

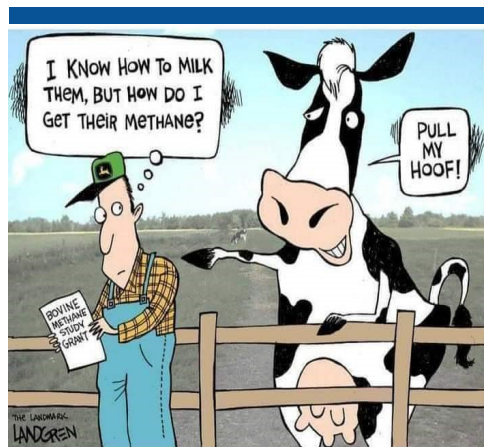
## CHECK THOSE DRENCH GUNS!!

A client recently informed me that he set and tested his 'new drench gun' and it delivered 4mls less than the dose he had it set on.

I am uncertain as to whether he had the gun set correctly but the outcome was he would have under dosed his lambs if he had gone ahead and dosed stock without checking.

The take home message remains the same:

- Always calibrate your drench gun and insist your staff do likewise.
- Have a measuring cylinder or syringe on hand for measuring doses (we will even give you free syringes to use for this!! Just ask next time you are in buying your drench.)



## WELCOME TO 2023

What a change a couple of weeks of sun can make! From wondering if it was ever going to stop raining, an inch of rain now would be welcome for livestock & crops. As I write this newsletter rain is forecast in the next few days which would be great.

While stock seem to generally be doing well we have seen a number of different diseases in recent weeks to keep things interesting. See other articles in this newsletter on some of them.

As we get into the new year please ensure you have a programme in place to check on the effectiveness of your lamb and weaner cattle drenching programmes. From last years observations we know that well over **50%** of farmers will now have issues with drench resistance on their properties. Early detection and good management is essential in slowing the development of this critical problem.

Here's hoping the works have something near adequate staffing levels in the coming weeks to meet the kill demands expected at this time of the year, and the rain keeps coming to keep the need to destock reasonable.

As I head up and down the State Highway 1, continual streams of holiday traffic make me wonder just who is worried about their carbon emissions!! I guess they're the ones in Teslas who already have their boat at the beach house, or the ones that stay at home and indulge in packing out the malls for holiday retail therapy.

## SILENT SALMONELLA!!

While most farmers know to suspect salmonella when significant numbers of ewe deaths occur in summer and autumn, many do not realise that salmonella can also lead to a constant trickle of ewe deaths throughout the year.

I recently dealt with a property where the odd ewe had died over winter and spring. A post mortem examination of a ewe that died after weaning was consistent with salmonella, and vaccination of the ewe flock was advised. This farm has suffered from salmonella in the past and all 2.2ths were vaccinated for Salmonella. Old ewes had not received any booster vaccination. This is a relatively common approach to vaccination in our area and is generally very successful at preventing salmonella. On occasions however the salmonella challenge can overwhelm the protection derived from 2.2th vaccination. Vaccinating old ewes again will raise the level of immunity in the flock and prevent these random deaths. Sheep seem to be that good at dying that often ewe deaths are taken as s..t happening. On more than one occasion salmonella has been diagnosed as a problem after the accountant asked why the deaths and missing numbers were so high. The farmer had not consciously noted a problem on the property!!

## LUNG WORM IN WEANERS

Rachel recently investigated poor weight gains and deaths due to lung worm. This is a problem that farmers of spring born, hand reared calves should be aware of.

Good drenching programmes normally control any problems with lung worm. However extended drenching intervals or poor drenching techniques can lead to problems with lung worm, especially on properties where high numbers of young cattle are farmed from year to year.

Signs of lung worms in cattle can include:

- Coughing
- Poor weight gains or weight loss
- Difficulty breathing
- Death!!

So, be on the lookout for coughing calves!!!



## WHY YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR RAMS

At this time of the year you are likely to get a phone call from us asking if you want your rams checked. After years of doing this and finding nothing it is easy to think you can skip this practice. Two recent cases highlight why checking rams is good practice.

The first involves an outbreak of Brucellosis over three properties involving 130 + rams. At this point 30% have been culled on the initial blood test and given what we know, another 30% are likely to go!!

The second involves a 2.2th ram that was purchased for a significant sum of money as a 'stud sire'. This ram had very short testicular cords which resulted in small, poorly functioning testicles that are likely to seriously impair the rams fertility.

'Short cords' appear to be an issue in Texel and Wiltshire breeds in particular. So if you are going 'no wool farming' using Wiltshires it is something to be aware of!!



## LEPTO IN LAMBS

This is another disease we have encountered in recent weeks. While Leptospirosis is more commonly associated as a disease of cattle and pigs, on occasions it can also cause severe problems in other species including sheep, deer, dogs and humans!!

Leptospirosis tends to cause two problems in sheep. One being abortions and reproductive losses, especially in hoggets, and the other causing deaths in lambs.

The case we encountered was typical of leptospirosis outbreaks in sheep. The owner reported finding sick or dead lambs for no apparent reason over a period of time. Post mortem examination revealed the typical jaundiced 'yellow' lamb associated with leptospirosis. We tend to see more cases of leptospirosis during wet periods as the bacteria survives for much longer in a wet environment. Due to the number of lambs already lost, vaccination was recommended.

The source of lepto on this property has not been established. Infected cattle herds or wild deer are the most two likely sources. Pigs or rats are other possible carrier animals.

It is important to remember that humans can contact Leptospirosis from infected animals so always **use good hygiene** practices when handling sick or dead animals where lepto could be involved.

## VACCINE ORDER FORMS

Last month you all would have received a Sheep Vaccinations Order Form from us in with your monthly accounts.

If you have not ordered your vaccines please do so ASAP.

Toxovax and Ovastim have timing requirements. Toxovax in particular is a live vaccine and is made to order. It arrives with us on a Tuesday and needs to be ordered in advance. If you leave your order until the last minute there is a high chance that you will not be able to vaccinate when you had planned to.

If you have any questions please give us a call.

## TEASER TIME

A reminder, time is running out to get rams cut for use as teasers.

If you need new teasers this season, ring the clinic ASAP to book them in.

We often vaccinate dogs on farm at this time so do a count up and get your numbers together for us.



## BEST QUARANTINE DRENCH?

We often get asked as to what is the best quarantine drench for lambs. Given the widespread nature of triple resistance now there are really only two choices for drenching lambs you buy in; either Zolvix or Startect, and we would tend to lean more towards Zolvix.



## 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)**