

## DRENCHING YOUNG CALVES

Generally young calves will not need their first drench until they have been grazing pastures for 4-6 weeks. If calves graze the same paddocks each year and cattle run in these paddocks all year, drenching will be required a little earlier than where these conditions do not occur.

Every so often we see cases of drench toxicity in calves where calves are overdosed with drenches that have a lower safety margin (Normally abamectin is involved).

**Turbo Initial** is an excellent drench for use in young calves due to the chemicals it contains having good safety margins. It also contains Diclazuril which assists in controlling **coccidia** which is often a bigger problem than worms in bucket reared calves!

Remember also to draft calves into similar weight groups for drenching when calf live weights vary significantly.



## WELCOME TO SPRING!

Well, after what July and August threw at us, the recent spell of big, blue days is a great pick me up for stock, feed covers and farmers as we get into Spring! I have already heard mumbblings that the drought has started!! Whether it has or not, enjoy these sunny days and make good decisions now that enhance productivity and give you, your farm and stock the greatest resilience when it comes to all types of challenges.



## ARTHRITIS AND NAVAL ILL

Arthritis and naval ill are two related conditions of young lambs and calves that appear more frequently when conditions are muddy and wet. These types of conditions certainly existed for most of August!

In wet conditions new born animals are more likely to suffer infections via a dirty naval. Sometimes these infections remain isolated in the naval area but often bacteria get into the blood stream and spread to the joints causing arthritis or sometimes other organs, such as the liver, causing abscesses.

We have certainly seen more naval infections than normal while dehorning calves and farmers are reporting deaths and arthritis in lambs around 10 days of age. For sheep farmers there is not a lot that can be done about this problem other than trying to lamb ewes in the driest paddocks and these have been few and far between recently!!

If handling new born calves or lambs, it is always worthwhile spraying navals with iodine to kill bacteria around the naval. Lambs or calves that develop swollen / sore navals or signs of lameness / arthritis should be treated with antibiotics as soon as possible. Once joints become swollen and painful, responses to antibiotics tend to be poor.

## DRENCHING EWES AT DOCKING

As clients start to think about docking we are getting plenty of questions around ewe drenching including:

- should I do it?
- What drench should I use?

There are no simple answers to this question! As most farmers are now aware, the evidence suggests that whole flock ewe drenching should be avoided if possible where drench resistance is an issue on the property and as a means of protecting properties from drench resistance development.

Whether to drench ewes will be dependent on a number of factors.

- Feed levels and ewe condition at docking. We know that well fed ewes have a natural ability to deal with worm challenges that arise after lambing.
- What levels of worm burdens appear to be present in ewes from **pre-docking faecal egg counts**.
- Ewe genetics—there is no doubt that there are now genetics out there giving greater robustness to sheep when it comes to worms.
- Whether drench resistance is a known issue on the property.
- Age of ewes, 2.2ths tend to show more susceptibility to worms and greater productivity losses than older ewes.

In a perfect world all ewes would be left un-drenched however in many ewe flocks there may be a portion of ewes where significant benefits will result from drenching. For some, selectively drenching tail end ewes at docking may be a good option.

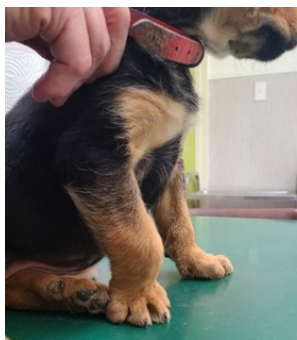
As to what to use, a triple drench will probably be the best option. However if drench resistance issues are serious, the use of Startect or Zolvix may need to be considered.

## PUPPY GROWTH PROBLEMS

Occasionally, fast growing, large breed pups can develop odd looking front or back legs. The majority of the time, these funny legs are just a disparity between the rate of bone growth compared to that of the ligaments and tendons and in the vast majority of cases, come right by themselves or after a tweak of their diet.

Sometimes though, bent legs can be as a result of an abnormally shaped joint or a trauma that can prematurely close growth plates.

Below are some examples of nutritional or growth abnormalities:



**Knuckling over at the wrist joint**

**Dropped wrists, dropped hocks**



**Swimmer pup (weak front and hind limb muscles)**



Make sure to contact us and discuss any issues you see before thinking the worst for your pup.

## CONGRATULATIONS...

The winners in our Pre-lamb Order Form draw were:

- Hamish Stewart
- Jack Baker
- Gavin Drake
- Simon Goodwin
- Alex McAlley

## Situations Vacant—Kumara Nui



With the removal of GST on fresh fruit and vegetables, 'The Ministry of Fruit and Vegetables—Kumara Nui' is being established, creating new employment opportunities.

There are many rolls to be filled. Ideally applicants will require little vision, be open to indoctrination, and like finishing work more than going to work.

### Essential roles to be filled include:

- Consultants (even though the last ones told us removing GST was not a good idea), who will ensure the Treaty of Waitangi is adhered to when it comes to fruit and vegetables.
- Advertising Specialists, to design a culturally acceptable logo.
- Advisors, who will decide when a fresh fruit or vegetable is fresh and exempt from GST. For example, is fresh fruit salad fresh fruit?, is a week old cabbage fresh?, is a vacuum packed vege still a vege?
- Investigators, who will ensure retailers follow our GST decree and every NZ family receives their \$4.00 per week savings. This will be an excellent position for those who find dealing with real crime too taxing.

Get your applications in ASAP. Employment will be guaranteed until 14 October, 2023.

## MAGNESIUM PROBLEMS

This prolonged wet spell with a lack of sun has not been good for feed covers or quality when it comes to minerals such as magnesium.

Lactating sheep and cows have high magnesium requirements. If stock become deficient in magnesium, grass staggers and milk fever can be the result. On some properties we blood test beef cows pre-calving to assess magnesium status. Unsurprisingly this years results are indicating issues with low blood magnesium which could be a real issue with calving approaching for beef cows.

On some properties these is still roughage left from last summer which tends to have better magnesium levels than spring grown grass but if your cows are calving in September on short regrowth, start planning your strategy for avoiding problems.

Magnesium capsules, Magnesium Oxide dusting on feed and Magnesium Salt Licks all have their part to play in avoiding grass staggers.

**PS.** Although most of this article is about cows, ewes with high milk production and multiple lambs, on good quality pastures can also get grass staggers. Just like cows they get nervous signs including staggers, shaking and problems standing. As with cows, early treatment with products such as Calpromag or Magnesium Sulphate can correct the problem.

## MULTIMIN PRE MATING

When given to cows 4 weeks pre-mating, trials have demonstrated that Multimín can improve in-calf rates and get cows in calf earlier. If you have struggled with your herds reproductive performance in recent seasons, the use of Multimín may be worth consideration. Call the clinic for more information.

Multimín can also be used in bulls 12 weeks before they are joined with cows to improve semen quality and production.

GET YOUR HERD PERFORMANCE READY



## 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)