



HVC

YOUR CLUB

JUL 24

ONE MONTH TO GO

With the start of calving a month or less away the ability to put weight on pregnant cows is very limited. However, it is essential lighter cows do not lose more weight as the demands of late pregnancy increase. Where possible, check cows out and identify those animals that need preferential feeding and care. This may include singling them out for once a day milking until they cycle and drenching them pre-calving (see advice on drenches for dairy cows elsewhere in this newsletter).

While this piece was aimed to dairy stock, I have noted a few light beef cows in my travels. The same advice holds true for **beef cows**. As winter pressure comes on, lighter cows need to be given preferential feeding and management if they are going to deliver a live calf, grow it well, and get back in calf next mating.



Dairy Seminar

July 9th, 11am

@ the Rangatira Golf Club

Food and drinks provided

All welcome

A GREAT JUNE

After a cold and slow May, June has really been what the doctor ordered with dry conditions under foot and above average winter grass growth. Soil moisture levels certainly could do with a top up but current conditions allow for a very good pasture utilisation. No doubt the top up will begin around the first days of calving and lambing!!

The general theme would be that while early scanning ewes did okay, later scanning flocks are back 10—15% on last year. Dry conditions in late March and April in many cases certainly made it difficult to flush or even hold condition on later tugged ewes (especially if there were still way more lambs on farm than was desirable).

Don't forget our dairy farmer seminar on **Tuesday 9th July at 11am**, and our worm / drench resistance afternoon on **Thursday 11th July at 1pm**. Both events will be at the golf club.

Thanks to all the members who have made contact with very positive comments following our rebate in last months accounts. While it won't pay the bank loan, we hope you can put it to good use! Maybe a weekend away or a new fishing rod, or ideally both!!

THE RIGHT DRENCH FOR DAIRY COWS

For any dairy farmers planning to drench cows or pregnant heifers between now and calving, it is essential to give a drench with withholding periods that can be met.

Historically drenches containing Abamectin had nil milk withhold but this is no longer the case. Do **NOT** use Abamectin on your cows. Drenches containing Moxidectin or Eprinomectin do have zero milk withholds and are the drenches of choice for cows at this time of the year.

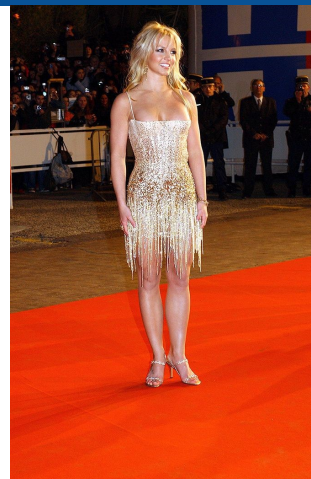
Eprisure and Cydectin pour-on are two well known pour-on drenches with nil milk withholds.



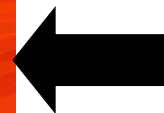
AN OBSERVATION

Back in April I spent a few hours wandering around at the Field Days. As I wandered I came across a wool carpet promotion. This site was manned by two rather portly, 50 plus gentlemen who were quietly having a yarn.

It struck me that this scene pretty much summed up what is wrong with the wool industry!! There wasn't too much sexy and exciting here to drag in the next generation of consumers.



This would sell much more red carpet!!!



DEAL TO LICE EARLY

If you need to treat sheep for lice we suggest you do so when wool lengths are shortest. If you are winter shearing, this means off shears or within 4 weeks of shearing. If you are not shearing, dip as soon as possible. The longer the wool becomes, the more expensive treatment becomes and the harder it is to achieve a good result.

If using a jetting race for winter lice control, Extinosad remains the product of choice. Expo pour-on is very good for wool lengths less than 3-4 months. For over 3-4 months, Zapp Encore can be used. Flexolt, the oral lice treatment mentioned in last months newsletter, is the other option however while being highly effective, it is expensive at \$2.50 per 60kg ewe.

IT IS NOT ALL ABOUT SCANNING PERCENTAGE!!

In my comments in the introduction to this newsletter I indicated that there was a trend towards lower scanning percentages this year. While scanning percentage is important, it is by no means the only driver of profitability. Lamb survival and growth rates are other key drivers, as the following chart demonstrates for two flocks where lamb survival and growth rates vary.

	Flock A	Flock B
Scanning %	150	180
Docking %	135	150
Wastage (scan%-docked%/scan%)	10	17
No. lambs weaned / 1000 ewes	1330	1460
Ave lamb weaning weight (kgs)	33	29
Kg of lamb weaned/ewes mated	44	42

On top of this, you can add the benefits of more lambs away early at better prices in Flock A with less drenching, dipping and shearing! So if your scanning percentage is back a bit this year, ensure you set your ewes up properly for good lamb survival and growth rates. Feed them, ensure they are not limited by trace element deficiencies, and deal with worms where you need to.



HVC Parasite Field Day

Guest Speaker - Colin McKay - Parasitologist, Elanco Animal Health



Thursday 11th July - 1pm
Rangatira Golf Club

RSVP to the Clinic by Friday 5th July

SCANNING AND WINTER SHEARING

These events present a very good opportunity to focus on ensuring you get as many ewes as possible across the **condition score 3** line to ensure lambing and spring performance is optimised.

If that mob of low condition score ewes ends up being bigger than it should be, ask yourself why?? While many of you will blame worms, faecal egg counts more often than not suggest this is not the problem. Underfeeding and flock pressure tends to be the biggest issue. Other things to consider include liver fluke infections, trace element deficiencies (especially selenium and copper) and poorly grown young stock. If the problem does not fit into one of these categories, carrying out post-mortem examinations on the tail end ewes may be worthwhile to assist in identifying less common problems such as a high incidence of Johnes Disease or pleurisy / pneumonia etc.

TOES AND MUD DON'T MIX

Conditions are perfect again for the development of toe infections in your dogs. We see them more commonly when the ground is wet and muddy. Keep a close eye on your dogs feet and toes, check them daily for signs of swelling or lameness. If your dog cracks a nail, it is best to clean it immediately in salty water or dilute iodine and keep it clean as the crack grows out. If the dog develops lameness or swelling in the toe, it will need to be treated with antibiotics. It is best to keep these dogs off work for at least 7 days to prevent formation of an infection up the nail bed.

Some toe infections are soft tissue only and some involve the bone. We base our treatment plan on what is affected and what bugs we think may be present in the infection. Sometimes we need to change or add in another antibiotic if we aren't seeing resolution. The occasional infection doesn't respond to antibiotics and we end up removing part or all of the toe.

To prevent surgery, it is best if we see toe infections promptly and if the infection hasn't 100% cleared when antibiotics have finished, please contact us for a follow-up appointment to see if more antibiotics or surgery is warranted.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz