

## CHALLENGING TIMES

The weather gods have certainly thrown some significant challenges at many of our members over the last month. Despite the snow, rain and wet conditions most farmers and their stock seem to be dealing relatively well with the situation.

Feeding stock well and good animal health and husbandry at this time of the year sets up potential productivity and profitability for the rest of the year. Stay on top of your game and make decisions on time, when necessary and if your uncertain, seek advice.

Bring on some global warming for August and September!! (We had enough climate change in July!!)



## CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINATION FOR CATTLE

At this time of the year we often hear about or investigate the sudden death of cattle. Normally younger animals are involved but not always. Often the cattle are being break fed either on grass or crops of some description.

Where animals “blow up” very quickly after death and rapidly go rotten, clostridial disease is high on the list of possible diagnoses. As we have advised in previous newsletters, and given the current value of cattle, it makes sense to vaccinate cattle against clostridial diseases.

10 in 1 vaccine will cover the 5 clostridial diseases covered by 5in1 vaccination but also cover a further 5 clostridial conditions



## POISONING AFTER THE SNOW

As well as presenting plenty of logistical issues and giving some the opportunity to try winter camping at home, we have seen some interesting animal health issues.

On one property ewes died about a week after the snow. Before death they developed swollen heads and ears that looked very similar to facial eczema. Blood tests confirmed liver damage and given where the ewes were grazing this was most likely to have been caused by Ngaio tree branches that came down with the snow.

Deaths of ewes on another property that occurred in only one paddock appear to have been the result of sheep grazing Tutu.

In areas where trees or branches came down it would pay to still be cautious, especially if ewes or cattle are on rotation or being pushed. Be especially careful when it comes to pregnant cows and access to macrocampa or radiata pine, which if grazed, will cause abortions.



## RAISING PUPPIES

A lot of our members breed working and companion dogs successfully, however, puppy death is an all too common occurrence. Puppies need to be kept warm, dry and clean with full bellies. The most common cause of puppy death is hypothermia. During the first four days of life, they need an ambient temperature of between 29-32 degrees which drops slowly to 22 degrees after 4 weeks. If your bitch's milk hasn't come in straight away or if she is feeding a lot of puppies you can supplement in the first four days with additional powdered colostrum and then after with puppy milk or Anlamb powder. Vaccinating your bitch for Parvo virus will also help by passing on antibodies within the colostrum. If she hasn't had a recent vaccination in the last 12 months then she will need one at least two weeks before whelping. She also needs worming 2 weeks before and after whelping to prevent the puppies from getting worms through her milk. The puppies need worming every 2 weeks from 2 weeks old until 3 months of age. Then they go onto your regular worming schedule. As well as protecting your pups from worms this program will minimise the threat that puppy worms can present to humans who handle the pups (especially children). Migrating worm larvae can cause serious health issues to humans.

## SIGNS TO GIGGLE OVER

Sign at a Gynecologists Office

**“Dr Jones, at your cervix”**

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In a Podiatrist's Office

**“Time Wounds All Heals”**

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On a Septic Tank Truck

**“Yesterday's Meals on Wheels”**

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On a Proctologist's Door

**“To expedite your visit, please back in”**

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On a Plumbers Truck

**“Don't sleep with a drip, call your Plumber”**

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On a Maternity Room Door

**“Push! Push! Push!”**

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At a tyre shop

**“Invite us to your next blowout”**

## HAPPY WITH YOUR FEED COVER??

I have been on a number of sheep and beef properties in the last 4-5 weeks. While stock condition is generally quite good, feed covers are variable, from good to challenging!! (The situation is not helped by how wet things are!) On many properties scanning percentages have been very good, so the demand for feed in the next 8 weeks will be high. With the proposed schedule prices for lambs this season, ensuring ewe condition is maintained so they milk well and lambs survive and grow well makes sense. If things dry out a little (soil temps are generally not too bad) Nitrogen either as Urea or Ammonia Sulphate at their current prices will be a real option for farms where feed is short. A feed budget can help to determine if you require extra feed and how much. We are happy to help if you need some input.

## MAGNESIUM IN DAIRY AND BEEF COWS

For dairy farmers who have not already checked mineral levels especially magnesium, it is not too late to do so. Low magnesium will contribute to increased metabolic problems and lost milk production in early lactation.

If your cows have grazed fodder beet it would also be a good idea to check phosphorus levels.

With regard to beef cows we have already treated animals pre-calving with metabolic issues, related to low magnesium. Blood testing 8-10 cows before calving will help with making decisions around the necessity for magnesium supplementation. This especially applies to earlier calving beef herds and cows that will have limited access to autumn/winter saved grass at calving.



## SENIOR CITIZENS

The husband leans over and asks his wife, "Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind the village tavern where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you."

"Yes", she says, "I remember it well."

"OK", he says, "How about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for old time's sake?"

"Oh Jim, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy, but good idea!"

A police officer sitting in the next booth heard their conversation and, having a chuckle to himself, he thinks to himself, "I've got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence. I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble." So he follows them.

The elderly couple walks haltingly along, leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence. The old lady lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man

moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises, moaning and screaming. Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground.

The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know. After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on. The policeman, is still watching and thinks to himself, "this is truly amazing, I've got to ask them what their secret is."

So, as the couple passes, he says to them, "Excuse me, but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?" Shaking, the old man is barely able to reply, "Fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence."

## PET LAMB DEATHS

Each year we hear about the 'pet lamb disasters'. Normally deaths occur just before pet day or after \$100 worth of milk powder!! Here are a few suggestions that might help in avoiding the problem.

- Make sure your pet lamb gets sufficient colostrum in the first 12 hours of life.
- Follow milk feeding guidelines.
- Don't feed milk in excessive quantities - no more than 350mls at any feed regardless of size. If you want a 'super lamb', feed more frequently.
- Make sure lamb teats remain in good order to prevent excessively fast feeding that can lead to bloat.
- If lambs bloat after feeding, consider adding yoghurt, penicillin or formalin to the milk. (Contact the clinic for info).
- Vaccinate lambs with PK Antitet early in life.
- If lambs have access to meal, ensure overeating does not occur.
- Make feeding changes gradually.
- **If all this fails, have a spare!!**

## SOME HOUSEKEEPING

If you have the conveyor booked in to do your pre-lamb drenching, can you please make sure you have stood your sheep off grass and emptied them out. They run a lot better and it also lessens the likelihood of them spitting the capsules out.

Let us help you, we send out order forms to make it easier for both you and us. When you have decided on the product you need, get those order forms back to us ASAP. You can get it back to us by email, fax, post or drop it in.

## 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)**