

# HVC YOUR CLUB

SEP 17

## SHEEP MEASLES

On all sheep farms the chances of dogs getting access to raw sheep meat, membranes etc. is much higher at this time of the year. If you have had issues with increased rates of sheep measles in litters of lambs or just don't want to, it can be a good idea to go onto a six weekly dog dosing program for the next 3 or 4 months.

Contact the clinic if you wish to do so or discuss this topic in more detail.

# Droncit®

## GLASGOW DENTIST

A Glasgow man phones a dentist to enquire about the cost for a tooth extraction. "85 pounds for an extraction, sir" the dentist replied. "85 quid! Huv ye no got anything' cheaper?" "That's the normal charge," said the dentist. "Whit aboot if ye didnae use any anaesthetic?" "That's unusual, sir, but I could do it and would knock 15 pounds off." "Whit aboot if ye used one of your dentist trainees and still without any anaesthetic?" "I can't guarantee their professionalism and it'll be painful. But the price could drop by 20 pounds." "How aboot if ye make it a trainin' session, ave yer student do the extraction with the other students watchin' and learnin'?" "Well it' would be good for the students", mulled the dentist. "I'll charge you 5 pounds but it will be traumatic." "Och, now your talkin' laddie! It's a deal," said the Scotsman. "Can ye confirm an appointment for the wife next Tuesday then?"

## LOW BLOOD CALCIUM IN CALVING COWS

Every dairy farmer knows that low blood calcium will result in "milk fever" in a dairy cow round calving time. What is less commonly understood is all the other side effects of low blood calcium (LBC) at this time. These issues include;

1. Calving difficulties, LBC results in poor muscle contraction in the uterus and poor cervical dilation leading to increased calving problems. (Calves do not present properly for birth and the cows cannot push as forcefully to get calves out).
2. Retained membranes (this process also requires good uterine muscle contraction).
3. Loss of appetite and reduced absorption from the gastro intestinal tract, leading to energy deficits and further problems with calcium absorption as well as other minerals and nutrients.
4. Reduced cow immunity leading to higher rates of mastitis, uterine infections etc.
5. Delays in starting to cycle again.



Just because cows aren't going down with milk fever does not mean that their blood calcium levels are adequate for high performance. Hence there have been countless trials that have demonstrated that getting calcium into cows immediately after calving improves a cow's production and health.

If you haven't got time to give start up drenches to all cows at least try to target cows that fall into the following categories.

- Assisted calvings/ sick cows at calving ie. Mastitis, etc.
- Twinning cows.
- Cows that are light or have struggled in late pregnancy.
- Old cows with a history of problems.
- Cows that seem to lack appetite and energy after calving.

If start up drenching is not possible at least make extra calcium available in the feed for your colostrum cows.



## CALF SCOURS

This year scours have been an issue on some dairy farm, where they have not been an issue in the past. The calf scour syndrome is normally one or a combination of either Rotavirus or Cryptosporidia, occasionally e-coli, corona virus or even salmonella can be involved. Rotavirus and Crypto are extremely infectious and can be easily spread on boots, overalls etc.

Dairy farmers should be very careful with the hygiene standards of visitors entering your calf sheds (especially people who are rearing calves or may have been in other calf sheds or pens).

If you send bobby calves ensure this facility is separated from the rest of

your calf rearing operation so those picking calves up don't come in contact with your other calves.

Beef farmers mothering calves on should also be careful they don't bring problems home!! Clean your boots and clothes after picking calves up and keep mothered up calves in isolation for at least 3 weeks before mixing with your herd. If you have any problems with scours during the mothering on process keep the cows and calves separate from your herd for as long as possible.

Obviously where scours becomes a problem vaccination of cows is a very good option for subsequent years.

## AT RISK COWS

Checking cows for signs of endometritis and treating those identified has been shown to significantly affect how fast cows get back in calf. Cows that have been calved for more than 1 month, can now be metricchecked and treated if required.

You may like to check all cows or alternatively those that are most likely to have problems. These cows can be any of the following;

- Cows assisted at calving or with difficult calvings
- Twinners
- Cows that were slow to clean
- Cows with other health issues mastitis, milk fever, ketosis etc.



## HYGIENE AT DOCKING/ CALF MARKING

Tools used at this time of the year eg. elastrators, ear markers and taggers, have often been forgotten about since this time last year!!

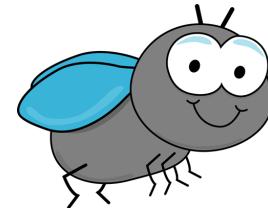
Take the time to give them a good clean up and disinfect them. Get your ear markers sharpened if necessary.

Dirty gear will lead to infections at docking and calf marking. Also ensure you have disinfectant on hand to clean things as docking or marking is undertaken.

Note, if using ear tags ensure they are clean, if they get dropped in the mud etc. clean thoroughly with disinfectant before application.

## AN UNUSUAL CASE

From time to time our vets come across strange and interesting cases. This spring one of our vets was out seeing a down cow. As part of the clinical exam the vet was observing the cow's demeanour and noticed that she was depressed. This was quite evident as the cow did not seem bothered by a pesky fly hanging around her face. What happened next particularly surprised the vet as the fly appeared to go into the cow's ear and still the cow did not respond. The vet, somewhat bewildered, continued on with the clinical exam and was checking the udder for mastitis when they noticed the fly shoot out from one of the teats! In shock the vet jumped back, how unusual - the fly had gone in one ear and straight out the udder!



## THINKING ABOUT BULLS

The breeding season is not far away. It is time to tick off a few management issues/questions;

- Have the breeding bulls wintered okay?
- Check for lame bulls or bulls that may have health issues.
- Do bulls need copper, selenium or both (these elements are important for good semen production and bull fertility).
- Do you need to get bulls tested? (semen or mating ability).
- Annual BVD vaccinations need to be done.
- Do you have sufficient bulls (for dairy farmers at least 1 for every 30 cows not in calf at the end of AI)?



## SPEEDING TICKET

Martin was speeding down the highway, feeling secure in a line of cars all traveling the same speed. However, as he passed a speed radar he got nailed by the speed detector and was pulled over.

The officer handed him the ticket and was about to walk away when Martin asked, "Officer, I don't think it is fair. There were plenty of other cars around me that were going just as fast, so why did I get the ticket?"

"Ever go fishing?" the policeman asked Martin. "Umm....yeah" a startled Martin replied. The officer grinned then added, "Ever catch all the fish?"

## AT RISK COWS

We invite all our members to join us for our AGM, this year will be held on the 5th of October at 7.30pm.

Join us at the Rangatira Golf Club to hear something a little different from our guest speaker Myles Fothergill, the man who created Q West Boat Builders from very little. By all reports this should be an entertaining and inspiring presentation.

Please RSVP to the clinic by the 27th of September for catering purposes.

Also - Don't forget to send your docking orders 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)