

### AVOIDING LEPTO IN HUMANS

Everyone knows about their dogs and livestock catching and potentially dying of lepto, however it is a zoonotic disease and can be easily spread to humans.

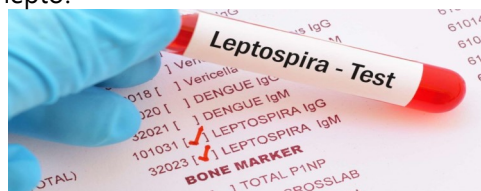
Lepto is easily absorbed across any mucous membranes (i.e. nose, mouth and eyes) and it can also get in through any skin abrasions or cuts.

Lepto is found in the urine of infected animals but is also found in the fluids from animals giving birth or aborting. It was recently passed onto a person in the Manawatu who assisted their mare while foaling. The mare tested positive for lepto even though she showed no clinical signs and had a healthy foal.

Preventing the spread to humans consists of gloving up while dealing with any bodily fluids from any farm animals, vaccinating your stock and dogs, taking care with urine splashing into your eyes, covering any cuts/abrasions on your skin and avoiding eating or smoking until after you have washed your hands.

Symptoms of lepto include fever, chills, headache, lethargy, aching muscles, vomiting, jaundice, meningitis and bleeding. It can even progress to liver and kidney failure if not treated. Sickness can last for months and prevention is far better than a cure.

If you have worsening flu symptoms, visit the doctor and make sure you alert them to the fact you deal with farm animals. Always ask if it is possible you may have lepto!



### IT JUST GETS BETTER!

August turned out to be a cracker month in all areas. Beef, lamb and dairy pay outs all headed north. The sun shone, warm rain fell, and the grass bolted for August having a very positive impact on feed covers on farm. (Have I mentioned before the positives of Global Warming!!) Lambing and calving seems to be going well on the majority of members properties.

Even the government seems to be assisting things, throwing out the madness of National fresh water standards, attacking wasteful spending, and building / repairing roads rather than cycle lanes and speed bumps. Even road cones are under attack!!

So enjoy the good times while they last, it may not be for long!!

### DOCKING TIPS

Docking is now kicking off, starting with early lambers, so it is probably a good time to emphasise some of the basics that make sure this task is done to a high standard.

- If using vaccines such as Scabby Mouth and PK Antitet, treat them correctly. Store in chilly bins or the fridge when not in use and definitely don't leave them in the sun.
- You must break the skin to ensure you get a scabby take, but don't be so aggressive that you get bleeding.
- If using fly protection such as Cyroshield or Vetrazin Spray-on, remember that these products only protect the areas the chemical is sprayed on. Ensure whoever is doing this task does it correctly.
- If you want more than 6 weeks fly protection consider using Clik or Strike Force. These products can give up to 12 weeks protection and also move in the fleece protecting a greater area than that to which the chemical was initially applied. (Which also helps when application is not so accurate.)
- Have a few tubes of Orbenin on hand to treat eye ulcers if they are a problem on your property. Arthritic lambs can benefit from a shot of penicillin at docking if the condition is not too advanced. Just remember you need to permanently identify these animals for your QA programmes.

Happy docking and don't forget the sunblock!!

### PRE-DOCKING EWE FAECAL EGG COUNTS

We strongly recommend Faecal Egg Counts are done on ewe flocks pre-docking. Testing will help with decisions around ewe drenching requirements at docking and also allows efficacy of products such as Exodus and Cydectin LA to be checked.

Where counts are generally low and the majority of ewes look okay, drenching the tail end ewes at docking is a good option. (Ideally identify these ewes so they can be culled to the B mob in future.)

If counts are generally high and ewe condition is only average to poor, drenching more ewes may be required. In many cases this outcome will be the result of underfeeding your ewes so start planning how you can better feed ewes over winter and spring next year!!

If ewe condition is poor but you feel they have been fed okay, getting an egg count done for liver fluke may be worthwhile. We have seen some heavy liver fluke infections in recent weeks. The liver fluke count involves a different process from a faecal egg count so needs to be requested.



## PREPARING FOR MATING

Calving is well over half way through on our dairy farms and planning should be underway to ensure mating, the next task on the dairy farmers calendar, goes to plan.

The dairy bull selling season is upon us and there are a few points that need to be kept in mind.

- Ensure any bulls purchased or leased have been tested for BVD. These bulls also need to be fully vaccinated for BVD and leptospirosis.
- If buying yearlings, they need to be big enough to do the job, and mature enough to have good quality semen. We can check semen quality pre-mating if you have concerns.

Remember to give bulls you have on farm from last year their booster dose for BVD and lepto. Also address any selenium or copper issues they may have. Remember it takes six weeks for a good, healthy bull to produce top quality semen. Check bulls are sound and free of foot problems. A spring drench is also worth considering.

When it comes to heifer replacements, ensure their drenches and mineral supplementation programmes are up to date. Consider giving a shot of Multimin three weeks pre-mating, as trials demonstrate it can improve reproductive performance in heifers and cows when used pre-mating.

## STARTECT UPDATE

As many of you are aware, we have been able to source very limited amounts of this drench in the last 18 months. This is an unsatisfactory situation given the explosion of drench resistance and has led to an over reliance on Zolvix to deal with the problem.

I recently attended a meeting with the manufacturers of Startect who indicated better supplies should be available this season. Here's hoping this will eventuate as we certainly require as many options as possible when it comes to dealing with drench resistance.



## DISPOSABLE DRENCH GUNS, VACCINATORS AND APPLICATORS

You may have noticed that free drench guns and vaccinators are not as common as they used to be!! Essentially, the company that, until recently, manufactured and sourced many of the guns used in NZ was purchased by another company who proceeded to screw everything up.

The result of all this has been a shortage of applicators / guns and the disappearance of some very good guns from the market, notably the Black Plastic BI guns! There have also been very significant increases in the cost of guns and applicators.

Consequently we suggest you look after disposable guns as well as possible, as we are unlikely to have 'free guns' to replace them with. A good clean up and flush out after use should keep them going for some time.

## TRAINED BY WAKA KOTAHI

A man is sitting on his porch when he notices Chris and Tony working down the road. They both have shovels. One of them digs a hole and the other immediately fills it in. The man watches them for a few hours and finally approaches them, "You guys look like you're working hard. But I'm not sure what you're trying to accomplish."

Chris replies, "Well there's usually three of us, but the guy that plants the trees is off sick."



## AUDIT OUTCOMES

A large number of sheep and beef farmers appear to have been audited recently for their farm assurance programmes. With the change in auditors to Q-cons there appears to have been a significant lift in the amount of information required to be kept.

With regard to vet only animal remedies (including things like copper injections, Toxovax, Salvexin, and local anaesthetic for dehorning) the auditors are now wanting to see scripts for these types of products.

This means, like dairy farmers, we are going to have to update your records to ensure such products are all scripted and permitted for use on your property. (Despite the fact they all have nil withholding times!)

It also appears the monthly dog dosing is the only programme that will pass the test in terms of sheep measles control programmes.

It is also important you keep the treatment advice forms we give you when dispensing antibiotics etc for things like woody tongue.

For all this you may get a small premium but more likely be able to attain whatever price the supply and demand cycle creates!

Happy farming!!!

## NEW PROTOCOL FOR HEIFER AI PROGRAMMES

Investigations on synchrony programmes for heifers have demonstrated that a change in the timing of treatments will improve conception rates and final in-calf rates. Consequently we will be adopting a new programme this year.

We will discuss the changes when you call to book in your synchrony programmes.

## 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)**