



## MAGNESIUM SHORTAGES

Several weeks ago we advised our dairy clients that it was likely that magnesium products could be in short supply this spring, as a result of supply issues out of China. It appears that this is now the case and traditional suppliers have limited or no stock. Dairy farmers who have not secured magnesium supplements for spring at this stage may be facing real issues with finding products. We would advise you to address this issue immediately.

This problem may also affect beef cow herds where magnesium supplementation occurs. If you use magnesium capsules or other products please contact the clinic ASAP and give us some indication of your requirements, so we can put product aside for you.

## PART TIME OFFICE AND SHOP WORK

We are looking for someone who would be available for part time work at the clinic to cover busy times or times when staff are away. Some flexibility with work hours would be necessary.

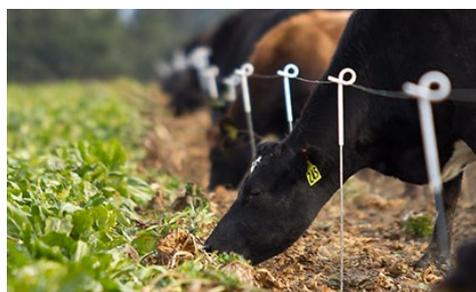
Computer skills would be an advantage. Please contact Kerin Ratima if interested on 027 322 8462.

## DON'T DROP THE BALL WITH FODDER BEET!!

A word of caution. Those of you feeding fodder beet may be becoming confident in your methods and the results, but you continue to handle a time bomb as events in recent weeks have shown. Round the Rangitikei, Manawatu and even among our own clients there have been cattle deaths (over 60 dairy cows in one herd due to acidosis). Ensure you stay on top of your game - make sure electric fences are working and erected correctly. Cows know what beets are now and breakouts in hungry herds can spell **DISASTER**.

- Ensure workers understand your grazing protocols so changes to feeding routines don't occur.
- Check your stock frequently.
- Stock on restricted intakes of beets are at the greatest risk of acidosis if sudden access to fodder beet occurs.

If you have any questions or concerns about your feeding routine, contact the clinic.



## LIVER FLUKE REMINDER

In recent weeks we have identified liver fluke infections as a threat in 2 ewe flocks. While liver fluke had been seen on these properties in the past it does not appear to have been a problem in the last two seasons. However liver fluke egg counts that were carried out after liver fluke were noted in dog tucker ewes revealed that significant liver fluke infection was widespread in the ewe flock (although ewes to date were in good order).

Both farms were advised to drench the entire ewe flock for liver fluke and also to treat cattle over one year old.

Our suspicion is that recent dry seasons have lead to increased grazing into wet

## GROANER

Two green beans were crossing the highway when one was hit by a semi. His friend scrapes him up and rushes him to the hospital. After hours of surgery the doctor comes in and says, "I have some good news and some bad news." The healthy bean says "Ok, give me the good news first." The doctor says, "The good news is that he is going to live." "So," says the green bean, "What's the bad news?"

"The bad news is he'll be a vegetable for the rest of his life."

## THE POPE AND THE DON

The Pope the Trump are on the same stage in Yankee stadium in front of a huge crowd.

The Pope leans towards Trump and says, "Do you know that with one little wave of my hand I can make every person in this crowd go wild with joy? This joy will not be a momentary display, but will go deep into their hearts and they'll forever speak of this and rejoice!"

Trump replied, "I seriously doubt that! With one little wave of your hand...Show me!" So the Pope backhanded him and knocked him off the stage!

And the crowd roared and cheered wildly, and there was happiness throughout the land!

areas resulting in a gradual build up in the number of infected sheep and cattle. This led to more fluke eggs being deposited onto pasture over winter and spring. A wet summer has been great for infected snail survival and the spread of liver fluke, resulting in increased numbers of stock picking up fluke over late spring and summer when livestock infection occurs.

If you have previously had problems with liver fluke or have "skinny ewes" appearing as lambing approaches consider liver fluke as a possibility and call the clinic to discuss the best "course of action".

## LEPTOSPIROSIS IN DAIRY HERDS

Recent nation wide studies have demonstrated that while most dairy herds are free of Hardjo and Pomona strains of Leptospirosis (the ones in the Lepto vaccine) Lepto Tarassovi is an emerging problem, this strain is not covered by vaccination and can spread to cattle through wildlife such as rats, mice, hedgehogs etc. Obviously vaccination is not currently an option, so it makes good sense to control rodent populations around cow sheds, feed pads etc. to minimize the chances of infection.

Owners should also ensure their workers practice good hygiene;

- Wash hands
- No smoking while milking or handling cattle
- Cover cuts and wounds
- Wear protective clothing/ gloves/ overalls.

PS. Remember it is essential to vaccinate calves for Lepto before the calves become infected (vaccination will not cure infection, it prevents infection). For spring calving dairy herds this means **2 vaccinations need to be given before Christmas.**

## IODINE FOR PREGNANT EWES/HOGGETS

Lack of iodine has been implicated with poor lamb survival at birth, due to newborn lambs being more susceptible to chilling and exposure as they are less able to control body temperature. While we have generally failed to identify iodine problems in sheep grazing pasture, pre lamb we have seen problems with pregnant sheep grazing brassica crops.

Our general recommendation is that if you graze pregnant sheep on brassica in the second half of pregnancy they should be treated with an oral iodine drench as they go onto the crop and again as they come off the crop if they are on crop for more than 3 weeks.



## A HELP FOR TRIPLET EWES??

Scanning generally seems to have gone relatively well for most ewe flocks in our area, and there are larger numbers of triplet ewes on some properties. If you have identified triplet ewes you may wish to consider treating older ewes (not 2.2ths) with Vitamin A D and E injection. Our suspicion has been that using this product improves ewes and lamb survival in triplet ewes and the experience of farmers who have trialled it has also been positive.

Heavily pregnant older ewes are at a greater risk of milk fever (hypocalcaemia). Clinically this leads to ewe deaths and sub clinically can lead

to prolonged or delayed lambing resulting in increased lamb deaths. A trial carried out last season in the King Country demonstrated that lamb and ewe survival was improved in triplet ewes that were treated with A D and E injection (but not 2.2th ewes).

Contact Martin to discuss this topic.

PS. I can almost guarantee that identifying triplet ewes, feeding them very well and lambing them all together will be a disaster. BUT there are management protocols that will be successful and will work for those motivated enough to try them!!

## ALL DOLLED UP

A husband and wife had been married for 60 years, they had no secrets, except for one. In her wardrobe the wife kept a shoebox that she forbade her husband from opening. It wasn't till she was on her death bed that she gave him permission to open the box. He opened the box and found a little croqueted doll and \$95,000 cash. She said "My mother told me that the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue," she explained. "Instead, I should keep quiet and crochet a doll." Her husband was touched. Only one doll in the box - that meant she had only been angry with him once in 60 years. "But what about all this money?" he asked. "Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the dolls."



## CALF DISBUDDING - PLEASE BOOK IN EARLY

Knocking calves out and dehorning them has become a very popular choice for most of you who rear calves and at times we struggle to have sufficient "human power" to keep up. Please notify us of your requirements ahead of time. Calves are best dehorned round 3-4 weeks of age before they get too big. This minimizes the amount of sedation required and horn bulbs are easier to remove properly.

## 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)**