

GRASS SEED PROBLEMS

Long grass and seed heads can cause problems in all species. Think about grass seeds when animals develop cloudy, weeping eyes and take action immediately as corneal ulceration and damage can rapidly occur and be very serious.

Ears are another area that grass seeds end up affecting. The normal signs of this problem are head shaking, head tilts and ear discharges.



Awned seeds (especially barley grass) can be a real problem penetrating the skin through hair or fur. This is especially common in hairy toed / eared dogs so keep these areas clipped short to help prevent penetration. Signs of penetration are pain and discomfort in the affected area and tissue swelling.

These problems are much simpler and less expensive to sort out at an early stage so if you suspect a grass seed problem contact the clinic ASAP.



A GOOD START TO THE YEAR??

2022 is off to a pretty good start on most farms. Rain in late December has really set things up feed wise for January. Although the conditions have been rather challenging for crops on heavy, less free draining country!!

Grass growth in the last couple of weeks has been explosive and most pastures have a good clover content so lambs etc should do well and cows hold production. This might not be the case in February as feed quality declines rapidly!! Most clients are reporting that pre Christmas, lambs have done nowhere near as well as last year, and dairy farmers have commented that milk volumes are declining.

Warm, wet conditions will bring their own set of animal health challenges that need to be planned for. Facial Eczema may well become a significant threat. We are already getting reports of significant fly challenges on some properties. Worms, especially Barbers Pole, also thrives in warm, wet conditions.

Happy Farming!!!



COUNTRY POLITICS

Colin was leaning on a bar in a country pub chatting to the locals, when the subject turned to politics

"I can't stand that Andrew Little, he's got a face like a sheep's head," he said.

He was immediately thrown out the doors, landing in the middle of the main street.

"What was that all about?" he asked, dusting himself down in a daze.

I did not release you would feel so strongly. Is this Labour party Territory?"

"No," said a rather indignant farmer, "this is sheep territory."



ECZEMA THREAT—ITS THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

We will begin spore counting from high risk sites in our area from mid January. Results from these sites will be posted on the Club website:

www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz

... and Facebook page. We can also email you updates if you request them.

If spore counts indicate a challenge is developing it is best to consider getting spore counts done from your property. Call the clinic if you are not familiar with what this involves.



BARBERS POLE (HAEMONCHUS) PREVENTION

As mentioned in the intro Barbers Pole can be a real threat to lambs and ewes (especially 2.2ths) in wet summers.

Using Moxidectin (the active in Cydectin / Exodus) still remains the best option on most properties to prevent and treat haemonchus.



Unfortunately on many properties, although moxidectin is still highly effective against barbers pole, it is not 100% effective against ostertagia and block scour worm (Trichostrongylus). This means it should NOT be used as a single active to drench lambs. Ideally use a combination drench such as Trimox containing Moxidectin.

We generally recommend barbers pole prevention programmes for lambs start in late January, early February. For ewes, faecal egg counts should be used to establish barbers pole burdens and threats before drenching.

STAFF CHANGES

We wish farewell to Sophie who left us unexpectedly just before Christmas. We wish Sophie all the best with her future endeavours.

NO RANTS

I thought I would start the new year with the view of taking a more relaxed approach to our great leaders, covid politics and saving the world!! It is all quite easy when they are all on holiday and planning weddings. Although I did wonder about the chances of a tidal wave around Gisborne!!

COMPLETION OF CALF LEPTO VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

These programmes should generally have been completed by now. Early completion of calf programmes is necessary to prevent leptospirosis becoming established in calves exposed to Leptospire bacteria at a young age.



PARVO CASES

In recent weeks we have treated farm pups for parvo virus. While parvo cases are now very rare, these cases highlight the fact that parvo virus remains a threat to dogs.

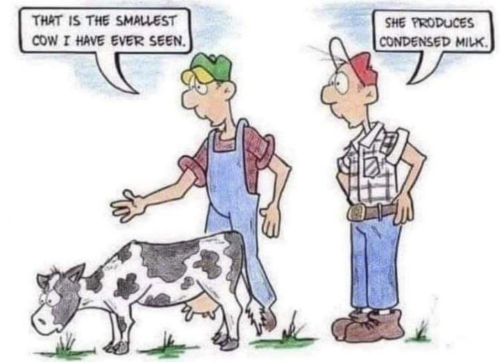
The parvo virus is extremely robust and can remain alive and infectious in the ground contaminated by scouring, infected dogs for years. Areas around pup pens are especially high risk.

Modern vaccines are extremely effective and do not necessarily require annual boosters. Some clients however prefer annual vaccination so things don't get forgotten!! Young dogs should still get 2 vaccinations from 6 weeks of age and a further booster vaccination 12 months later.



AGING COW PREGNANCIES

January is the preferred month for confirming AI dates and aging pregnancies in most dairy herds. Please contact the clinic to confirm dates for pregnancy testing if required.



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"



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz