

TAKE CARE TAGGING

Over recent weeks we have dehorned 100's of calves. During the process of dehorning we noted a relatively high number of nasty infected ears as a result of poor ear tagging on some properties.

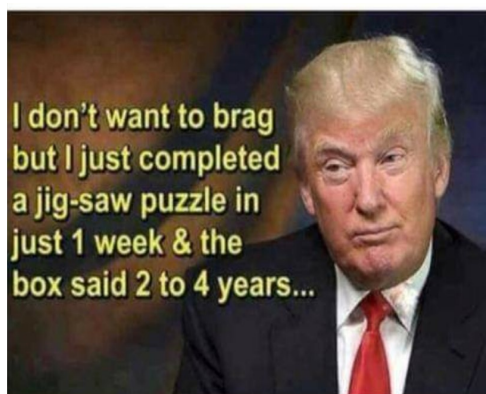
It is worth pointing out that ear tagging is essentially a type of surgical procedure and because you leave a tag in the ear, if it is not done hygienically infections will occur.

As with most surgical procedures problems can be avoided through good hygiene practices.

- Use a good disinfectant to sterilise your taggers between calves and ear tags if they become dirty.
- Tag calves in a clean, dry area.
- If calves are dirty or wet don't tag them or clean the ears up first.

Treatment of infected ears require moving the tag, lancing the abscess and draining any pus, cleaning and flushing wounds with disinfectant and giving an antibiotic. Intracillin LA is normally a good option.

Pussy ears and abscesses may not be the only result of poor tagging. This year we have also had a client who lost 2 calves with tetanus as a result of poor tagging.



A PERFECT SPRING??

Down on the farm things seem to be almost perfect. The grass has been growing at outrageous rates, stock are in great condition, and calves and lambs are doing well. The drought last season seems a long time ago!!! What could there be to worry about??

You don't have to look too far outside the farm gate to get some answers!!

The greens winning Auckland Central, probably the seat most removed from rural NZ, is a pointer to the challenges agriculture faces if the urban rural divide continues to grow. Well stocked super market shelves again soon moved the attention away from the great job NZ farmers do!!

David Parker believes the election result gives him a mandate to implement his 'one hat fits all' environmental policies regardless of the effects on farmer incomes and rural communities.

Jacinta's "Brand NZ" is supposed to save our industry and deliver us premiums. At a recent Meat Company presentation the marketers stated that there was no problem with the 'current brand NZ'. Don't add cost and complexity to something that is not broken!!

While drench resistance and a reduced ability to control parasites is a challenge we face, perhaps 'controlling' politicians, bureaucrats and green zealots may be a greater risk to our future!!

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!

A cabbie picks up a nun. The cab driver stares at her. She asks him why he's staring and he says, "I've always had a fantasy to kiss a nun." She says, "I'll kiss you if you're single and Catholic." The cab driver says, "I'm both!" The nun says, "Pull into an alley." The nun then kisses him in a way that would make a hooker blush. Back in the cab, though, the driver starts crying. "I lied. I'm married and Jewish." The nun says, "That's OK. My name is Kevin and I'm going to a Halloween party."

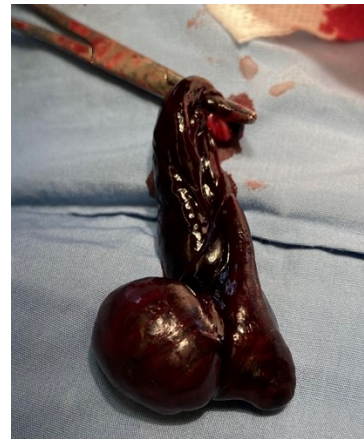
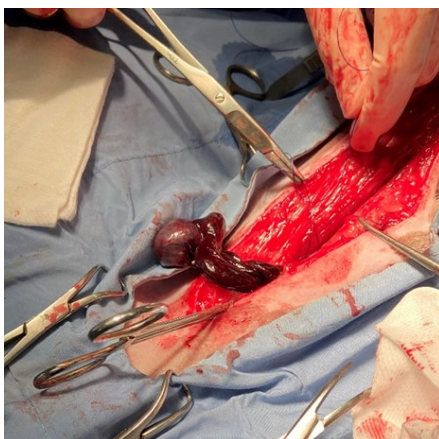
AAAHH NUTS! THE RISK MALES FACE!!

Some of you out there will have a dog with only one testicle. While this may not cause any noticeable issues for him, there are a couple of scary things that can happen.

The undescended testicle can overheat and this can change the normal cells into cancerous ones.

Another thing that could happen is a testicular torsion. This is where the testicle spins around and cuts off the blood supply. If you have a dog with sudden abdominal pain, with or without vomiting, with only one descended testicle, think testicular torsion.

Talk to one of our vets for options if you have a dog with only one nut!



BULL TEAMS

Despite bringing this topic up every year it is still common to come across poor pregnancy rates in dairy and beef herds related to bull problems.

AI is underway and very soon bulls will be going out in dairy and beef herds.

Make sure you check over and keep an eye on your bull team.

Beef Farmers...

- if you have any suspicions about the soundness of your herd sires consider getting them vet checked. This may involve checking their ability to serve and semen quality.

Dairy Farmers...

- you need to keep an eye out for lame bulls. Ideally try to keep them from coming into lanes around the shed and into the yard. This is the area where most of the damage is done. Lame bulls wont work effectively!! Replace them immediately.

Make sure bulls BVD vaccination status is up to date.

Take time to watch your bulls work and serve cows. Things can go wrong at any time and reacting early can prevent a depressing pregnancy test result.



CONGRATULATIONS

Thanks to everyone who sent in their Docking Order Forms this season. We would like to congratulate the following people whose forms were drawn out. They have received a New World Voucher as thanks.

- Vicky Shannon
- Andrew Ramsay
- John Eames
- Jack Simpson

DRENCH TESTS

As most sheep farmers are aware, drench resistance is increasing in prevalence and severity and **drench tests** are being promoted as an important tool in helping farmers determine how their properties are placed.

For various reasons full drench tests are best carried out in the late January, February period. To do a drench test you need 'wormy sheep'. This means leaving some lambs un-drenched at weaning and monitoring their worm burden until faecal egg counts are high enough to allow the test to be carried out.

If you are considering carrying out a drench test contact us now to develop a drench test plan.

HIGH QUALITY FEED? MAKE THE MOST OF IT, WEAN EARLY!!

Many sheep farmers now have areas of high quality feeds such as plantain, chicory or new grasses where they will be grazing ewes and lambs. While the lambs may be doing very well, the problem is the ewes will be consuming large volumes of feed and now be putting this on their backs rather than into their milk. While this may be great if you are killing the ewes, it can be a waste of very good feed.

Trials show that lambs over 25kgs will do extremely well on these high quality feeds. With ewe milk production dropping it can be a very good idea to wean lambs early and replace ewes with more lambs. (As a rule of thumb you can replace each ewe with a further 2 lambs.)

**At first, I thought I had Covid
because I couldn't breathe.**



**Then I unbuttoned my
pants and it was all ok.**

CHECK / REPLACE YOUR DRENCH GUNS

New seasons drenching programmes are under way. Part of this programme should be checking that drench guns and drench packs are up to scratch. Replace or repair guns that aren't working 100%. Also ensure you have measuring cylinders or syringes for checking dose accuracy.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

As we do every year hams will be available with some products this Christmas. However there have been some alterations to the 'ham deals' from suppliers. We will endeavour to meet your ham needs but last minute requests may prove problematic so see us about ham deals early!

SLUG BAIT POISONING

At this time of the year a lot of slug bait is used and lies around in sheds and on trucks etc. Each year we see cases of poisoning in dogs that gain access to bait. Fortunately we have not encountered the problem but there have been cases of cattle and children also being poisoned.

Please ensure you store slug bait safely and clean up spills when using it.

If you suspect animals may have had access to bait contact the clinic ASAP.

COCCIDIOSIS

After our article in last months newsletter on coccidiosis we can now inform you that Alleva Animal Health have developed a drench, 'TURBO Initial', for young calves that as well as killing worms also contains Toltrazuril to treat coccidial infections.

This product will be useful for farmers rearing or purchasing weaners where coccidiosis may be an issue.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz