



HVC

YOUR CLUB

FEB 25

Drenching with Zolvix

Anyone who uses this product should be aware that the dose rate is 1ml per 10kgs. (Being bloody expensive, accurate dosing is the best option!!) This means small doses of 3 to 4mls are often being administered. Drench guns need to be calibrated and accurate. Guns designed to give smaller maximum doses (8 to 10mls) are generally better.

It is also important to ensure the drenching technique is excellent when administering such small doses. Any drench not swallowed will result in underdosing. We know you are all excellent sheep drenchers but faecal egg count results still identify plenty of examples where all animals have not been drenched!

I have suggested to the manufacturers of Zolvix that a 1ml per 5kg product would be much more suitable for lamb drenching. I am not holding much hope of seeing one unless a generic product appears on the market which may possibly be coming, as Zolvix is off patent.



Startect Update

While we do have good stocks of Zolvix, our supplies of Startect are very limited and it appears this will remain the case for the rest of this summer and autumn.

With this being the situation we are attempting to reserve our limited Startect stocks for use on properties where widespread Zolvix use has occurred and another option is required.



Are We All Dreaming??

Well January proved to be the 'perfect month' for most. Meat schedules held up, store stock prices remained strong, demand for dairy products continued, and even wool 'surged' a few cents. Most areas have received enough rain to benefit crops and dry enough to slow the development of Facial Eczema spores or barbers pole populations.

Stock health in general seems to be pretty good apart from worm burdens related to drench resistance issues. We are getting well through our rams runs so please contact us ASAP if you need your rams checked or teasers cut. With plenty of feed around, light ewes and dairy cows should be targeted up so they are set up early for winter and next season.

Theileria Cases Widespread

Over the last 5 or 6 years we have seen the continued spread of Theileria through the areas we service. There seems to have been a bit of a spike in cases in recent months. While the number of cases is still fairly small it is something farmers need to be thinking about as a possible cause of weight loss / poor growth rates, sickness or even death in their cattle.

As we have explained in previous newsletters, Theileria is caused by a protozoan organism. Cattle become infected when they are fed upon by cattle ticks that are infected with the Theileria organism. Ticks become infected by feeding on an infected cattle beast. The disease spreads around an area through the movement of infected cattle or infected ticks. Infected ticks may be moved large distances on other animals they feed on like deer, hares, dogs, horses, etc.

Cattle with minimum stress on them generally have the ability to survive a Theileria infection and develop immunity. However, stressed cattle (ie heavily pregnant or lactating cows, or young stock with other health challenges) may succumb to infection and die.

Theileria causes disease by attacking the red blood cells of infected cattle resulting in anaemia. In mild cases, anaemia may only slow growth rates or depress milk yield. In severe cases the anaemia may be so bad that death results.

If you have ticks on your property, Theileria is something to consider if cattle are performing poorly, losing weight or dying. Ticks seem to be much more common now than previously which seems to be associated with mild winters. The disease can be confirmed with a simple blood test to identify anaemia and a smear will detect the organism in red blood cells.

Contact the clinic if you require further advice.

Facial Eczema

The last months weather has not really been conducive to spore development. Cool over night temperatures for much of the period and an extended dry spell is not the recipe for spore count rises.

The limited number of spore counts we have done have shown low spore levels. We intend to ramp up testing as we move into February. Warm nights and plenty of moisture will be necessary to see spore counts rise.

While it is good to end January with low counts, there is still plenty of time for dangerous counts to develop, especially in traditional high risk areas.

Three elderly men are sitting together and discussing what they want their family and friends to say when they are lying in their casket at their funeral. They started to get nostalgic. The first man says "I want them to say I was a great father and a great friend. I want them to say I could always be counted on."

The second guy says "I just want them to talk about how much I changed the world, and how I left it a better place."

The third man says "I want them to look right at me and say: 'Look! He's moving!'"

Heat Suppression

Unfortunately, worldwide, heat suppression drugs as we know them, have stopped being manufactured. We still have a small supply of the injection we use but that won't last forever.

The options available through us will only be surgically desexing male and female dogs, or the Suprelorin implant. This implant can work for up to 6 months in male and female dogs. Implanting female dogs can cause an immediate, short-lived heat but they can still get in pup if precautions aren't taken.

It might be wise to start thinking about future options now and planning how you are going to manage on heat bitches. Cost is \$170 for this implant.

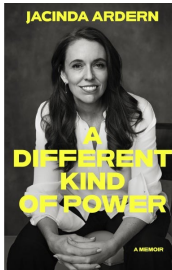
Every farm will have different needs, so have a chat with one of the small animal team as to how best to manage your situation.



Be In To Win!

We have 2 free copies of the worlds greatest fairy tale—A Different Kind Of Power, by Jacinda Ardern. To be in the draw to win you need contact us to suggest an alternative use for this book as I don't expect you to read it.

My suggestion is we grind them all up and make a sheep drench with them. It certainly makes me sick so I am sure it has the potential to knock around a few parasites too.



Barbers Pole

Much like the situation with Facial Eczema (see elsewhere in this newsletter), January weather conditions in our patch have not really been conducive to Barbers Pole worm population explosions. This worm also loves heat and humidity / moisture.

Generally where Barbers Pole is brewing up we will see spikes in our faecal egg counts from lambs or 2.2ths. To date this trend has not been seen.

Traditionally February / March is the period where drenching to suppress Barbers Pole outbreaks has been necessary. Using moxidectin drench (Cydectin / Marathon) has been the treatment of choice as this drench type gives a prolonged kill period. However with the arrival of drench resistance, while moxidectin still tends to be very effective against Barbers Pole, it's ability to deliver good kills against other worms, especially trichs and ostertagia, is severely diminished on many properties. If your property falls into this category (ie you have triple drench resistance) using moxidectin on its own is not really an option. Contact the clinic to discuss what can be done in this situation.

Tetanus in Horses

Tetanus occurs when an animal has an open wound and the bacterial spores of Clostridium tetani contaminate the wound. The spores germinate and produce a powerful toxin that causes muscles to become rigid. The spores are more commonly found in cultivated soils and can be routinely isolated from many animals faeces including dogs, cats and even humans.

Clinical signs include a stiff gait, pricked ears and a tail held out straight. This progresses to general body stiffness, paralysis and death due to paralysis of the diaphragm, preventing breathing. The fatality rate generally exceeds 80% in horses.

Vaccination is the key to preventing tetanus and should be started at 3 months of age in young stock. It does need a booster 4 weeks later and re-vaccination every 5 years is recommended.

If you have a horse and are unsure of the vaccination history, it's better to be safe than sorry when it comes to tetanus.



Faecal Egg Counts & Sample Collection

Just a reminder, if you are bringing in faecal samples for faecal egg counting please make sure these do not dry out. Put your carton of samples into a sealed bag and store them in the fridge until you can drop them off to us. This will stop them from drying out.

Also if the faeces you are collecting is in 'pebble' form, the 'pebbles' must not be able to move around and get mixed together. To prevent this you could pack the space above the sample with a tissue and keep samples upright in transport.

A reminder, although we do not always do 10 counts it is best if you supply 10-12 samples from any group of animals you are sampling.

Farmer Wellbeing

Every Tuesday at 5.30pm a bunch of farmers are cycling / walking around the Tutaenui Reserve. There is a beer and a sausage and a chat afterwards and all are welcome.

Contact David Smith on 027 453 0353 if you need further information.

It Paid Off!!

Thank you to everyone who returned their Sheep Vaccinations Order Form. We have done the draw—congratulations to Jim Rainey, Ian Livingston, Jack Brice and Richard Lambert who all received a \$50 New World Voucher.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz