

ECZEMA UPDATE

As I write this newsletter significant rain is forecast over the coming weekend. If we get this rain, spore counts may explode given the extremely hot weather we have been experiencing and the fact that our spore counting in the last week has already detected low to moderate spore levels at various sites.

Anyone concerned about eczema on their property should be planning to deal with an eczema threat if significant rain and damp conditions for a few days does arrive. Give consideration to:

- Carrying out spore counts from known hot spots on your property.
- Following spore count trends on our website or Facebook page. Or alternatively contact the clinic for updates or get us to email updates.
- If you have not already done so, begin supplementing with zinc in water or feeds.
- Talking to us about potential use of zinc boli in your stock. Please note with the Covid carry-on we are concerned about our ability to source and supply large quantities of capsules at short notice.
- Commencing spraying programmes to suppress spore formation where spraying is practical.

Strange new trend at the office. People putting names on food in the company fridge. Today I had a tuna sandwich named Linda.

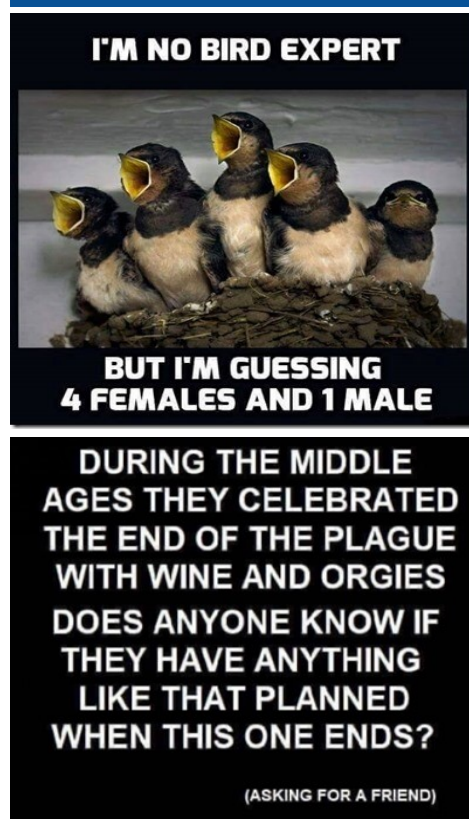
RUNNING A BUSINESS UNDER CODE RED

If anyone knows how this is all supposed to work please let us know!! Unfortunately we will continue to minimise public entry to the clinic. For shop customers this means standing at the front door drafting gate and for clinic clients, waiting outside at the back.

As to how we are going to function if some member of staff is exposed to Covid who knows!! We are not even 100% sure we are a critical service although a closedown for 24 days might create some issues!!!

No doubt we will work our way through this however it is extremely interesting to note that the 'Covid Models' predicted we should have 80,000 cases by Waitangi weekend. Today 142 cases were reported!!

Stay safe and if you are triple vaccinated, hug a Covid case!!



LOW VIT B12 / COBALT LEVELS IN LAMBS

A client recently had liver trace elements checked from 2 lines of lambs he killed. Both lines had very low B12 levels. From past experience this was on a property which we would not necessarily have classed as being at likely risk of B12 deficiency.

At this point we cannot fully explain the result. It may be something to do with the wet December and extreme grass growth we experienced. What we do know however is that many of our clients have been disappointed with their lambs growth rates this season. Poor growth rates in young stock are a known result of B12 / Cobalt deficiency.

If you are unhappy with the growth rates of your young stock in particular, consider testing for B12 levels.

THE MORE WE LOOK THE MORE WE FIND!!

The message seems to have got through and many farmers are now checking how well drenches are working on their properties. Unfortunately in the majority of cases we are detecting some levels of drench resistance.

It really is critical that farmers know their drench status. Our experience is showing us that the situation can deteriorate rapidly if action is not taken to address the problem. While the use of some Zolvix or Startect may be a part of the solution, it is by no means the whole answer. On some properties significant changes need to be made to stock and farm policies. All farmers with resistance issues need to think about the implications of resistance development every time they use the drench guns.

Unfortunately no one has all the answers as to how we deal with this problem. What we do know is that every property needs to be considered in its own right and have its own plan.

The one piece of good news is that where clients identified resistance problems at an early stage it does appear that in the majority of cases good planning and drenching decisions are slowing resistance development and in some cases improvements have been seen.

DAIRY HEIFER LIVE WEIGHTS

February is an excellent month to weigh **dairy heifer replacements** and confirm they are on track to make autumn live weight targets.

Where animals are found to be lagging behind extra focus can be put into these underweight animals. They can be preferentially fed, (palm kernel, crops, baleage). It is easier to get these animals back on track now rather than trying to do it in winter or spring.

Feed quality can also be an issue in the next couple of months and underweight young stock struggle to handle low quality feeds. Significant benefits can be gained in terms of growth rates by adding some high quality supplementary feed to the diet.

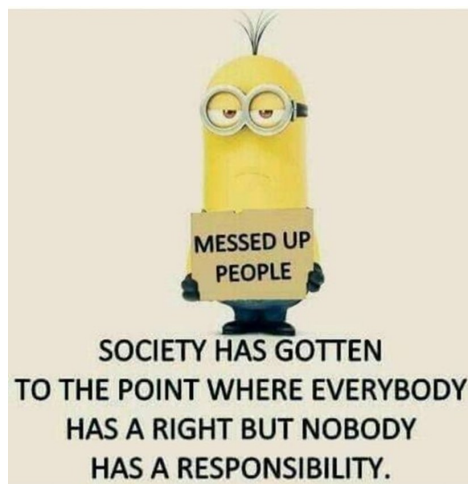
If you feel your replacements are showing poor weight gains despite good feeding, ensure other issues are not involved including;

Worm challenges/ drench problems.

Trace element deficiencies, especially selenium.

BVD.

Note—As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter if **Facial Eczema** is any risk to your heifers you should be taking protective measures. The use of zinc boli are a very good option, spraying pastures and zinc in water are the other alternatives but can have limitations. Call the clinic if you wish to discuss FE prevention.



Be aware she can move in any direction



HE WAKA EKE NOA (WHATEVER THAT MEANS)

Emission Pricing Consultation Meetings

I have been asked by Beef and Lamb representation to let our clients know meetings will take place in Wanganui and Palmerston North on January 23 and that there are online webinars also. You can google **beeflambnz.com** and follow the links for more information.

But have you thought...

This consultation process is yet another example of this governments hypocrisy and desire to push things through at all costs without effective consultation which they actually listen to!!

In the current Covid Code Red climate why should farmers from all districts be asked to go off their 'safe farms' to attend meetings??? Remembering this is the government that preaches to us to stay safe and look after one another. I wonder what would be the reaction if Beef and Lamb tried to hold these meetings at the local marae?

When farmers don't turn up, the government will say we had our opportunity for consultation and carry on their merry way.

Should Beef and Lamb or Dairy NZ be part of this flawed process? The implications of greenhouse gas emissions trading are a huge threat to all farmers (fresh water has nothing on this). Given we are in a 'Covid Red' restricted environment, have you considered why Beef and Lamb and Dairy NZ are not on television and in the media calling for a halt in proceedings given their inability to effectively meet with farmers and convey the vast amount of information that must be understood ?

Rather than attend a meeting and pay the government's silly game you might be better to contact the heads of Beef and Lamb and encourage them to stand up to the government rather than suck up to them so this issue gets the time and discussion it deserves.

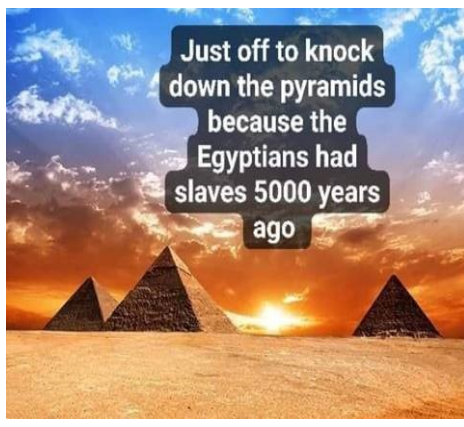
Andrew Morrison, Beef and Lamb Chairman 027 6644620, 03 2071856

Sam McIvor, CEO 021 828170

CONGRATULATIONS...

Sheldon Martin
Angus Gilbertson
Kevin Best
Kim Black

... all of whom returned their
Sheep Vaccinations order forms
and had their names drawn out to
win a \$50 New World voucher.
Remember to return your forms
to us to be in to win.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz