

## NAIT COMPLIANCE

Apart from highlighting the threats a new disease such as mycoplasma poses, this outbreak has also exposed the flaws in the NAIT system and the number of stock transactions that have not been recorded properly or gone unrecorded!

The authorities involved with running NAIT have egg on their face and without doubt they will be out to upgrade the system and improve compliance. Farmers would be wise to ensure stock movements are correctly recorded and processed as I am sure the NAIT authorities will be out to find and make examples of non compliance. Remember we have a scanner and can assist you with stock transfers.



## DON'T FORGET WATER

Good stock performance on crops will not occur if water sources are limited or of poor quality. It does not make a lot of sense to spend a lot of money growing crops and then have stock performance limited by poor water.



## CHANGING TIMES

New Zealand farmers, up until recent times, have been lucky to farm in a country where animal diseases, noxious weeds and pests found in other parts of the world weren't a threat.

Unfortunately this 'favourable status' seems to be being eroded at an ever increasing rate. Mycoplasma bovis is just the latest example of the threat that a new disease poses.

Farmers should be considering how they deal with biosecurity on their property. This relates both to new diseases such as mycoplasma but also many of the diseases and issues that have been present for some time (ie BVD, drench resistance, footrot, sheep measles, theileria, etc).

Farmers with closed flocks and herds who have no animals coming onto their property other than sire bulls and rams

## WEEDS IN CROPS

Driving around the country and talking to clients it seems that high weed burdens are a problem in some summer crops. Some of these weeds may be a threat to stock health especially where crops have poor palatability and introduced stock graze the weed in preference to the crop. (This situation is most likely to occur with newly introduced lambs.)

Over recent seasons we have seen poisoning in sheep and cattle from the following range of weeds.

- Amaranthus / red root
- Stagger weed
- Witch grass

If your crops contain a lot of weeds it would pay to identify the weeds present and consider toxicity risks. These risks can generally be managed through:

- Choosing the least at risk stock to graze crops.
- Grazing crops with lambs / calves that have already learnt to eat crop (they will generally avoid weeds).
- Not overgrazing crops or introducing too many stock to start with.

are in the best position to maintain good biosecurity. For trading operations things are some what more difficult.

It is not just animals that need to be considered when it comes to biosecurity. People and machinery can also pose a risk. For example:

- Dirty stock trucks
- Calf buyers picking up calves on dairy farms
- Vets / livestock agents going from farm to farm!!
- Overseas visitors

Sitting down and taking some time to draw up a plan around your ability to manage biosecurity on your property is something forward thinking farmers need to do to protect your business. For some it will be simple, for others, more complex and more difficult.

- Observing stock on crops for signs of ill health.
- Observing the crop to see what stock are actually eating.



## SPORE COUNTS

As I write this newsletter an elevation in spore counts has been detected.

Please contact the clinic, or visit our website, [www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz](http://www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz), for further details.

## LOOK AFTER THOSE VACCINES

Last month we mentioned dips and drenches, this month it is the turn of vaccines. Vaccines tend to be much more complicated formulations than either dips or drenches and it is very important that they are **handled correctly**.

All vaccines should be **refrigerated** (not frozen!) at all times. This means using cold packs and chilly bins when they are not refrigerated. With the heat we have recently been experiencing keeping vaccines cool is even more critical.

Also remember that direct sunlight can damage vaccines (especially Toxovax which is a live vaccine) so ideally keep vaccines shaded when using them,

## DISCREET HOSPITAL PADDOCKS

As all farmers are aware there is a growing group within the general population who make it their job to police welfare standards on farms. Personally I don't think it helps our industry's image to have sick or lame animals (which may be receiving excellent husbandry) in paddocks where they can be readily observed by ill-informed members of the public. Think about where you keep such stock. Consider creating some paddocks with trees, hedges, etc. (It will also create shade and shelter for the sick animals.)

## NEW SHEEP TAGS FROM Z-TAGS

We now stock a new range of sheep tags (Tag Faster) with an automatic applicator which are an alternative to Allflex Flexitags. The applicator is significantly cheaper and the tags are also a little cheaper. Have a look at them the next time you are in the clinic.



especially if it takes some time to use up a packet.

Where full packets of vaccine are not used up, return vaccine to the fridge / chilly bin immediately. Do **NOT** squirt vaccine back into the packet (this also applies to injectable drenches, copper, etc) as this can contaminate the packet. Provided you used a clean gun to start with, put the pack with the gun attached into the fridge. Shake well and discard the first couple of shots when you use the vaccine next.

PS If you have not placed your orders for Toxovax, campy, Salvexin and Androvax / Ovastim, please do so ASAP! Time is running out especially for Androvax / Ovastim vaccination programmes.



## BRUCellosis OUTBREAK

Each year we test a large proportion of clients rams and each year we get asked if ram testing is still necessary. We believe the answer is still yes and the identification this year of a ram flock with brucellosis certainly supports our view (18 out of 50 rams culled at this point!!).

We also find random cases of testicular damage / change that are not brucellosis but render rams infertile / sub-fertile, as well as cases of scrotal mange, etc.

Remember—woolly scrotums heat the testicles leading to poor quality semen so ensure wool is removed from woolly scrotums ASAP. (It takes 6 to 8 weeks to produce good quality semen.) It doesn't appear that shearers are too good at doing this without a fair amount of reminding!!

## HVC STAFF

Just to keep you all up with the play, our current reception staff are Amber Barron and Tyla Martin full time, and Jane Guy part-time and relief.

They are doing a really great job and settling in well. See them below with our existing front of house staff members clockwise from the top left—Robyn, Kerin, Jane, Amber, Helen and Tyla.



## DRIVER, DRIVER...

A lady in a taxi leaned forward to ask the driver a question. She gently tapped his shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab and nearly hit a bus. He drove over the curb, almost going through a shop window.

For a few moments the inside of the cab was silent. The shaken driver turned and said, "Are you ok? I'm very sorry, but you scared the crap out of me!"

The passenger, very startled at this point, apologizes to the driver and says "I didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could scare some one so bad"

The driver replied "no, no, I'm the one who is sorry, today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for over 20 years!"

## 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)**