKOUT WORMS!

Lambs still on farm either trade lambs or replacement ewe lambs will have been drenched several times at this point. The risk is that these lambs could now be carrying burdens of “resistant worms” that have survived the drenching program to date.

If this resistant worm population is allowed to live and lambs are wintered these worms will continue to shed eggs with resistant genetics onto the farm through the winter and spring. These resistant worm eggs will then contribute to next years “worm challenge”.

Knocking these resistant worms out before winter is an excellent management strategy in lambs that are to be wintered. Zolvix or Startect are the drenches of choice to effectively achieve this. Contact the clinic for further advice.

## COUNTRY POLITICS

Bruce was leaning on a bar in a country pub chatting to the locals, when the subject turned to politics.

“I can’t stand that Andrew Little, he’s got a face like a sheep’s arse,” he said.

He was immediately thrown out the doors, landing in the middle of the main street.

“What was all that about?” he asked, dusting himself down in a daze.

“I did not realise you would feel so strongly, is this Labour Party territory?”

“No,” said a rather indignant farmer, “this is sheep territory.”

## PNEUMONIA IN WEANER BULLS

In recent weeks we have been investigating deaths in weaner bulls that have been confirmed as being caused by pneumonia. Outbreaks of pneumonia in cattle are relatively rare and as with pneumonia in lambs tends to be associated with stressors which damage the lungs, or reduce immunity allowing bacterial infections to establish.

These stressors include;

- Lung worm infections and poor drenching programs
- Poor colostrum intake and rearing conditions
- BVD and IBR viral infections
- Fog Fever
- Trace element deficiencies

In the outbreaks of pneumonia investigated one was associated with lung worm challenge and the other fog fever.

Treatment with long acting antibiotics was carried out and proved to be relatively effective.

## VET CERTS

As cows are weaned or dried off, cull cows will be sent to the works. Remember that animals with abnormalities require vet certificates for transport and slaughter. We must view the affected animal and certificates only last for 7 days from the time of issue. Generally animals will also be required to be transported to the “closest works”. On the certificate this will be stated and must be complied with (ie don’t send an animal to Eltham if the certificate states Riverlands Bulls!!)

Things that require certificates include

- Lameness - damaged limbs or backs
- Cancer eyes
- Skin wounds or growths
- Abnormally light animals

These rules also apply to deer, sheep and goats.

If you are unsure about the need to get a certificate before slaughter then you should call the clinic.

Check weaner cattle closely for signs of ill health;

- Poor weight gain / condition loss
- Coughing
- Breathing distress (in the worst cases the animal will stand with its neck stretched out and be panting).

## PERITONITIS IN LAMBS AT SLAUGHTER

I recently spent an afternoon at the a meat works with a client investigating why he should have had a high incidence and down grading of lambs because of peritonitis. Previous lines of lambs killed off brassica crops or chicory had up to 8% of lambs affected and no one seemed to be able to explain why. I have also experienced this problem when killing lambs off plantain.

Unfortunately or fortunately this line of lambs we followed had very little peritonitis. However there were enough cases to take samples for investigation. **If anyone reading this newsletter has had similar problems I would appreciate hearing from you** and establishing the lambs diet history in the weeks before slaughter.

Ps. Although we did not see much peritonitis There was a relatively high incidence of **vaccination lesions**. Fortunately the lambs had been vaccinated high up on the neck and trimming could occur without carcass down grading. However it did appear that injections in some cases were given I/M rather than subcut as recommended and I suspect needle hygiene was also a bit substandard!!

If vaccinating trade lambs with 5in1 ensure you use a good technique and if lambs are to be killed within three weeks of vaccination we would generally recommend to avoid vaccinating at such short intervals before slaughter.



## SPEYING BITCHES

Spey surgery is a common, routine procedure and there are benefits of speying bitches that are not going to be used for breeding.

- **Mammary tumours:** These tumours are hormone driven and approximately half of these will be aggressive tumours that spread to internal organs and bones. If you spey your dog before her first heat, the incidence of mammary tumours is 0.5%. If she has had more than 1 heat her incidence rises to 8%. If she has had more than 2 heats and is over 2.5 years old, this rises to 40%.
- **Pyometra:** this is a uterine infection and is life threatening in dogs. The most effective way to prevent this is with speying.
- **Avoiding heats:** This saves trips to the vet to suppress heats in your dog and keeps your male dogs mind on their jobs, not on the bitches.
- **Unwanted pregnancies:** Pregnancies take your dog out of work and it is costly to abort puppies, large huntaways typically cost \$285.

If you are planning on using your dog for breeding, the optimum time for this is when she is in her younger years i.e. 3-7 years old. Fertility and litter size decrease with age. Puppy deaths increase with age and can be as high as 80% in 8 year old dogs due to age of the bitch.

Contact the clinic if you would like to discuss any of this further.



## SENSELESS SALMONELLA

I have had reports of Salmonella effecting ewe flocks and dairy herds in neighbouring areas. While Salmonella has always been a problem in sheep it has become more of an issue in dairy herds as grain/meal feeding has become more widespread. Which seems to attract wildlife such as birds that can carry Salmonella.

Salmonella is a disease that really does not need to be a risk to your farming operation. The Salmonella vaccine Salvexin is extremely effective and many of our ewe flocks and dairy herds are vaccinated.

Vaccinations programs can be relatively low cost where only animals entering the flock or herd are vaccinated. While this may not be the "packet recommendation" it does appear to be very effective in our area.

Annual costs;

300 cow herd, introducing 90 heifers.

\$ 144.00

3000 ewe flock, introducing 900 2-2ths

\$720.00

## R.I.P OLD BLUE XA3195 - 1997 - 530,000 KMS

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of this loyal and faithful servant. Son of Red NW923 - 521,000kms.

Thanks to the team at the Hunterville Service Centre for their care for Blue in the final Km's!!

Please now wave at the Shiny (for the time being) Silver Honda.



## WORM PILL UPDATES

Just a reminder to update your worm pill program. If you have a staffing change or get more / less dogs, or if you change address.

Please contact the clinic so we can make the appropriate changes to your program.

## CONVEYOR STAFF

We are looking for more conveyor staff to be available for Capsule season. The season is July- August pretty much full time. This is quite a physical job with attractive pay rates.

Please contact Kerin at the Clinic if interested.

## 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)**