

Liver Fluke Monitoring

Once again we have had long, dry spells this summer allowing stock good access to wet areas on farms where the snails involved in the liver fluke life cycle hang out.

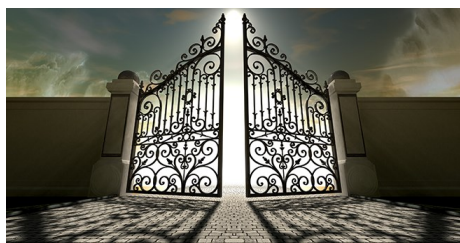
Liver fluke picked up this season should be starting to mature and produce eggs which are passed out in the infected animals faeces.

As is the case with worms, we can look for liver fluke eggs in sheep faeces and get some idea about fluke burdens. Unfortunately the method we use is not the one used for worm egg counts and is more complex and time consuming.

If you have a history of liver fluke issues on your property it is time to think about checking for infection in the ewe flock with a faecal count. Remember to also check the livers of light dog tucker ewes for signs of liver fluke.

At The Pearly Gates

He had been mean and stingy all his life, so when he finally arrived at the Pearly Gates St Peter asked for his report card. "I once gave a dollar to a widow who was turned out of her house, and I once gave two dollars to an orphan who had just lost his parents" said he. St Peter reported the conversation to God who then replied by saying, "Give him his three dollars back and tell him to go to Hell!"



Holiday Musings

I was lucky enough to make the long trek north to the Whangarei Heads for a few days fishing last month. It is a long, sedate drive with plenty of time to observe the country and think about the meaning of life.

Where have all the potholes gone? Did the fairy princess take them all away with her? In previous years, pot hole avoidance had been a constant challenge. I can honestly say we never encountered a pot hole. So was the Desert Road closed so they could use up all the road cones not needed for pot hole identification?

Listening to the radio drone on about school lunches I wondered—why do starving children in NZ queuing up for school lunches not look like starving children in Africa? If one child burns themselves on school lunches, how many adults / children burn / cut themselves making school lunches? Why do head masters interviewed on TV about school lunches always appear ungroomed and unkept?

Are you allowed to be a normal New Zealander to represent the Green party?

If playing whale song to Kauri trees for \$4m improves their health, I would be happy to try playing cow and sheep calls to the grass and clover for \$1m to see if it would improve pasture production and health?

On a more serious note, the King Country and Waikato were certainly extremely dry. Some autumn rain there should mean great demand for weaners and store lambs late in autumn.

The massive rig shows just how big this fish is!



Setting Up \$1000 Plus Weaners

There are some pretty valuable weaners out there on farm or being purchased currently. It makes sense to have animal health programmes in place that see them thrive and survive. For most that will involve worm control, vaccinations and trace element supplementation.

Here are a few pointers and suggestions to consider in your weaner animal health programmes.

WORMS

If purchasing weaners consider your drenching options carefully. A good quarantine drench is recommended, at the very least a combination drench. We prefer a triple oral. With the emergence of drench resistance in cattle, Zolvix should be considered especially if weaners come from more intensive cattle systems. For owner bred weaners, a triple oral is a good option if facilities and man power make it practical.

TRACE ELEMENTS

On many of the farms we service, selenium deficiency in young cattle is a real issue. Treatment with Selovin LA at 4-5mls is an excellent way of ensuring weaners selenium requirements are met for 12 months from treatment.

Copper deficiency is also an issue on many farms. Our recommendation for copper supplementation in weaners is the use of copper capsules. For 175kg to 300kg weaners we would suggest the use of 20 gram copper capsules in most situations. This treatment should ensure good copper levels persist in weaners through winter and spring. We do not recommend the use of copper injections in weaners. There can be issues with copper toxicity if weaners are treated that have high liver copper levels already. The period of supplementation is also much less than that derived from a capsule treatment.

CLOSTRIDIAL PROTECTION

At \$1000+ you don't really want to find dead weaners! Clostridial vaccination is a no brainer. The gold standard vaccination is the use of Covexin 10 in 1.

Repro Performance

Most of our dairy herds have now completed pregnancy testing. Final empty rates are generally in line with previous seasons or slightly better than normal. However this empty rate is not necessarily the best measure of reproductive performance. Extended mating periods and culling decisions can alter the figure significantly.

In general terms, the 6 week in calf rate is a better measure of reproductive performance. The industry target 6WICR is set at 78% which is a very challenging figure to attain. Many good herds sit in the low 70%.

It would be a good exercise to sit down on a wet day and establish your 6WICR which should be on your MINDA records. At the same time consider how your submission rates and conception rates look. If everything is great, give yourself a pat on the back. If not, start planning now to improve things next mating season. It's not far away!!

Lumps and Bumps

In recent weeks we have had some pretty big growths / cancers to remove from dogs. Any time you notice an unusual lump starting to form on your dog it pays to have a good feel and assess it. If it is painful to touch or you are worried about it, give us a call. If it seems okay but gets bigger also call us. Removing lumps / growths when they are small is a lot cheaper and easier than attempting to do surgery when things have been left to grow.

Lumps in mammary glands are the most common ones we see and can grow very quickly; but there are plenty of other sites where lumps will form (skin, lymph nodes, eyes, etc).

Housework

Thank you to everyone that we have spoken to who is now having their account emailed to them. This simplifies our systems, not to mention the savings in postage that we can now pass on to you!



Salmonellosis In Dairy Cows

As we move into autumn we often encounter outbreaks of Salmonellosis in unvaccinated ewe flocks. In the last few days we have diagnosed Salmonella infections in dairy cows on 2 properties. This is a little surprising as we more often see salmonella cases in dairy cows in winter and spring when cows are under more stress.

Neither dairy farm currently vaccinates for salmonella and have been advised to do so ASAP as one case of salmonella is often followed by further cases and you certainly don't want to take the risk of a winter / spring salmonella outbreak. At \$1.11 a shot, salmonella vaccination, as we have stated in newsletters over the years, is a bit of a no brainer for dairy herds. Two shots 4-6 weeks apart will give your herd a high degree of protection and an annual booster will maintain that protection.

As to what is the source of these 2 outbreaks, peacocks may be a possible vector. There seems to be an ever increasing number of these birds about the place and along with wild turkeys they are becoming a real problem.

Do Collars Help With Reproduction?

We have a growing number of clients putting collars on cows and one of the claims made is possible improvement in reproductive performance. I came across this summary from a large South Island practise which makes for interesting reading.

These results would indicate that there is not necessarily a lot of difference from the old methods of heat detection when it is well done. Whether there are time costs and labour savings may well be a different issue.

| GROUP | 3WK IN-CALF RATE | 6WK IN-CALF RATE | NOT-IN-CALF RATE | MATING LENGTH | CONCEPTION RATE |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| All | 47.2% | 69.6% | 14.8% | 75.4 days | 52.4% |
| Wearable | 48.5% | 69.6% | 15.9% | 75 days | 52.5% |
| Non-wearable | 46.0% | 69.5% | 13.8% | 76 days | 52.2% |



House for Rent!

Our house is still available! Very tidy, 3 bedroom, new carpet, located in Hunterville town.

If you know anyone who may be interested please give the clinic a call and speak to Kerin.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz