



# HVC

YOUR CLUB

## MAY 22

### WORMS DEPRESS APPETITE

Plenty of moisture this summer and autumn has generally ensured great grass growth, but has also been very suitable for worm survival and proliferation! This has meant the continued worm challenge that pasture fed young stock in particular have been under has been significant on many farms.

To grow well young stock must consume very high intakes of feed each day. (Up to 4% of their body weight.) To achieve this, good levels of appetite are required. Unfortunately the presence of worms in the gastro intestinal tract, as well as damaging tissue and causing absorption inefficiencies, also depresses appetite. (This will occur well before symptoms of scouring normally associated with worms are seen.) This is one of the reasons why lambs do so much better on brassica, chicory crops and cattle country where worm challenges are greatly reduced.

It is also worth noting that drench resistance issues cause the same problems by leaving worms behind after drenching that continue to have an affect on appetite. We repeatedly get informed when dealing with drench resistance issues how much better lambs perform when drenched with a highly effective drench.

**Earlier today, I saw a bumper sticker that said "I'm a veterinarian, therefore I can drive like an animal." Suddenly I realized how many proctologists are on the roads...**

### WINTER APPROACHES!!

The year marches on, cows are being dried off and farms move toward winter stocking rates. We have had some really settled weather and stock have been generally been doing well in recent weeks. A few mls of rain wouldn't go amiss to freshen things up as we head into winter!!

### THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Through 2 years of covid we had remarkably few issues with stock availability and pricing remained fairly consistent. Unfortunately in recent months the issues around product availability and inflation that NZ has begun to face have also impacted on the animal health market.

We currently have some issues with product availability. We can normally deal with them if we have a little notice. Please assist us with our planning by filling out of product requirement forms that we send out from time to time.

Unfortunately you will also note increases in costs of a wide variety of products. We will continue to purchase and supply products in a way that minimises these price rises but they are going to occur for the foreseeable future.

### A HIDDEN PROBLEM

In recent weeks we have had several reports of animals breaking out with eczema'. This relates to both sheep and dairy cattle.

These clinical cases unfortunately are likely to be the tip of a bigger iceberg. This was highlighted in the case of one client who noted a handful of cows with signs of eczema. As well as blood testing these cows to establish the degree of liver damage, some 'unaffected' cows were also blood tested. 50% of these animals also had significant liver issues.

Although in many areas spore counts did not reach very dangerous levels they did remain at moderately elevated levels for quite some time. This continual challenge has resulted in liver damage especially in animals with increased genetic susceptibility to facial eczema.

These subclinical cases may well have productivity issues going forward due to reduced hepatic function. Further damage to their livers next season may push them over the edge.

If you have unthrifty stock despite good feeding and management consider subclinical FE. Blood tests are a simple way of confirming a problem. Kill sheets can also be helpful, check for reports of facial eczema on them.

### VET CERTIFICATES

At this time of the year we are asked to issue a lot of vet certificates. Just a reminder that if we issue a certificate for an animal that has a lameness or musculoskeletal injury that compromises its ability to walk or stand, these types of animals must be sent to the **closest** works. We will state on the certificate which plant this is. Please ensure when talking to your agents that this is understood. For many of our clients this will mean either Affco in Feilding or Riverlands in Bulls.

For some certificates for things such as early cancer eyes, or old injuries where there is no pain and on going issues, stock may be able to be sent to a wider range of works.

With mobile phones it can be a good idea to take a **video or pictures** of the animal to be certified and show it to us before the vet visits. Advice can be given as to whether a vet cert is likely to be necessary or given and what requirements may be stated in the certificate.

**There wouldn't be grocery store shortages right now if we ate our vegetables instead of electing them.**

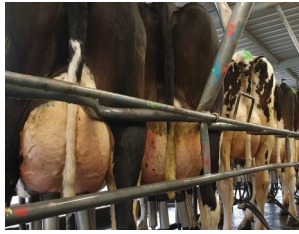
## DRY COW TIME

Thousands of tubes of Dry Cow or Teat Sealant will go into cows in the next 6 weeks.

These programmes can go very wrong if correct procedures and protocols are not religiously adhered to.

### ***The Do's and Don'ts of Dry Cow / Teat Seal Therapy:***

- **Do** ensure all staff involved with treatment understand correct procedures for this job. Show them online videos (of correct procedures!!) if required.
- **Do** ensure high levels of hygiene, have sufficient teat wipes, disinfectant and gloves on hand.
- **Don't** try to dry off all of your cows in 1 day. Take your time over a few days. If the shed / platform and the operators start to look anything but clean, it's time to stop!
- **Don't** put tubes in hot water to warm up to improve administration. Place tubes in a chilly bin with a heat source such as a hotty or clean bottles of hot water.
- **Do** clean each teat with a new teat wipe and ensure the teat is clean.
- **Don't** fully insert the nozzle into the teat end, partially insert them (about 3mms).
- **Do** massage dry cow up the teat after insertion if teatseal is to be administered after the dry cow.
- **Don't** massage teatseal at all. It needs to stay at the end of the teat to do it's job.
- **Don't** touch the tube nozzle once the cap has been removed.
- **Do** spray all four teats with teat spray after all four quarters have been treated. Ensure fresh teat spray at the correct concentration is used.
- **Do** take cows quietly back to their paddock and check them daily for at least a week for any signs of problems.



## SKINNY DOGS

We see a wide range of dog conditions walk through the doors of the clinic! Amongst our working dogs in particular we do see a number of dogs that are too light.

With hard working active dogs by far the most likely reason is underfeeding. Have you ever seen a skinny Labrador that always finds food somewhere? Working dogs can burn vast amounts of energy in a day. This energy needs to be replaced with high volumes of good quality, high energy diets. (This isn't another 3 tux biscuits a day!!) Sometimes twice daily feeding can help. It also pays to ensure dogs have warm, dry kennels meaning they require less food for staying warm when not working.

If underfeeding can be ruled out, other health issues can be considered. Worms are high on the list so always ensure skinny dogs are wormed properly.

For dogs that suddenly get skinny, especially if they lose their appetite take immediate action. These signs may be pointers of severe underlying issues such as infections, cancers, etc. A clinical examination and possibly blood tests of such dogs should be considered.

And finally there are a small number of dogs with genetic makeup, appetite and behaviour that are always skinny, much like me 30 years ago!



## SURPRISING

I recently attended a meeting organised by the mayor and the district council on 3 Waters. The meeting was packed out, 4 from the council, 3 tangata whenua, and yours truly.

Are we really that punch drunk that all hope of sensible decision making and governance has been lost.

Anyway there were some interesting points to come out of the meeting.

1. Maori have been involved with the planning around 3 Waters for way longer than councils and rate payers.
2. The effects of this legislation will have on local water schemes like Hunterville's is unknown
3. Councils generally recognise that 3 Waters is riddled with faults and threats but feel powerless to have any impact on the process. Just like the fresh water consultation process, the politicians and bureaucrats supposedly engaged in consultation ignore what they are told and carry on regardless.
4. The proposal in its current state has the potential to create division in NZ along racial lines.
5. Take away water from councils and what is really left for them to do?? Thus allowing more centralisation of control.
6. Under the proposal the voice of rural places like the Rangitikei will be lost in the urban vote.

And by the way... one of the big arguments for water reform is all the people getting sick drinking water—supposedly 30,000 per year. I have yet to meet any of these victims outside a couple of Havelock North ones, not really surprising given that 30,000 is 0.006% of our current population.

## AFTER HOURS VET

**Emergencies - 06 322 8058**

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

Monday to Friday

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