

LONG TERM FLY CONTROL

A growing number of clients are seeing the benefits of using Klik or Strikeforce as their fly protection for October docking. These products, if correctly applied, will give 12 to 16 weeks of fly protection. This means no further fly control is required before weaning and in many cases lambs are weaned in December and January and not treated again until after lamb shearing.

The cost of treatment is 44 cents GST inclusive per lamb which, while significant, does deliver significant time and labour and savings while giving extremely good fly protection.

REMEMBER!!

Scabby Phenax and Scabiguard are **live vaccinations** so care needs to be taken when using them, otherwise this could happen to you!!



A STOP START SPRING!

Just when you think things are away another cold spell of weather occurs and stock are right back on top of feed!! While it delays shutting up paddocks for silage, tight feed levels now should ensure good feed quality through October / November and into December.

A lack of sunny days certainly isn't improving carbohydrate levels in pastures and we have observed negative energy balances in dairy herds that we have blood tested that appeared to be well fed. A lack of sun also reduces magnesium levels in grass so although we are now in October, don't discount the threat of grass staggers in cows or even twin / triplet rearing ewes.

On the up side we are getting reports of very good lamb survival in early lambing ewes and calving has gone well. But most importantly our great leader, having solved the worlds problems, has returned to NZ to take this country to places it has never been before???

DOING IT RIGHT AT DOCKING

By the time you read this many will be into docking. This is a reminder to ensure your docking crews use good technique for the various tasks involved.

1. **Scratching for scabby mouth.** Ensure vials remain in cool bags when not in use. The skin needs to be broken for the scratch to take but don't scratch so vigorously that that you get blood as this can wash the virus out of the scratch. Check lambs 10-14 days after scratching to ensure there has been a good take. Look for a scab where the vaccine was applied.
2. **Fly Control** products are not cheap and other than Klik or Strikeforce they don't move in the fleece. They need to be applied accurately to the tail and scrotal area to deliver good protection.
3. Ensure **applicators and ear markers** are clean and have disinfectant on hand to maintain some degree of hygiene.
4. If **drenching lambs** at docking (this should not really be necessary for young, healthy lambs) ensure dose rates are appropriate. Overdosing small, potty lambs can kill them!!

IS IT TIME?.....

WHEN TO SAY GOODBYE TO OLD ANIMALS

Sadly, all of our animals, whether they be pets or working animals, get old or unwell. In the vast majority of cases we have to make the decision to put them to sleep.

It can truly be a struggle to know when it is the right time. Animals become part of the family regardless of their purpose and it can be hard to say goodbye.

It can be hard to think purely about the animal's wellbeing and put our own feelings to the side. Yes, we are going to miss them terribly but that isn't a valid reason to prolong pain and/or suffering in our animals.

People often ask us how they will know when it is time. If the bad days outnumber the good, your animal is no longer interested in everyday life, they have an illness that is untreatable, or pain relief is no longer working then you really need to start making plans. It is always better to be one week early than one week late to make that call.

All of our vets are willing to talk to you about this topic if you are having trouble making that call. We are also happy to arrange a house call for euthanasia and cremation can also be arranged if you would rather that than burying your pet.

Remember when you used to be able to call a person 57 times, and hang up, and they never knew it was you.



...good times.

SHARED ON I'M NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD.COM

Two hillbillies walk into a restaurant. While having a bite to eat they talk about their moonshine operation. Suddenly a woman at a nearby table who is eating a sandwich begins to cough. After a minute of so it becomes apparent that she is in real distress. One of the hillbillies looks at her and says, "Kin ya swallar?"

The woman shakes his head, no. Then he asks, "Kin ya breathe?" The woman begins to turn blue, and shakes her head, no.

The hillbilly walks over to the woman, lifts up her dress, yanks down her drawers, and quickly gives her right butt cheek a lick with his tongue. The woman is so shocked that she has a violent spasm and the obstruction flies out of her mouth.

As she begins to breathe again the hillbilly slowly walks back to her table. His brother said, "Ya know, I'd heerd of that there Hind Lick Maneuver but I ain't never seen nobody do it!"

DRENCH RESISTANCE ISSUES!!

If you have used **long acting drench injections or capsules** this year you should be checking how well they have worked by taking faecal samples from treated ewes. (Docking is a great time to collect the samples). As in past years this test is free for clients

CHECKING FOR B12 / COBALT DEFICIENCY

Often during the docking and weaning process the occasional lamb succumbs to some injury that requires it to be euthanised (broken legs, head injuries, etc). If this occurs, taking a piece of liver from the lamb while it is still fresh is a simple way of getting liver samples to check trace element levels including cobalt / B12. Liver samples can be frozen and dropped into the clinic for testing when time allows. Three or four liver samples can be all that is required to assess the trace element status of your lambs.

AI PROGRAMMES FOR COWS AND HEIFERS

We have a number of clients who have booked in their AI programmes for cows or heifers. This can be a very cost effective way of getting animals in calf to good quality genetics without the costs of purchasing and feeding a bull for 12 months!!

Programmes for well grown heifers and good conditioned cows generally result in 60—75% of animals being in calf to AI.

There have been some small increases in the costs of drugs for the synchrony programmes. This season costs should sit around \$45.00 GST excl for cows and \$40.00 GST excl for heifers. (This cost includes drugs, vet fees, and AI fees.) Semen costs are not included but in most cases fall between \$15 and \$30 per cow.

Interested???

Call the clinic to discuss programmes, costs, semen availability, etc, and book in a programme.



CHECK YOUR TEATS

The first cows to calve have now been in the herd for 8 to 10 weeks on most dairy farms. It is a good practice to take the time to carefully assess teat health and condition especially where multiple staff members milk cows, and cows have experienced cold, wet, muddy conditions.

A deterioration in teat health with teat lesions developing needs to be addressed immediately as if unchecked it will result in an increased susceptibility to mastitis.

- 1) Ensure teat spray is being mixed and used correctly, with sufficient emollient in it, and
- 2) that cows are not being over-milked.

Consider whether your machines need to be checked. Cows with lesions may need specific treatment and in many cases can take some time to improve. Call the clinic for more specific advice.

PS. If you use various ointment from tubs on teats be very careful with hygiene. It is very easy to contaminate tubs and then pass bacteria between cows as you treat teats. **In fact if possible it is best to avoid products in tubs!!**



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz