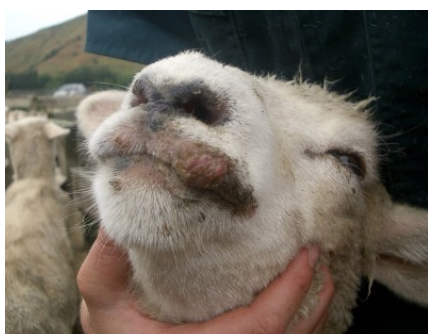


SCABBY MOUTH VACCINE

Some reminders relating to Scabby Mouth vaccines.

- Keep them in the fridge or chilly packs at all times as they are live vaccines and easily damaged by heat / sunlight.
- Don't over order vaccine; there is a large variation in how many lambs people manage to scratch with a vial of vaccine. Being a live vaccine we cannot take it back as we cannot guarantee how it has been stored and looked after.
- We often get asked, "If we start scratching, can we stop?" The simple answer is yes, the virus will be in the ground just like it was before you started scratching. If you have thistles etc that cause mouth lesions, lambs will get scabby mouth whether you vaccinated the previous year or not.
- Make sure the skin is actually damaged when you make the scratch, but don't cause excessive bleeding.
- Check 10 days after scratching for signs of a scab where you scratched. This scab indicates that vaccination has worked.



COVID MUSING

With a little time on my hands over Covid I have been trying to answer a few questions.

- Why does the nation tune in each day to hear someone with a degree in political science and work experience in a fish and chip shop give a lecture on the science of Covid control and other matters viral?
- Why do the powers that be create ads (political propaganda??) that addresses me in 'pidgin English' as if I failed to pass NCEA level 1 in English?
- Why does the Prime Minister of Announcements disappear every time things turn bad and it all gets left to the Minister of Everything Else (Chris Hipkins??)?
- Is forced closure of butcher shops in level 4 a way of turning the population into vegetarians?
- If you don't want to get a Covid vaccination should you still have the right to go to hospital if you do catch Covid and threaten the health system?
- When we run short of a product could you just slow down your use of the product so I can say we didn't run out of product and I didn't cock up!!!
- If we can't have the All Whites or White Ferns, I guess we can't have the All Blacks, Black Caps, Black Sticks or black faced sheep. From now on it will have to be All Neutrals, Neutral Caps, etc. Or possibly the All Wokes!!

LEPTOSPIROSIS IN SHEEP

We recently investigated a case of aborting 2.2ths in a line of 2.2ths at scanning time. The ewes had been vaccinated for toxoplasmosis and campylobacter. As a result it was unlikely these most common causes of abortion were likely to be involved.

The ewes had been purchased as hoggets so had not spent their entire life on the property. As a result they may have been susceptible to some infective agent they had not been previously exposed to. In discussing the case with the owner the possibility of leptospirosis being involved was discussed.

Wild or farmed deer can carry leptospirosis and act as a source of disease for sheep and cattle. It was established that a wild deer population was present.

Some of the dry and aborting 2.2ths were blood tested for lept antibody titres. All ewes blood tested had very high antibody levels consistent with recent infection. Given these findings, lept infection was suspected as the cause of these abortions and the in-lamb 2.2ths were vaccinated with Lepto vaccine. It was recommended that any hoggets or 2.2ths brought onto the property in the future also be vaccinated.

A reminder that leptospirosis can cause disease in sheep, cattle, deer and the people handling them. If you have populations of wild deer or pigs on your property, leptospirosis is something you should think about.

If you wish to check for evidence of leptospirosis in your flocks or herds this can be easily achieved through blood tests.

MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

If you have used **drench capsules** or **long acting injection** for several seasons now we have encouraged farmers to collect **faecal samples** for worm counts from their ewes around docking time to establish how well these treatments continue to work.

Finding worm eggs at this time indicates that drench resistant worm genetics are present on your property. Our experience with drench resistance issues this Autumn suggests resistance issues are now extremely widespread. These tests will once again be **FREE** this Spring for clients who purchases product off us so get those faecal samples into us.

PHOSPHORUS DEFICIENCY BECOMING MORE COMMON

We have seen numerous cases of phosphorus deficiency in cows this Spring. Affected animals generally look like milk fever cows and usually have low calcium's also. When treated with calcium the cow improves but can not quite get up, often crawling around the paddock'.

Treatment with phosphorus is required to correct the problem and should be given without delay. Oral phosphorus in the form of Dicalcium Phosphate Powder or one of the oral metabolic treatments containing phosphorus generally works well. Catosal injection can also be useful.

There is no doubt the addition of large quantities of maize silage, fodder beet or grain to cows diets which all have low phosphorus levels contributes to the problem by eroding phosphorus reserves in cows. If these feeds form a significant part of your herds diet for and length of time phosphorus supplementation is likely to be necessary.



DAIRY HERD PROFILES

Early September is an excellent time to check mineral and trace element blood profiles as cows start to hit peak lactation. Problems can be identified and corrected before mating.



AVOID EFFLUENT PADDOCKS

Each Spring we have clients who are hit by serious metabolic problems due to springers or milkers grazing effluent paddocks.

If at all possible springers and colostrum cows should **never** graze these paddocks and grazing by milkers should be minimised.

Effluent paddocks generally have high potash (K) levels which plays havoc with calcium and magnesium levels in cows resulting in cows going down and negative impacts on production.

THE DIRT ON FLEAS

Fleas are making their yearly return and if you don't want to be caught out with an infestation, it's a good idea to start treating your dogs and their surroundings now!

Spraying kennels and bedding with ripcord will help control the fleas in the environment as the larvae and eggs aren't found on your dog.

We have a range of topical, oral and flea collars to treat the fleas on your animals. Oral treatments can be superior to topical treatments if you have a dog who likes to spend time in the water (troughs, streams etc). None of the treatments act as a flea repellent so fleas will still jump on your pet. If the flea product is still working, the flea should be moving slowly and is easily caught.

Don't forget to treat your household dogs and especially your cats too!

TIME TO METRICHECK

Tackling cows with endometritis (uterine infections) early gives them the best chance to recover and get in calf early this mating. Cows that have been calved for 3 weeks can be metrichecked.

If you don't want to do the whole herd at this point consider checking 'at risk cows' that have a much higher chance of having problems. At risk cows are:

- Cows that were assisted at calving or retained their membranes.
- Cows that suffered metabolic or other health issues.
- Cows that appear to have discharges.
- Cows delivering twins.

TEXTING

A woman sends a text to her husband. "Honey, don't forget to buy bread when you come home from work - and your girlfriend Valerie says hello."

Husband: "Who is Valerie."

Wife: "Nobody, I just wanted you to answer, to have confirmation that you saw my text."

Husband: "But I'm with Valerie right now, I thought you saw me."

Wife: "What? Where are you?"

Husband: "Near the bakery."

Wife: "Wait, I'm coming right now!" After 5 minutes his wife sends a message, "I'm at the bakery, where are you."

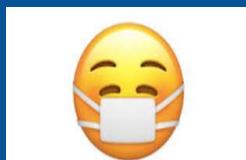
Husband: "I'm at work. Now that you are at the bakery buy the bread, xx"



AGM 2021

Unfortunately due to Covid Delta Level 2 and the limitation of 50 guests at inside venues and the need to wear a mask indoors the AGM has now been deferred.

Keep an eye out for the new date! Hopefully it will be November.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz