

## WELCOME TO A WET AUTUMN!!

While it is great to see the place greening up and plenty of grass about, moisture at this time of the year brings its own animal health challenges!!

Worms, fly, eczema and other fungal growths on pasture are all challenges we are likely to face, and on some properties are already an issue. However, when it comes to worms, don't assume you have a problem!! While we have seen some high worm burdens (including haemonchus) in some ewe flocks especially 2.2ths, on many properties where stock look good, faecal egg counts have revealed little worm challenge at this stage. No two farms are necessarily the same. In seasons like this you really need to do your own monitoring and testing when it comes to worms, trace elements and facial eczema.

## COST OF ECZEMA CONTROL

With Facial Eczema (FE) posing a significant threat we have fielded a lot of enquiries around FE protective measures.

Options available to farmers include:

- Selling stock (store lambs etc)
- Grazing crops (brassicas and chicory)
- Fence to fence spraying of paddocks with fungicide
- Administering zinc boli to stock
- Including zinc in water or feed

When it comes to spraying pastures:

This must be done **before spore counts reach toxic levels** and should give up to 6 weeks cover. We generally recommend checking spore counts 4 weeks after spraying. Cost of spray should be around \$35-\$45 a hectare including chemicals.

Because grass is normally growing rapidly when spore counts are rising (there has been plenty of moisture) it is possible to hold big numbers of stock on fairly small areas while you work out a further plan!!

### Zinc Boli

Boli generally give very good protection if given to stock before spore counts become dangerous. Protection lasts 6 weeks in sheep and 4 weeks in cattle. While they may seem expensive the economics of using them really stack up in a bad year!!

*Approximate capsule costs (GST ex):*

*Lamb \$2.15*

*Ewe \$2.90*

*175-250kg Weaner \$7.00*

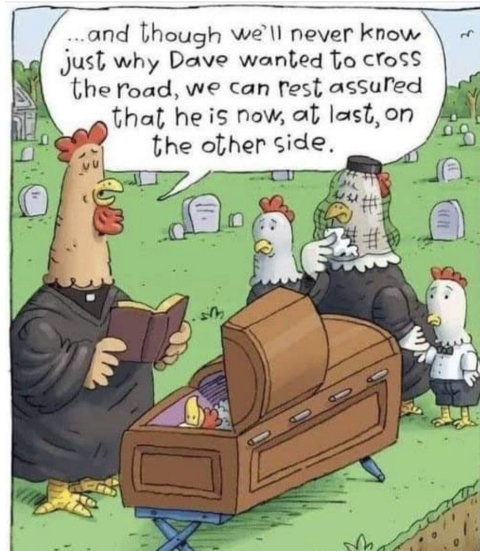
*250-400kg Beast \$10.50*

Taking a ewe flock for example – treating 3000 ewes and 900 hoggets would cost \$10,635. This does not include the time involved with treatment (this is not a fast job!!).

\$10,635 equates to an extra 87 lambs next year at \$120. This calculation does not account for all the sub-clinical damage that occurs and affects the future long term productivity of stock.

### ***To really get you concerned!!***

Our last really bad eczema year saw much of the damage and deaths in late March, early April, so there is plenty of time yet for things to get nasty!!



## HE ATE WHAT??

Dogs, and even cats have been known to eat odd things. Sometimes these things get stuck and cause a bowel obstruction.

Over the years, we have removed a multitude of offending objects. The most common being bone. Chopped meat that is still on the bone can have sharp points and dogs are good at swallowing these whole.

We have also removed dags, stones, canvas bedding, corn cobs, towels, a tape measure, underwear, fishing hooks, a BP smurf toy and nerf bullet rubber ends (the last two coming from the same cat!).

Signs your animal may have an obstruction can mimic gastroenteritis.

Things to look out for are vomiting (sometimes with a normal appetite), mild diarrhoea and oftentimes lethargy or not being "right".

Obstructions can sometimes turn into a bowel perforation and peritonitis if left so if you are concerned, we can check your animal out, the sooner the better!

## MORE LOW COBALT B12 LEVELS

Following our mention of low Vit B12 levels in lambs in last months newsletter a number of clients have had lambs tested at the works. Most of these clients had been unhappy about the growth rates of their lambs.

Some test results have identified low Vit B12 levels which have almost certainly affected lamb growth rates.

If you have lambs going to the works it may pay to check liver B12 levels. You will need to contact the clinic for the appropriate form to go with the lambs.



## FOOT ISSUES IN DAIRY COWS

I recently pregnancy tested a herd of 500 fresian x cows. We started with the lame cows and I noted that many of them had poor foot structure and various foot faults leading to over grown and twisted toes.

As we pregnancy tested the rest of the herd it became obvious that poor foot conformation, especially in the hind feet, was a significant issue. (6-8% of cows had significant faults.)

This has to be a genetic issue and the owner was advised to look at the genetic backgrounds of the affected cows.

It may be worth taking the time to check your herd for foot structure and discussing this matter with your semen provider if you identify any issues.



## RAM CHECKS

We have carried out the majority of ram palpations for the season. To date we have not identified a Brucellosis problem anywhere which is great.

We have however found plenty of other testicular lesions that render rams infertile and a small number of those have been in recently purchased 2.2ths!! There have also been the usual issues with scrotal mange in some flocks and the occasional ram with 'short chords' which we have described in previous newsletters.

Don't forget your rams when it comes to other animal health requirements. (Most people are paying plenty for their rams these days!!) In general these should include:

- Clostridial vaccination each year (5 in 1, 8 in 1)
- Salmonella vaccination
- Protection from facial eczema – ram paddocks tend often to be the worst paddocks on the farm when it comes to FE.
- Protected from fly.
- Terminal sire rams tend to have low tolerance to worms so a drench before they go out can be an excellent idea.

**I trained my dog to fetch beer. It may not sound too impressive but he gets them from the neighbor's fridge.**

## AFTER HOURS VET

**Emergencies - 06 322 8058**

**Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm**

Monday to Friday

**Email - [huntermilletvetclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntermilletvetclub@xtra.co.nz)**