

BARBERS POLE ABOUT?

Over February we have received various reports concerning possible Barbers Pole challenges in lambs and 2.2ths. To date we have not seen any problems in mixed aged ewes. Some lambs have been identified with significant Barbers Pole problems but in a lot of cases the worm challenge has been due to worms other than Barbers Pole that, because of drench resistance issues, have not been properly controlled with earlier drenches. It really is vital that all farmers establish how well drenches are working on their property.

While carrying out ram checks I have seen rams with significant Barbers Pole burdens on three properties. In all cases it was the black face rams that were clinically affected. These rams were in poorer condition with pale mucus membranes but had no evidence of scouring / dags. This is consistent with Barbers Pole infections, scouring and dags are often not seen.

LOW CONDITION COWS

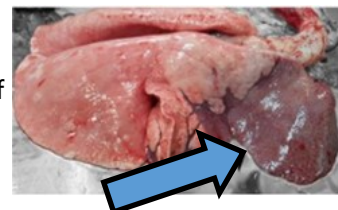
Before you know it we will be into Autumn and starting to talk about drying off. It is not too early to be making plans around which cows to dry off early. Light, young cows should be high on the list, especially those ones that will calve early next year. Dry cows put on weight much more easily than lactating cows so drying light cows off early gives you the best chance of having them in optimal condition come calving next spring.

Cosmin is trained in cow condition scoring and can assist you with the condition scoring of your cows if required.

SUDDEN DEATHS IN LAMBS IN AUTUMN

At this time of the year we often get reports of sudden lamb deaths. In most cases farmers want to attribute deaths to clostridial / Pulpy Kidney problems. There are, however, other causes of sudden death in lambs that should be considered, especially if lambs have received some form of clostridial vaccination (5 in 1, 8 in 1, 10 in 1).

Pneumonia—Autumn sees the greatest challenges to lambs from pneumonia. Kill sheets with high numbers of lambs affected with pleurisy are a good indicator of pneumonia being a problem. On occasions bacteria causing pneumonia enter the blood stream causing septicaemia and sudden death. You can confirm pneumonia by opening the lambs chest cavity and looking for pneumonic consolidated lungs (see the picture—looks like liver).



Barbers Pole—Severely anaemic lambs will drop dead, especially following physical exertion. Check the eyes of sick lambs to assess the colour of the mucus membranes.



Leptospirosis—Last season wet conditions were ideal for the leptospira bacteria to survive and spread. We saw many cases of leptospirosis deaths in lambs. With conditions being much drier this year it does not appear to be a significant problem.

Toxins—Toxins can be a cause of death especially on crops where poisonous weeds can be a problem. Staggerweed or Ameranthus (redroot) are the two most common ones we see.



Staggerweed



Ameranthus

CORRECT TEAT SPRAYING

A simple procedure often done wrong!!

As all dairy farmers are aware, good teat spraying is an essential tool for mastitis protection and control and ensuring good teat health.

A recent study revealed how often teat spraying was not up to scratch. Problems identified included:

- Incorrect concentrations of teat spray or poor quality water used to mix up spray
- Poor teat spray
- Teat spray being mixed for too long before use (ideally it should be used in less than 48-72 hours)
- Poor set up of automatic teat sprayers, sometimes affected by the wind
- Prolonged delays in applying teat spray (teats should be treated as soon after cup removal as is practical)
- Poor teat sprayer nozzles that do not give even coverage (spray your teat spray onto a board to assess the spray pattern)

Done well, teat spray is a great tool in the dairy shed. Just ensure you are doing it correctly!

FE (FACIAL ECZEMA) AND ZINC CAPSULE USAGE

We have fielded a number of inquiries around the use of zinc capsules. Some of the essential details are:

1. Zinc capsules come in a number of sizes to treat ewes, lambs and various sized cattle. For cattle in particular you need to know bodyweights so the appropriate sized capsule is used.
2. Capsules, once administered, will give you 6 weeks protection from FE in sheep and 4 weeks in cattle. Protection from a zinc capsule takes a few days to kick in so it is important the capsules are in before the FE challenge is expected.
3. If a FE challenge lasts more than 6 weeks, a second treatment can be given.
4. Special applicators are used to administer capsules. Administration, while not difficult, can not be rushed. Capsules that are chewed by stock do not work properly.

COPPER TOXICITY

We recently dealt with sudden deaths in ewes following administration of copper injections. The property involved had a history of low copper levels and had treated animals without problems in the past. This case follows another case of copper toxicity in the Spring involving pregnant hoggets.

These deaths highlight the importance of knowing the true copper status of stock before injectable forms of copper are administered. For sheep this is best done via liver biopsies, in the case of cattle - liver samples or blood tests can be used.

Feed levels, fertiliser policies, and seasonal conditions can all affect the copper status of sheep and cattle. Do not administer injectable copper, especially in sheep, without having a good understanding of their copper status. Always follow the manufactures / vets recommended dose rates.

HEAT STROKE

It may be starting to cool down but we have still had two dogs die of heat stroke in the last month. Any sign of your dog getting a little wobbly and panting a lot while working could be a sign of heat exhaustion which can rapidly turn into heat stroke. Make sure you immediately stop what you are doing, find the dog some shade, a drink of water, and cool it down by splashing water on it, especially in the armpits and groin where there is less hair.

Even if they look like they have recovered somewhat, it is imperative to keep a close eye on them as the effects are on the internal organs and are obviously not visible externally.

When the body overheats to greater than 43 degrees, the proteins inside the cells of the circulatory system, internal organs, gut and brain are partially cooked. This can cause a massive inflammatory response, issues with clotting, neurological signs and sometimes even death. The longer a dog is at this high temperature, the worse the damage will be.

Some dogs may be more prone to heat stroke, young or old dogs, dogs with a heavy thick coat and also dogs that are thick winded when they are working. There are also those dogs that don't know when to stop and will keep working regardless.

If you are away from handy water sources when working your dogs, maybe have a spare bottle of water and a container on the bike to give them a drink if the weather is hot. Also remember to give them plenty of breaks and don't work in the heat of the day. Heat stroke can be worse on humid days as it makes panting as a means of heat reduction, not as effective.



VACCINATION SCHEDULES FOR DOGS

We often get asked questions about when and what to vaccinate your dogs with.

The core vaccine is a combination of canine parvo, distemper, hepatitis and parainfluenza virus.

Minimum pup vaccinations are at 8 and 12 weeks, those in higher risk parvo areas should be vaccinated at 6, 9 and 12 weeks. 1 year old dogs then need a booster of this vaccine and if good records are kept, can go onto a 3 yearly schedule.

Leptospirosis vaccine is given as a priming vaccine and then a booster 3-4 weeks later but this vaccine needs a follow up every 12 months for your dog to be well protected. Dogs who are 18mths past their last lepto vaccine require another 4 week booster as it is a bacterial vaccine and doesn't have any longevity.

Kennel cough vaccine is also a yearly vaccine and can be either an injection or an intranasal vaccine. The intranasal vaccine doesn't require a booster. It is handy if you need to put your dogs into kennels at short notice that aren't up to date on their vaccines, as they can have it 2-3 days before going to kennels.

On busy stations with dogs coming on and off the property a lot, it is recommended to vaccinate with the parvo combination vaccine each year.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz