



HVC

YOUR CLUB

MAR 20

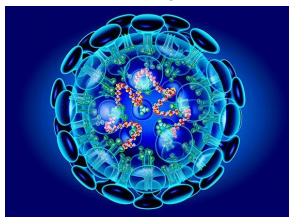
CORONAVIRUS!!!

Coronavirus infections are widespread in the animal kingdom. In NZ strains of Coronavirus are responsible for enteritis and diarrhoea in calves and dogs for instance. The vaccine we use to prevent calf scours contains a Coronavirus component and is very effective.

The fact that excellent animal vaccines against Coronavirus have been developed is encouraging when considering the development of a human vaccine.

The good news about Coronavirus is that for the time being it has taken the media and politicians interests away from climate and environmental issues.

It's interesting to note that with the close down of China the country is calculated to have become **carbon neutral** (the ruminant population hasn't been reduced but plenty of cars have been taken off the road and planes grounded!!).



JUST A THOUGHT

I see the coffee industry is concerned about paper cups and the effects on the environment. They want to introduce reusable cups. Has the world been conned by coffee? Perhaps we should do what we used to do and boil a jug or take a thermos and have an instant coffee? Then we wouldn't need barristas and they could get useful jobs in aged care for instance!!!



WELCOME TO THE NIGHTMARE??

For a year that started promising so much, things have certainly turned to custard!! The dry along with the problems that Coronavirus has created is making it a challenging time for all.

While stock have done relatively well on most farms to this point, things appear to be hitting the wall for many. Paddocks are now turning that 'grey colour', stock water is becoming an issue, green fed crops are finished and winter feed crop yields will be poor. Even when it does rain pastures will take some time to recover.

Farmers need to be making decisions on a daily basis and finding ways to reduce feed demand on farm. It is easier to make a few small decisions than one big one when left with no other alternatives. For some, supplementary feeding (grain, silage, etc) may be an option however if past experience is anything to go by biting

the bullet and meeting the market for store stock while they are still in good condition normally proves to be a good option. (\$90 for a store lamb may not sound too good but most of us would have leapt at 2 or 3 years ago!!) The little bit of good news is:

- Worms and fly don't like the dry either. Worm challenges on farm are generally low (this might change when it rains!!). A shearer told me he has not seen a fly struck sheep all season!!
- Spore counts remain low, once again this will remain the case until we get moisture. What happens will be very much dependent on soil temperatures and rain fall spread.

If you require any help with your decision making or require information on options you are considering please give the clinic a call.

LIVER FLUKE

While worms don't like the dry, **liver fluke** tends to be more of an issue in dry years as stock intensively graze and push further into wetter areas where liver fluke infections are picked up.

We have already detected higher than normal fluke infections in samples taken from properties where liver fluke is known to be a problem. (Faecal samples can be used to check for liver fluke eggs.)

Liver fluke populations are now relatively widespread through the farms we service. (Fluke are often reported on cattle kill sheets.) Checking your flock for the presence of fluke should be considered.

PS. Fluke can also be a problem in cattle (although they seem to be less affected than sheep). Young cattle in particular can have problems.

Although cattle may not be affected by a small fluke burden, the fluke they carry are a problem as if untreated the fluke will be a source of liver fluke eggs which infect snails that will infect the sheep flock next year.



THE NOTE

Fred was always coming home from the pub in the early hours of the morning. He eventually found this note from his wife.

"The day before yesterday you came home yesterday morning. Yesterday you came home this morning. So if today you come home tomorrow you will find that I left you yesterday."

GOT ENOUGH RAMS??

Many farmers will be forced to have ewes spread out over tupping, possibly with an open gate policy, to allow access to water. If this is the situation you find yourself in then you may require more rams than normal.

In past drought years we have had cases of high dry rates or drawn out lambings that could be attributed to ewes not finding a ram!! Carefully consider your ram ratios this season. Introducing rams lambs or more terminal sires after one cycle could be one option.

SMALL ANIMALS— LUCYS' CORNER

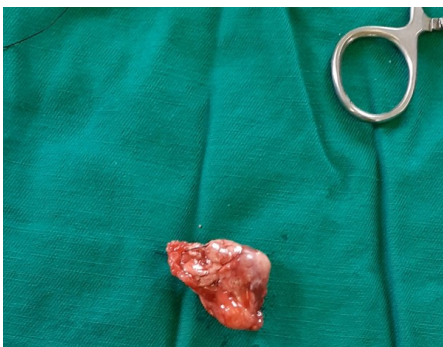
In February, an older Labrador visited us in the clinic as she had been suffering from lethargy and had fallen over a few times and was unable to get up.

Outwardly she looked good and physically there was nothing to note. We checked her heart and lungs but everything was fine there too.

We checked a blood sample and her blood glucose was very low. This was repeated over a couple of days and it remained low.

There was a high suspicion of a tumour on her pancreas pumping out too much insulin. These are a rare find in a dog. This tumour was likely to be very small so it would be very hard to find with ultrasound and a decision was made to do surgery to look for a possible tumour.

We found one that measured approximately 2cm in diameter and it was confirmed by the laboratory to be an insulin producing tumour. Her blood glucose levels are back to normal which is great. The tumour is a nasty one, but we are hoping she will live the expected 14 months the prognosis gives her.



PRE-TUP DRENCHING

With rams going out, many clients have been asking about pre-tup drenching requirements. As alluded to in the introduction, worms don't like the dry either. Most ewes probably don't need drenching at this stage if they are in 'relatively good order'. For many it may well be better to wait and see what happens 'when / if' it does rain and drench ewes if faecal egg counts rise. (This could mean drenching during or after tupping.)

We would encourage farmers to get **faecal egg counts** done on ewe flocks to assist with making decisions around ewe drenching requirements. Tail end ewes are most likely to benefit from drenching and can be drenched while the rest of the flock remains undrenched.

Note:

If you don't pre-tup drench, you need to consider your ewe flocks **selenium** requirements. Selenium is important in early embryo survival and implantation, and levels can be marginal or low for ewe flocks in our area. Ewe selenium status can be easily checked by taking 4-6 blood tests for selenium levels.

LISTEN CAREFULLY!

A fellow walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles."

So she took down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. A few minutes later a nurse's aid came out and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." So she took down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told him to wait in the examining room. Ten minutes later a nurse came in and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles."

So she gave him a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, told him to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor. Fifteen minutes later the doctor came in and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." The doctor said, "Where?" He said, "Outside in the truck. Where do you want them?"

RYEGRASS STAGGERS

We are receiving reports of rye grass staggers in calves and lambs.

Unfortunately there are no rapid cures or treatments for rye grass staggers (which is caused by an endophyte in many older rye grass cultivars).

The best advice we can give is:

1. Get affected stock into safe paddocks with good water if at all possible.
2. Turn electric fences off especially for calves.
3. If affected stock can be moved to endophyte free feed they will recover more rapidly. Such feeds would be:
 - brassicas
 - chicory, plantain, cocksfoot
 - new novel endophyte grass cultivars (ie. AR1)
 - silage / grain diets

CHANGES IN DRY COW RECOMMENDATIONS

Dry cow treatment season has started and there have been some suggested changes from regulatory authorities when it comes to the types of antibiotics that should be used. This may mean some dairy farmers changing from the treatments they have used in the past especially for shorter acting dry cow treatments.

These issues will be discussed as we carry out our **annual dry cow and drug consultations** over the next few weeks.

PS. It would almost seem certain that blanket dry cow treatment of herds will be prohibited in many situations where they are currently used within the next couple of years as concerns around antibiotic resistance development continue to grow.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz