

It is hard to believe that it is that time of the year again!! We wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a very successful and prosperous 2018. A summer and autumn like last year would be a good start and lets hope for a slightly drier winter and spring. As usual hams are available with qualifying drench purchases. If you need hams please contact us ASAP as the week before Christmas can be too late to secure hams with our drench orders.

CHRISTMAS SHOUT

As we did last year we will be contributing to the Hunterville combined Christmas shout this year, to be held after the Christmas parade on Friday 22 December. This event was held for the first time last year and was very successful. Please join us for a few drinks and some food. The Vet Club is also sponsoring the bucking bull and will have a prize for the 'best ride' by a member so get practising!!

FUNGAL / MOULD TOXINS

Most farmers are aware that mould / fungal growth on silage and hay can be dangerous when fed to pregnant cows. In fact this year we have seen some serious abortion outbreaks related to the feeding of mouldy silage.

What is less commonly recognised is that there are many other moulds and fungi that produce poisonous substances (mycotoxins) that can have serious effects on the health of animals.

We recently investigated a case of scouring and poor growth rates in calves that was finally diagnosed as

DIPPING QUESTIONS

At this time of the year we field lots of questions regarding dipping options, techniques, etc. Here are our answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

If using spray on / pour on products for fly control, where should I put it?

Apart from Clik, spray on products do not move much in the wool so apply product where you need protection.

For lambs normally the rump, tail and crutch area.

For ewes as above but also the backline and shoulder area.

How do I control lice in summer if using a fly control product that doesn't do lice?

If using Vetrazin or an equivalent product, Extinosad can be added to the wash for about 8 cents per litre. This product will also kill live maggots if some sheep are already struck.

If using pour on consider Exit or Zapp which has lice and fly control claims.

Do flies get resistant to dips?

The answer is yes. Flies resistant to Triflumuron (Zapp / Exit) and Diflubenzuron (Fleececare) have been identified north of us (Taranaki, King Country, etc), and we expect them to arrive here. We have had reports of these types of dips not lasting as long as they used to which suggests resistant flies may be around.

I want more than 8-10 weeks protection, what should I use?

In this situation the only product that consistently gives longer protection (up to 16 weeks) is Clik pour on. Cyrazin KO, a mixture of cyromazine and ivermectin, appeared to deliver up to 12 weeks cover last season.

Can I leave dip mixed up?

If you have clean water and storage tanks and are jetting animals the answer is probably yes, as long as it is not left for too long. 48 hours is probably ok.

Can I use lower doses than the label directions?

If you require less length of cover than the label claims or only want tail / crutch protection, lower doses can be used. Accurate application with smaller volumes can work just as well as higher volumes poorly applied.

Can I dip wet sheep?

Yes, provided sheep are not dripping wet. In fact slightly damp sheep can be an advantage with some dips.

What happens if it rains after dipping?

Most dips bind onto the wool and lanolin very quickly. Getting wet an hour or two after dipping should not matter with most products.



- Nerve / brain damage
- Death!!

The best advice we can give is DON'T feed feeds that are contaminated with moulds or fungi to animals.



- Liver / kidney damage
- Bone marrow damage
- Gastrointestinal problems

TEASER TIME

If you require teaser rams to be cut this season, December is a good month to get this job done. This gives the teaser plenty of time to recover from their 'little op'.

Teasers when correctly used have been shown to increase lambing percentages in early lambing flocks and hoggets. On occasion 2.2ths mated at normal dates can also benefit.

Contact the clinic to get teaser rams cut and get your ram flock checked at the same time.



WORKS CERTIFICATES FOR STOCK

In recent times we have had issues around identification of stock that had to be given vet certs for transport and slaughter. This area, especially as it pertains to animal welfare, is a really hot topic and MPI are out to make examples of people who flout the system.

In the interests of 'getting it right' we believe it is necessary to be able to identify the animal with an ear tag number. In practice this could be the NAIT tag but this is not always practical. We suggest you have a numbered ear tag in the animal or get us to bring a suitable tag if your animal is untagged.

We would also request that cattle are yarded for inspection so a proper examination can be carried out if necessary before a certificate is issued.

Please ensure you follow all directions as stated on the certificate (eg the works the animal is going to go to and how it is trucked).

Remember the same issues around lameness and other abnormalities that apply to cattle also apply to other classes of stock, ie sheep, goats and deer, and they also require certificates.

KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE BULLS

The cattle mating season is now in full swing and bulls are out with dairy and beef herds, or will be shortly.

If you want your cows in calf don't just put bulls out and forget about them. Take time to observe them frequently and ensure that:

- They are interested in their job and are mixing with the cows.
- They are actually serving cows. It is ok to "watch"!!!
- They remain in good health. Any sign of lameness is cause for concern.
- They are not preventing other bulls from serving cows. (Best avoided by putting bulls out together that get on with each other, and try to avoid mixing bulls that have not been run together prior to mating.)



I BOUGHT SHOES FROM A DRUG DEALER
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE LACED THEM WITH BUT I'VE BEEN TRIPPING ALL DAY.

PHONE SYSTEM

Following the hail storm that hit Hunterville a few weeks back our phone system was damaged. We have upgraded to what we hope is a better system. Please let us know if you are still having any difficulties with it. As usual you still ring 3228 058 or 3228 057 for emergencies or to make appointments.

WHAT IS IN A NAME

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that, in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel.

Dr Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr Jones was the proctologist; they put up a sign reading: Dr Smith and Dr Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors. The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

The docs changed it to read: Schizoids and Haemorrhoids. This was also not acceptable so they again changed the sign to read Catatonics and High Colonics - no go.

Next they tried Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives - thumbs down again. Then came Minds and Behinds - still no good. Another attempt resulted in Lost Souls and Butt Holes—unacceptable again!

So they tried Nuts and Butts - no way. Freaks and Cheeks - still no good. Loons and Moons - forget it. Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with: Dr Smith and Dr Jones - Specialising in Odds and Ends
Everybody loved it.

DOGS AND ENERGY DRINKS DON'T MIX

One night last month we had to deal with an extremely excited black lab that had consumed too much V!!! Energy drinks contain caffeine and other substances that can be toxic to dogs causing neurological problems.

Water is probably a better option for keeping your dog hydrated!!!

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz