



HVC

YOUR CLUB

MAY 23

GOOD NEWS

Falling nitrogen prices from the recent crazy highs are good news for farming systems that utilise the growing power of nitrogen (either urea or amp sulphate). Hopefully this trend will continue through winter ensuring nitrogen is an economic option on high performing sheep and beef properties and dairy farms.

With the unavailability of capsules this year, ensuring ewes are well fed will be essential. Using targeted nitrogen application could be part of the solution for many.

TEAT SEALING HEIFERS

The practice of teat sealing heifers has proven to be highly effective in reducing mastitis cases in heifers at calving. This is a procedure that needs to be carried out correctly requiring very good levels of hygiene.

The majority of our dairy clients who teat seal get our help in carrying out this task. Please call the clinic to book correct dates for teat sealing if you require our assistance this year.



A Good Wife Can Bring Balance To Your Life

DON'T GET DISTRACTED!

With ducks everywhere I hope the opening weekend went well! It is good to get out in the mai mai and sort out the world's woes. Some of which could possibly be solved with a shot gun. May is a critical month for setting farms and stock up for winter so don't get too distracted with the quackers!!



CALVING MONSTERS : SCHISTOSOMES

Over the last few weeks we have been entertained by one of the rarer calving emergencies, calving mutant monsters. Schistosomes, staples, inside outs, or more commonly known as "what is that", can make even the most experienced vet scratch their head and calving these on your own will almost be impossible.

If you have 4 legs presenting, all guts, or just can't make heads or tails of a calf, please stop and call for a vet immediately. Other presentation of these calves is having the correct presentation but no progression in the calving with traction. Please stop and call for assistance. These creatures tend to have limbs growing in odd places and you will likely cause more damage trying rather than waiting for reinforcements. We have to either perform a fetotomy (cut it into pieces), or remove it via caesarean section.

We still don't know what causes this congenital abnormality. Is it toxins from a plant?, inherited from the dam?, or the worst lottery to win?



THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY

Turning 60 and fishing for 2 weeks tends to lead one to think about the future and a 10 hour homeward journey gives you plenty of time for reflection.

My thoughts turned to the future direction of the vet club as I slip into oblivion. It is a whole new world out there but maybe things should go something like this.

1. The club needs to hire a consultant to drive its future direction and rebrand itself. Ideally someone straight out of university who best understands the real world.
2. No doubt a name change will be required to rebrand the business. This is likely to involve some type of 'waka'.
3. Democracy no longer works like it used to, so rather than having a board elected by the members, it would be more appropriate to have a panel of appointed personnel who could then appoint a board of directors. My thoughts would be that this panel be farmers of Irish decent who should be around 16% of the clubs membership. This panel would be appropriate for appointing a gender and culturally diverse group of directors with little need to select them on their merits and ability to run a business.
4. I know a dog who identifies as a human, he would be a necessity on any board.
5. The club would also need to employ a public relations and cultural advisor, possibly instead of an experienced cattle veterinarian as they will likely be redundant.

With this all in place, the club will be ready to take on the future. If you happen to think this is all a bit far fetched you had better take another look at where this world is heading, and I am certainly in the cynical 60s!

PREPARE YOUR COWS

Transportation results in a drain of cows calcium and magnesium, particularly in lactating cows, as they are still producing milk and they aren't ingesting any more calcium or magnesium on the trip. Furthermore, their muscles use calcium up to keep them standing, the longer the travel the more calcium is used. As cattle (even beef cattle) enter into late gestation, their metabolic needs for magnesium and calcium increases as well.

To ensure your cattle are transported safely, with no cows going down at the works (which can result in fines), supplement them beforehand.

1. Add 100 grams of lime flour per cow to feed during stand-off (4-12 hrs before transport). This provides each cow with 35g of CALCIUM. An alternative supplement can be used but it must contain the equivalent amount of CALCIUM.
2. Also give 60 grams Causmag. Note that this contains Magnesium not CALCIUM so is not a substitute for Calcium supplementation.

Follow these 3 steps BEFORE your cull cows get on the truck:

STEP 1

Stand them off pasture (green feed) for 4-12 hours prior to transport.

STEP 2

Provide roughage/dry feed and water while they're stood off.

STEP 3

Supplement with CALCIUM (lime flour), as well as Magnesium. Add to roughage, dry feed or as an oral drench.

BOOSTER VACCINATIONS

Five in one or eight in one vaccinations are widely used to control clostridial diseases and deaths in lamb finishing systems. Vaccination is especially useful where lambs graze very high quality forages such as chicory, clovers, plantain or lucerne.

In many cases only one vaccination is given however two vaccinations given at least four weeks apart will deliver a higher level of protection / immunity than a single vaccination. If you do encounter lamb deaths after a single vaccination that look like clostridial disease, a second vaccination is recommended. At around 36 cents a shot, one death stopper per 400 lambs treated is the break even point!!

MINERAL DEFICIENCY DESPITE THE FEED

In recent weeks we have tested many lines of sheep and cattle for trace element levels through samples taken at the works, on farm blood tests, or liver biopsies. Significant trace element deficiencies have been identified through many of these tests. The majority being copper or selenium.

With dairy farmers drying off and dry stock farmers carrying out pre winter treatments for cattle and sheep, consideration should be given to checking on trace element levels in stock. The last 6 months have seen some very unusual grass growth rates for long periods and these conditions have altered normal trace element availability on many properties.

Even if you have tested in recent years and found few problems, it would be wise to evaluate where things sit this year!!

MAC IS RETIRING!

Our vet Mac Keene, who has been with us since 2014, is retiring! While Mac will still be filling in for us from time to time he is looking forward to retiring to his lifestyle block and to stopping doing Faecal Egg Counts!

We would love to have you join us for a drink and something to eat at the Argyle Hotel on Friday 26th May from 5.30pm onwards to celebrate his retirement.

MY DOG HAS A FAT LEG...NOW WHAT?

We frequently encounter joint infections with working dogs. These often show up as a lame dog with a swollen leg or joint that seemed fine working the day before. They may not have eaten their dinner as well.

If you see a swelling that is associated with a joint, it is essential to get your dog in asap for a check. If there is a joint infection present, this will need to be flushed and your dog put on antibiotics. We often send a sample of joint fluid to the lab so they can grow it and work out what antibiotics the bacteria respond to.

Sometimes these bacteria can be aggressive and also erosive to the cartilage surface, causing a secondary arthritis which can be debilitating to your dog. We prescribe 2 weeks of antibiotics initially, but you **must** bring your dog back in for a check up at the end of the 2 weeks. It is fairly likely that they will need another course of antibiotics to fully clear up the issue.

If you have a dog that has been bitten near or into a joint, you need to get it into us straight away for antibiotics to prevent a nasty joint infection from occurring.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz