

## **FEBRUARY ALREADY!!**

Well, we are one month into the new year already!! January has seen random rainfall throughout our patch, putting some in much better feed conditions than others. Along with the moisture and hot temperatures comes a raft of animal health challenges which are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The best that can be said about product prices is that they are not falling anymore! Although it will be interesting to see what happens if February is hot and dry!! Chipping away at things and making good timely decisions would appear to be the safest option.

If things are tight and you are considering minimal fert applications this autumn, it will pay to run things by your fert consultant. Where sulphur levels are low it may still be highly cost effective to apply a light dressing with sufficient sulphur for 12 months. You may also need to consider carrying capacity for this winter!



## **FOCUSSING ON LIGHT EWES**

On most properties we are 50 days or less from starting to put rams out! Many trials have demonstrated the importance and positive payback received on focussing on the lighter ewes in the flock (under condition score 3). In general there were more light ewes at weaning than in past years. These lighter ewes need preferential feeding and possibly a drench to improve body condition scores before mating.

## **FACIAL ECZEMA, BARBERS POLE AND FLY ... WILL THEY BE A PROBLEM???**

Hot, humid conditions, as most farmers are aware, can lead to big challenges when it comes to keeping lambs healthy and growing. Heat and moisture are key ingredients for facial eczema, fly and worm survival and development (especially Barbers Pole). There has been quite a variation in rainfall over the areas we service, however where good rainfall has occurred, in some cases things are becoming challenging.

### **Barbers Pole**

We have received reports of and identified issues with *Barbers Pole worm*. However there are many properties out there where Barbers Pole does not appear to be an issue at this stage. In the good old days drenching late in January / February with Moxidectin was the standard practise for controlling Barbers Pole. With resistance to Moxidectin from the other worm species on many properties, controlling Barbers Pole has become more complex. For many it should involve carrying out faecal egg counts to gauge the Barbers Pole threat and necessity for drenching. Where resistance to Ivermectin has been identified, double dosing with Moxidectin and a Dual Drench at the same time may be necessary. Ideally drenching of 2.2ths and older ewes to control Barbers Pole should occur when a threat has been identified. This is best achieved by regular FEC's of ewe flocks. Egg counts will rise rapidly if Barbers Pole becomes an issue.

### **Eczema**

Spore counts have started to rise. In the last few days of the month counts of up to 70,000 have been seen. However, counts are highly variable around the place. The best advice we can give is to take samples from high risk areas on your property and watch our spore count reports on Facebook and our website.

For those clients who spray it is time to start thinking about doing this. Dairy farmers should have zinc going into cows and young stock. We have a good supply of zinc capsules for the season but any major challenge will certainly see availability get tight.

### **Fly**

We have fielded many questions about how well dips are working this year. How well a dip works is very much dependent on the level of fly challenge and how well the dipping procedure has been carried out! In high fly challenge years, expecting 8 weeks protection from spray races can be a stretch and is only likely to occur where lambs and ewes are well dipped. For long term fly control 12—16 weeks, Klik or Strikeforce are the only products to consider but they are costly.

Cyromazine based dips (ie. Cyrex, Cyroshield, and Vetrazin) are likely to give 8 weeks protection at best. Cyroshield EP (Cyrazin KO lookalike) may last a little longer and will kill lice and maggots.

PS. Apologies about all the name changes in the dip market in recent times. Hopefully things settle down and product names will remain the same!!

## **SELENIUM SUPPLEMENTATION FOR EWES**

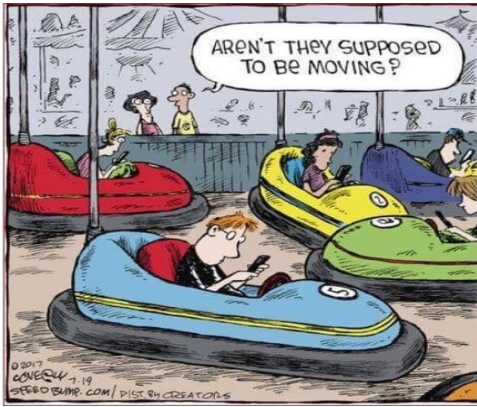
Adequate selenium levels in ewes are important for ewe health and good reproductive results. Low selenium levels can result in poor embryo survival. Last season very low selenium levels were identified in several ewe flocks made worse by the fact that many ewes were not pre-tup drenched with selenium drench.

We believe it would be good practice to check the selenium levels in ewe flocks prior to mating. This is a simple procedure involving blood testing a small number of ewes. Where low selenium levels are identified, supplementation can be given with oral selenium, drenches, or injections.

## FAST RESULTS FOR FEC

We are seeing a huge increase in demand for faecal egg counting. While we have increased our capacity to carry out counts, at times we may not be able to give same day results. This is especially so for samples dropped in on Friday afternoons!! Please try to get samples in to us earlier in the week if you require quick results!

Faecal samples taken and immediately refrigerated in sealed containers / bags are fine for 2 to 3 days if reading is delayed.



## MASTITIS SPIKES

January saw spikes in cell counts and mastitis cases in some dairy herds. Early intervention and investigation of the problem is essential when this occurs as if left unchecked, things can get worse fast! Milk samples from mastitis cases should be taken for culture, teat spraying needs to be up to scratch and checks on teat health and the milking plant function should be carried out. If staph aureus is identified as a problem, culling needs to occur.

## GUESS WHAT???

Surveys show there are consumers out there who really like wool!! The problem is they may like it, but it is another issue when it comes to paying for it! Pretty much the same theme that relates to saving the planet for the majority. "Yes we want to save it, but someone else needs to pay."

When you can compare a nylon carpet to being surrounded by 1000's of plastic bags, I don't know why wool is so hard to sell! I guess the conundrum will be cracked about the same time Wiltshires and Nudies have taken over the National Flock!!

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY AFTERCARE

Here at Hunterville we are lucky to have vets who are happy to perform orthopaedic surgery fixing fractures and joint dislocations. We strive to do the very best for your dog to try to achieve good healing. Surgery is never without its risks and post op complications can be commonplace when working with animals. For example, we aren't able to tell them to not weight bear for 4-6 weeks post op so it falls to you as the owner to follow instructions that are sent home with you.

As dogs heal and the pain eases they will start using their leg more. Allowing them to do more exercise than is recommended can be detrimental to the repair. It can cause issues with loosening of screws, plates and prosthetic ligaments we implant at surgery. Keeping your dog strictly on a lead and only doing short, controlled walks greatly increases the chance of a complication free recovery.

Sometimes a second or even a third surgery can be required to get adequate healing and a dog that can go back to work for you. These are things that can be discussed before surgery with the vet.



## SLUG BAIT POISONING

In recent days we have dealt with cases of slug bait poisoning in dogs and weaner cattle. Just another reminder to handle and store slug baits with caution.

Despite animal repellents in baits, some animals still find slug bait attractive. Our weaner cattle case involved calves that had been fed meal and found spilt areas of slug bait to their liking.

If you suspect a dog may have ingested slug bait (the symptoms can include drooling, vomiting, nervous signs, and blue/green staining around the mouth or in faeces/vomit), seek immediate veterinary assistance.

In early cases we can hopefully stimulate the dog to vomit and clear the poison before too much absorption occurs. In advanced cases, fluid therapy and stomach washes are necessary and may not always be life saving.

## PREG TEST RESULTS IN DAIRY HERDS

We have now completed the first round of pregnancy testing in dairy herds. The general theme is that things have gone relatively well in well managed herds. Better herds are looking at empty rates of 7-12%.

## 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)**