HVC YOUR CLUB

NOV 23

UNCERTAIN TIMES!!

As we head toward the new year we certainly face more questions than answers. October 14 got rid of the rabble who thought they had all the answers. We are now faced with trying to herd cats and fit 3 parties who also have all the answers into one unified group. Good luck with that Christopher!!

Down on the farm it's not a lot better. Will the new year lamb schedule have a 5, 6 or 7 in front of it, the milk payout doesn't look much better and have interest rates reached their peak?

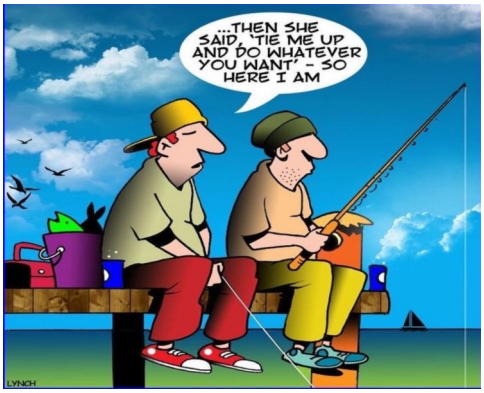
What we do know in uncertain and challenging times is to manage the things that we can control. (It almost worked for the All Blacks!) Making correct and timely management decisions on farm will give you the best chance of ensuring optimal outcomes are achieved in the challenging times we face!!

UDDERING EWES

Before we know it, weaning will be occurring. Uddering the ewe flock should be a key part of ewe management on every sheep farm. Research in NZ has indicated that udder problems can be present in over 6% of ewes in some flocks. Problems tend to be worse in older and well fed, high milking ewes.

There is much debate as to when it is best to udder ewes but the general consensus is 4 to 6 weeks after weaning is the best time. Infections / mastitis can often occur immediately after weaning and these problems will not be detected at weaning. As an aside, when it comes to weaning, if at all possible, get ewes away from the yards and into clean paddocks, with limited feed, as soon as possible after weaning. Hanging recently weaned ewes around muddy / dusty yards is a great way to cause mastitis in ewes with full udders after weaning.

Uddering means actually feeling the udders and teats for lumps, bumps and fibrous lesions in the teat. There is a real technique involved in doing this job properly. Google uddering ewes for information / videos on ewe uddering. Alternatively we are happy to run through uddering techniques with you.



FAREWELL FOR RACHEL AND JORDAN!!

On **Tuesday November 28**th we will be bidding farewell to Jordan and Rachel With a few drinks **at the Station Hotel from 5.30pm** onwards. All members are invited to join us in thanking them for their contribution to the club and wishing them well in their future endeavours.

THE MORE YOU LOOK, THE MORE YOU FIND!

(and don't necessarily understand!!)

With docking well underway we have now carried out many faecal egg counts and in some cases larval cultures on ewe flocks.

This work has come up with a wide and interesting range of findings: To summarise.

1. Where ewes had low FECs pre-lambing and were not pre-lamb drenched, FECs around docking time have generally been low to moderate. This is especially the case where, despite a challenging spring, ewes have been adequately fed.
2. In some cases a portion of the ewe flock had high FECs but owners reported ewe condition as 'generally being okay'. Where this situation has arisen, larval cultures to identify just what worm species are involved were carried out. Interestingly, in many cases, a large percentage of the eggs (up to 75%) were identified as being from worm species that we do not normally associate with causing a lot of damage in adult sheep (cooperia, oesophagostomum and chabertia).
3. Larval cultures also revealed quite high percentages of Barbers Pole in some flocks. In past years we have not done a lot of larval cultures on ewe samples. We can't really be certain of the significance of this Barbers Pole presence in terms of challenges that might arise as the season progresses.
4. Where Cydectin Long Acting Injection has been used, in all cases there is strong evidence of resistance issues being present. In some cases treated ewe had FECs only marginally lower than undrenched ewes!!
5. The good news is that with the current genetics, good feeding and good management, there are ewes out there that can get through lambing without drenching. This doesn't mean they do as well as they might have if given an effective drench. However with the continual rapid development of drench resistance 'effective' drenches are a fast disappearing option on many properties. We also know that whole flock drenching of ewe flocks in many cases will accelerate drench resistance development.
6. In general the advice has been to only drench tail end ewes at docking.

PREVENTING TWISTED STOMACHS

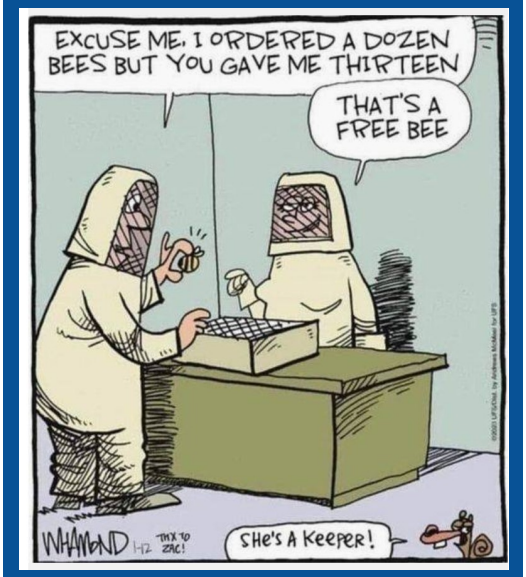
Deep chested dogs like huntaways are at risk of a twisted stomach. Increasing that risk even more are the following factors:

- Underweight or lean body condition
- Gastric foreign body
- Weather extremes (i.e. too hot, too cold, large drops in temperature over a short period, thunderstorms)
- Feeding small kibble
- Rapid eating
- Overeating
- Water restriction after eating
- Large meals either right before or after heavy exercise
- First degree relative who has had a twisted stomach

We can perform a surgery whereby we create a scar between the stomach and the body wall which prevents the stomach from twisting, please enquire about this if you have concerns for your dogs.

CONDITION SCORE YOUR HERD

Condition scoring your herd in late spring is a good way of assessing your herd management and feeding over late winter and spring. Ideally this should have been done by now, but it can still be a very useful tool especially when assessed with this years mating outcome.



JOHNES DISEASE IN DAIRY HERDS

Johnes disease is widespread through dairy herds throughout New Zealand and our clients are not immune to the threat this disease causes.

While most farmers are aware that Johnes disease in cattle causes scouring, severe weight loss and eventual death, some don't realise that milk production in infected cows can be decreased by 25% before clinical signs are seen.

The majority of Johnes cases occur when young calves are infected with the bacteria from their infected mothers or other cows they come into contact with. Consequently it is important to remove infected cows from the herd and the property as early as possible (ideally while they are still in good enough order to go to the works).

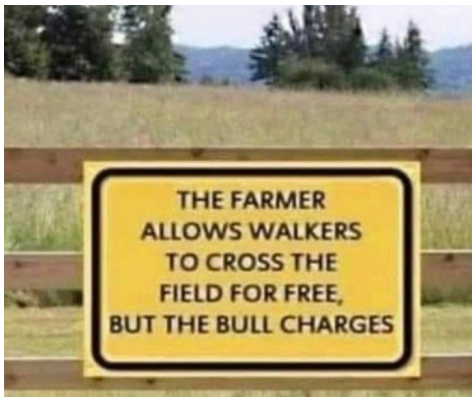
Early detection means either blood testing suspicious cows when they first show signs of weight loss / scouring, or an unexplained drop in their milk production.

Herd testing milk samples can also be used to identify infected cows and is very useful where the incidence of Johnes in the herd begins to rise.

Other important control measures:

- Do not retain heifer replacements from cows that end up with Johnes given the high likelihood that they will have infected their progeny.
- Keeping calf rearing facilities and paddocks for healthy stock only. Not skinny, light cows that might have Johnes!
- Try to avoid feeding colostrum and milk to calves from cows that may pose a Johnes risk. The best outbreak I have ever encountered was on a dairy farm where the 'skinny' cows were used as nurse cows to rear replacements!!

If you have any concerns around Johnes disease in your herd give us a call to discuss things more fully. Johnes disease is an infectious disease and if not properly managed will make further inroads into your herd.



MORE PARVO CASES

Following on from last months newsletter where we reported an outbreak of parvo cases, we have had further parvo cases. All these dogs had questionable vaccination histories and were pups or young dogs.

To avoid parvo it is essential puppies are properly fully vaccinated and receive their 12 month booster. See last months newsletter for puppy vaccination protocols. If you get young dogs with uncertain vaccination histories, getting them vaccinated is a good idea.

CHRISTMAS HAM SUPPLIES

Following the change in products Boehringer Inghelheim now supply to us, there has been a significant reduction in the Ham Supplies. This year Hams will only be available on a reduced range of Drenches and Dips. If you are in the Clinic please ask about our Ham promotions so we can meet your requirements.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz