



HVC

YOUR CLUB

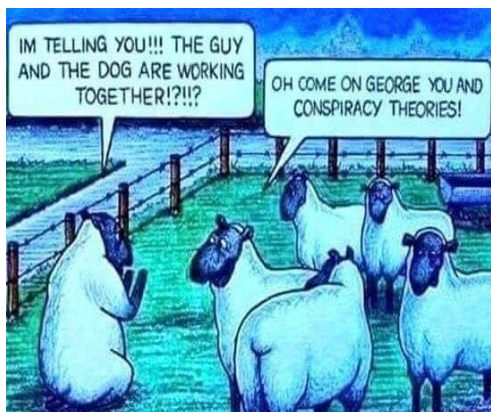
AUG 20

CALVING COWS, TAKE YOUR TIME!!

When calving cows where the head and legs have not passed through the cervix and vagina, it pays to take a little time. Use moderate traction to allow the tissues to dilate and expand rather than being too forceful causing tearing. This is especially important in heifers.

Calf pullers today are very good and can create a lot of traction but if you take care how you use them you will cause a lot less damage to the cow.

When you finish a calving, ensure you clean your ropes, chains, handles and pullers with disinfectant and store them hygienically until you need them again. We see some pretty grotty calving gear lying around sheds and yards by the end of calving!!



KEEP LAMBS ALIVE!!!

Most sheep farming clients appear to be looking at a lower potential lamb drop this year given scanning results. For many there is still potential to keep docking percentages up by improving lamb survival.

While we all like to blame the weather for lamb losses there are a number of areas that we do have some control over that will influence lamb survival.

The most important is the condition of ewes at lambing and how well they feed from 2 weeks pre-lamb until docking. Feeding ewes well at this time ensures:

1. Lambs are born with good levels of 'brown fat', the energy source that keeps them alive in those first few vital hours of life.
2. Ewes produce plenty of colostrum so lambs get a good start from an energy and immune perspective.
3. Ewes don't have to move far from their lambing site for the first 48 hours after lambing. This assists ewe, lamb bonding and reduces mis-mothering especially for twins and triplets.



Getting ewes settled before lambing is also important and is possibly one of the advantages of set stocking policies (however set stocking on no feed has its drawbacks!!).

Don't overstock multiple lambing ewes. Sheep tend to use the same lambing sites in the paddocks and if good lambing sites are limited mis-mothering and lamb losses can be the result from too many ewes trying to use the same site. While new grass paddocks may grow enough grass for 15 twin bearing ewes / Ha, this number of ewes can be too many over lambing!! Use past paddock docking percentages to work out what paddocks have good lamb survival and appropriate stocking rates.

Crook udders don't help lamb survival!! While it is too late to do much about it this year, ensure you have a plan in place that prevents crook udders sneaking through the system. This may mean more than checking udders once at weaning. Mastitis often develops after weaning in ewes that are milking well.

Finally while everyone is paranoid when it comes to bearings, there is virtually no scientific work to demonstrate that starving ewes in the 14 days prior to lambing stops bearings but there is plenty of work to demonstrate that under fed ewes have poor lamb survival!!

PROTESTING

An empathetic student was walking past a protest going on in front of the town hall. Her interest piqued she asked one of the protesters what they were concerned about. Pandemic lockdowns? 5G towers? Vaccination? - but it was none of the usual.

The military industrial complex," the protestor explained. "It was bad enough before, but now they are recruiting babies!" The student, surprised and confused, asked the protestor what function babies were going to perform in the army.

The over zealous protestor replied grimly. "they go straight into the infantry."

A PAIN IN THE UDDER!!

It probably comes as no surprise to most that a mammary gland is a fairly sensitive piece of tissue!! When it gets inflamed and swollen with mastitis it is also rather painful!! For the dairy cow this is not a pleasant predicament to be in. She will respond by eating and drinking less, moving slowly and kicking the cups off!!

We now have a range of extremely effective drugs when it comes to treating pain and inflammation in cows and these drugs can really assist with treating mastitis. Clinical trials have demonstrated that good pain and inflammation relief improves the effectiveness of antibiotic treatment, restores cow health and appetite more quickly, reduces death rates and lost udders and shortens the in-calf interval.

When dealing with mastitis cases where the udder is swollen and the cow is off colour, using drugs such as Ketomax and Rheumocam is recommended.

PS. These drugs are also very useful for other types of pain and inflammation:

- Difficult calvings
- Lameness
- Pneumonia / Metritis



ANYONE WITH EXODUS LA INJECTION

A problem has been identified with the plastic flexipack in a certain batch, expiry Feb 22.

If you experience any problems with leaking or cracking in the pack, please contact us asap. We will provide replacement from a new batch, but will also need the return of the faulty ones.

GOOD MASTITIS MANAGEMENT— TAKE MILK SAMPLES!

Responsible use of antibiotics in livestock is something that farmers have to come to terms with. Given the concerns around bacterial resistance development to antibiotics we need to be using antibiotics responsibly.

When it comes to treating mastitis this season it is important dairy farmers follow good practice. Part of this involves taking milk samples before they treat cows with mastitis and freezing the sample. This sample can then be cultured to determine the strain of bacteria involved, if treatment is unsuccessful or mastitis in the herd becomes an issue.

Ensure you have suitable pottles for taking milk samples and staff are trained in how to take samples without contamination. If this technique needs to be demonstrated to your staff we are happy to assist.

Remember we have equipment on site that allows us to get milk culture results back to you in 24 hours if you feel a culture is likely to assist with your treatment.

CAUTION ... MILK FEVER

As you may have seen on our Facebook page or our Website...

In the last 2 weeks we have dealt with several cases of milk fever in ewes. The incidence of milk fever seems to be much higher than normal, probably as a result of the good grass growth experienced in June and early July.

Anyone crutching or vaccinating ewes over the coming weeks should be aware that milk fever maybe a significant threat for multiple bearing ewes (especially old ones).

Get ewes in and out of yards ASAP and check later that day and the next day for signs of milk fever (ewes slow to move, staggery or sitting down).

Prompt treatment with calcium will save these ewes and if there is more than 1 or 2 cases it may well be worthwhile to call us to assist with treatment as giving IV calcium can be more effective than calcium given under the skin.

LEPTO IN DOGS

We have had another case of leptospirosis in a dog, this one was a fox terrier so it won't only affect your working dogs. Dogs get infected when they come into contact with infected urine. Sources of infection include rats, cattle, deer and sheep. Signs include not eating, drinking a lot of water, lethargy and sometimes jaundice or pale gums. It can be fatal in some dogs and the treatment is IV fluids and antibiotics.

We often see leptospirosis more in the winter as it can last a long time in puddles or standing water, also rats tend to come inside during the winter so are more likely to urinate on dog food.

Prevention includes rat control and vaccination of stock and dogs. Vaccination requires an initial vaccination followed by a booster 4 weeks later, then annual re-vaccination.

If you are incorporating it into your annual dog vaccinations, it is only an extra \$5. If you just require a leptospirosis vaccination only, members price is \$15.

Remember leptospirosis can also be passed to people through infected urine!

JUMPING THE QUEUE

I was in a long queue at the supermarket at 7.45 am today that opened at 8 am for seniors only. A young man came to the parking lot and tried to cut in at the head of the queue, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane. He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him on the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the queue for the 3rd time he said, "If you old geezers don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz