

NEW VET COMING

We are pleased to report that we will be welcoming a new, experienced veterinarian to our team. Brian Cook will be joining us in July. Brian comes from Kerikeri. He has worked in Northland for most of his veterinary career (over 20 years) as a mixed animal vet.

This will mean we are fully staffed once again as we head into spring. A great place to be, given the current shortage of vets in NZ!!



DAIRY DISCUSSION GROUP

SAVE THE DATE!!

@ Rangitira Golf Club

Tuesday July 9th 2024

All welcome—please let us know numbers for catering purposes



WELCOME TO MAY

As I finish up this newsletter we have just had the first weekend of Duck Shooting. No doubt the world's problems and the challenges faced down on the farms were fully discussed as shooters waited in maimais for high flying ducks to come within range!



On many farms achieving good weight gains in lambs has been a real battle in recent months. While feed quality has been a problem, poor worm control and high challenges have also been a major issue. In many cases underlying drench resistance issues have been heavily involved. This problem is now widespread and is starting to cause the disruption to farming systems (both sheep and cattle) that have long been predicted. To add to the problem, cases of Zolvix resistance are now being reported!

It is our intention to hold a Field Day on drench resistance and worm management over winter.

On a brighter note, it appears the new government is taking steps to address areas of lunacy created by the last crowd. Here's hoping common sense prevails with practical and manageable outcomes for the farming sector and New Zealand in general.

A GOOD YEAR FOR BEEF COWS

Pregnancy testing of beef cows is slowly winding down. Clients are generally happy with weaner prices this year. The old beef cow is once again proving her worth, both directly through the value of her calf and indirectly in terms of improving farm grazing and pasture quality, and in some cases, assisting with worm management programmes for both sheep and cattle.

Last season great grass growth meant that cows wintered very well and calved in good order. This set them up to be cycling well when then bull went out meaning in calf rates this year are generally better than normal.

I often get asked about various targets for cow herds. The following are targets that should be the minimum objectives for your cow herd.

1. A 95% in calf rate at scanning (5% empty) for a 42 to 60 day mating period.
2. 90% plus of wintered cows rearing a calf.
3. Achieving average growth rates of 1kg / day for calves until weaning.
4. Keeping cow death rates below 3%.

CHECKING TRACE ELEMENTS ON DAIRY FARMS

It is not too late to check trace element levels before herds are dried off.

Identification of any potential issues allows treatment and management programmes to be put in place. Meaning cows go into winter and calving next spring in the best possible space when it comes to their trace element status.

Blood testing, liver biopsies or works liver sampling from cull cows can all be used to assess trace element issues.

This area has become much more complex on farms where significant levels of all manner of supplements (maize, silage / PK, grains, cotton seed, etc) are fed. This means trace element requirements can vary greatly depending on the mix and quantity of supplements used.

Contact the clinic to organise an appropriate trace element check for your herd.

LEPTO AND DEER

It is now a pretty common occurrence for us to investigate abortions and high empty rates in both sheep and cattle. These often end up being linked to leptospirosis in 'wild deer' that have established a population on the property.

Deer are well recognised as being susceptible to leptospirosis and after becoming infected can shed the leptospire for up to 10 months. These shed bacteria are a potential source of infection for both sheep and cattle (and for that matter, humans) which come in contact with the bacteria. In the case of pregnant animals, abortion can occur.

Possible exposure to leptospirosis in sheep and cattle can be determined by blood testing and checking for high antibody levels.

Where leptospirosis is identified as an issue, lepto vaccination of stock can be considered. Controlling wild deer numbers on the property is also warranted.

GOLF TOURNAMENT!

An early reminder ... we are holding our annual Golf Tournament at the Rangitira Golf Club on Thursday June 6 with an 11am start. Teams of 3 are needed for the Ambrose competition—either sort out a team or we can put you in one.

This is open to all of our members and their staff.

Come along for a very enjoyable day. Various prizes are up for grabs so you may well go home with more than you came with!

Contact the clinic to book your place (limited to 120 players)



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK FOR LIVER FLUKE

Liver fluke infection rates in sheep and cattle can vary greatly from season to season largely depending on how far stock graze into wet areas. If you have had fluke problems diagnosed on your property in the past, an annual late autumn / early winter check for fluke, especially in the ewe flock, is a good idea.

This can be done by collecting 10 to 20 individual faecal samples, ideally from lighter ewes. These samples can be tested to gauge the number of fluke eggs present which is linked to fluke numbers.

Initial counts this year are highlighting fluke issues on some properties. This is not surprising given the dry conditions we have experienced.

Remember, if killing light ewes for dog tucker etc, to always check the livers for fluke. Infections are very easy to see in the bile ducts of the liver if you know what you are looking for!!



FISHING

Martin and Mel went on a fishing trip. They rented everything they needed for the trip including the batch. The first day they went fishing but didn't catch anything. It went on like this until finally, on the last day of their holiday, Mel ended up catching a fish.

As they drove home Mel turned to Martin and said, "Do you realize that this one lousy fish we caught cost us fifteen hundred dollars!"

Martin said, "Wow! Then it's a good thing we didn't catch anymore!"



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to George and Emily Vickers who had their name drawn out of the box and won the BBQ which we recently had on display in the shop.

I am sure they will be having lots of great BBQ parties next summer!



LAB WORK

With the increasing prevalence of drench resistance on many properties we have been extremely busy over the last few months doing faecal egg counts for many clients. This is proving to be a very useful management tool on many properties while farmers negotiate their way through this current challenge.

Renea has been spending much of her time in the lab and is doing a great job getting through the huge number of samples that have been coming in daily. To this end we have employed Pip Renshaw to lend a hand in the lab, and also out on farm, especially during the disbudding season. Like Renea, Pip is multi-talented and you could find her popping up anywhere around the Vet Club. Welcome aboard Pip!

Please remember, if you have samples to bring in to have a count done, the earlier in the day you can get them in to us the better! If you need to keep your collected samples overnight, store them in a plastic bag and keep them refrigerated.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz