

BLOAT DEATHS

A client recently lost 2 cows as a result of bloat. These cows were being break fed on rape with very limited roughage. We have also had reports of cattle dying on grass breaks where there 'wasn't a lot of clover'.

These cases highlight the fact that bloat can occur on high quality diets that do not contain a lot of clover but lack of roughage.

It pays to check cattle one or two hours after shifting breaks for signs of bloating especially if changes are also occurring in type of feed.

The good news / bad news is that clover content in many pastures looks very good so "good old clover bloat" may also be a real threat this spring.

WOOL *(Having a bad day)!!*

I recently received 65 cents net for 2nd shear A wool. It would have been more effective to pay for shearers only and throw the wool into the creek and use it as a silt trap!!!



Why do we continue to sell B wool, at best we do little more than break even but it makes up to 20-30% of our wool clip. 20% less wool in the market might help stimulate a little more demand!!

NITRATES STILL HIGH

While things have settled down considerably in the last 10 days we have still had dangerous nitrate test results. With warmer soil temperatures and increased growth, nitrate levels should decline however caution when feeding 'risky feeds' is still advised.

A GREAT START TO SPRING???

Well August was a great month for most farmers in our patch. Feed covers continue to improve, in fact one or two cockies have commented that they are not used to having this much feed at this time of the year. It is hard to believe we have ended up where we are given how things were looking in late April / May.

That is the good side of the equation! I recently attended a field-day where one of Horizons head honchos attempted to fill us in on the fresh water legislation that has recently passed into law.

I almost felt sorry for the guy. It appeared obvious Horizons (and all regional councils for that matter) are struggling to interpret the law and what it means for them and farmers. (But it is not going to be good for the large part!) The legislation is a dogs breakfast passed by law makers that know nothing about farming and in my opinion don't want to understand. (The notion of saving our rivers however will buy votes!)

In my opinion Southland Federated Farmers have the correct idea. Refuse to do anything other than good, proven farming practices until the law makes sense, is workable and regional councils have the manpower to deliver their side of the equation.

How can we be expected to apply for consents for cropping etc when everything is unclear and unworkable. It is not too late to stand as one, refuse to give into half cocked lunacy from law makers until we have legislation that is workable, practical and affordable to implement!

WORMS IN YEARLING CATTLE

Over the last couple of months we have dealt with significantly more cases of worms in yearling cattle (beef and dairy) than we would normally expect to see.

This problem may have occurred due to a mild winter following a very dry autumn resulting in a greater, later worm challenges than normal.

Whatever the reason, clients have had problems with worms while following their normal drenching programmes. Essentially periods of 6 weeks or more between drenches have been too long!! (Although there are cases where incorrect drenching due to gun problems etc cannot be excluded!) At this point we have not identified any drench resistance issues that could be causing the problem.

If you have concerns about cattle growth rates don't discount worms as a possible cause. Be cautious around extending drench intervals over the next couple of months. Check to ensure drenches are working properly by getting faecal egg samples done 10 days after cattle are drenched.

Note: Don't forget worms in rising 2 year cattle. The August / September period is when we can see **type 2 ostertagiasis**, as a result of massive larval damage in the abomasum caused by larvae picked up over winter all resuming their life cycle at the same time.

Unlike standard worm burdens, type 2 ostertagia strikes suddenly and will debilitate and even kill 2 year old cattle very quickly. Spring drenching with an 'Ivermectin' type of drench is generally recommended to avoid this problem.

BVD VACCINATIONS FOR HEIFERS

A reminder that heifers (to be protected from BVD prior to mating) require 2 doses of BVD vaccine at least 1 month apart. We are now into September so farmers who vaccinate heifers for BVD should have their vaccination programmes either underway or planned to complete before mating.

Don't forget booster doses for bulls and cows—a single shot prior to mating is required.

FLY CONTROL@DOCKING

Most farmers docking from now on apply some form of fly control at docking. For those looking for 6 to 8 weeks cover products like Vetrazin and Cyrazin Spray-on remain the most cost effective alternative (just a note, the Vetrazin Spray-on is no longer being made and we have very limited stock left, once gone alternatives such as Cyrazin will have to be used).

There are situations however where longer fly protection from docking is very useful. Especially where fly challenge is high and farmers want to avoid the necessity of dipping lambs before or at weaning. In this type of situation consider Klik Xtra or Strikeforce . These products will give 12 weeks or more protection from fly when applied correctly.

	Length of protection	mls applied	cost
Vetrazin/ Cyrazin SO	8 weeks	10	14 c
Stikeforce	12 weeks	5-10	25-50 c
Klik Xtra	12 weeks +	7	36 c

If we run out of Drs & Nurses we may need to use vets. Have you seen how they take temperatures? Stay home & be safe.

CAUTION

"It snowed last night...

8:00 am: I made a snowman.
8:10 - A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.
8:15 - So, I made a snow woman.
8:17 - My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified snow women everywhere.
8:20 - The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snow men instead.
8:22 - The transgender man-woman-person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.
8:25 - The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.
8:28 - I was being called a racist because the snow couple is white.
8:31 - The middle eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be covered up .
8:40 - The Police arrived saying someone had been offended.
8:42 - The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needed to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.
8:43 - The council equality officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.
8:45 - TV news crew from CBC showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snowwomen? I replied "Snowballs" and am now called a sexist.
9:00 - I was on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobe sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.
9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.
9:29 - Far left protesters offended by everything marched down the street demanding for me to be arrested.
By noon it all melted
Moral: There is no moral to this story. It is what we have become, all because of snowflakes."

- The Cairo Curmudgeon

CHECKING CAPSULES, LA DRENCHES

As we have advised for several years now we highly recommend clients who use either long acting injections or capsules check how well these products are working on their properties.

This can be easily done by collecting **faecal samples** from treated ewes. Ideally do this prior to docking. If there are problems 'knock out' drenching ewes at docking may be an option. At the very least collect samples at docking, it's not hard with a little organisational skill. There is little point spending large sums of money on products that don't work effectively and worse still could accelerate drench resistance development.

As in past years samples received from clients who purchased products from us will be done at **no charge!** You don't really have an excuse not to do it.

Empty egg cartons are perfect to use when collecting your samples and makes it clean and tidy for us at this end.



If you ever feel like your brain is inadequate... Think of this guy!



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following clients who were successful in our latest order form draw.

- Jack Brice
- Grayson Cooper
- Grant Crafer
- Gary Hurley
- Andrew Peters

They each receive a \$50 New World Voucher.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz