



HVC YOUR CLUB

May 25

Copper Injection v Capsules in Bigger Cattle

Being out on farm pregnancy testing I often get asked about the merits of copper capsules versus injection in cattle. As we have recommended in previous newsletters, while we certainly prefer the option of copper capsules in younger cattle, the use of copper injections in cows and older steers has its place. The appropriate sized copper capsule will supply adequate amounts of copper for significantly longer periods than a single copper injection. However following up with a second copper injection 3 months after the first should give very good supplementation. This generally means giving a second copper treatment pre calving for cows. Where handling facilities / head bales are not great this can be a lot easier than trying to get capsules into big cattle.

Walk-Ins

If at all, please try to avoid turning up without an appointment. Things are very busy and you will be lucky if you are able to be seen straight away. It is more likely you will have to wait or leave the animal here. Things can be pretty hectic at times and unexpected cases add to the pressure.

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.

Heading For Winter

The first weekend of Duck Shooting has come and gone with a couple of good frosts to follow so it is fair to say we are heading into winter. Most of our area has been pretty lucky with the season we have experienced although a little more rain would have been appreciated in March and April. Generally stock appear to be in good condition and feed covers on farm are excellent, although there are some dry areas where things aren't so good.



May is the month to ensure stock head into winter in good order with animal health requirements sorted. This includes trace element supplementation, vaccination programmes, and worm and liver fluke control programmes all being in place. Please give the clinic a call if you require any advice around the most appropriate and cost effective options available this year.

With current prices it can be tempting to hold onto those trade lambs or cattle, or milk those cows for a few more weeks! They will, however, be mowing into winter feed reserves. If you are going to go down this path ensure it is not going to be at the expense of your breeding stock. With any luck this golden dream we are experiencing will continue into next year and feeding your breeding stock properly over winter and spring will ensure next years livestock performance is maximised.

Sudden Death in Ewes

In the last month we had a case of sudden ewe deaths in well conditioned, healthy ewes. Around 10 ewes had died over a couple of weeks. At this time of the year, and given the ewes were generally in good order, a Salmonella outbreak was by far the most likely cause of death.

A post mortem examination of a dead ewe demonstrated all the signs we associate with Salmonella deaths in ewes—a good conditioned ewe with a greeny blood tinged scour around the tail. The intestines were inflamed and reddened with blood tinged content.

This ewe flock had no vaccination programme in place. Immediate vaccination was recommended for all the ewes on the property. At this point deaths had only been in one mob but from dealing with many outbreaks over the years it is only a matter of time before the infection jumps into other mobs of ewes. Within 10 days the deaths had ceased.

A large number of our clients have vaccination programmes in place when it comes to Salmonella. We would advise clients who don't, to consider talking to us about vaccination especially given the way ewe values are heading! There are programmes that deliver good levels of protection for minimal cost and while not being totally in line with the manufacturers recommendations, have proven very effective for our clients over many years.

Enteritis due to Salmonella



Choose Carefully!

The wife and I have both made a list of 5 people who we can sleep with if we ever get the chance.

She picked Johnny Depp, Hugh Jackman, Jason Momoa, Tom Hardy and Brad Pitt.

I've gone with her sister, her cousin, her best friend, our neighbours wife, and the busty checkout chick at Woolworths.

The wife is not happy with my choices.

Emergencies

If you have a veterinary emergency, if at all possible, please phone before bringing in your animal. It gives the vets and nurses time to organise what they may need to have on hand for when your animal arrives.

Please take the time to properly describe what is happening to either the reception staff or one of the nurses. It can make a big difference in outcomes when we are prepared in advance. If you have an animal that has suffered a trauma and blood loss could be an issue or the animal is pale in the gums, it is extremely helpful if you can bring a large, fit and healthy dog with you in case we need to do a blood transfusion. We don't have blood products on hand as they only last 4 weeks and we don't use them that frequently.

Presidents!

Abraham Lincoln couldn't tell a lie.

Richard Nixon couldn't tell the truth.

Donald Trump can't tell the difference!



Facial Eczema Cases

Over this eczema season spikes in spore counts were observed at our monitor sites and in cuttings supplied by clients. While big outbreaks of FE have not occurred, in recent weeks we have had plenty of reports of sheep with clinical signs of eczema breaking out. This would indicate that subclinical eczema damage is likely to have occurred in sheep and cattle on many properties. This will have resulted in decreased weight gains in your sheep and cattle. It is also likely that come scanning time there will be ewe flocks out there that have been negatively impacted by FE. Resulting in more dry ewes and scanning percentages that are a little less than anticipated.

What is also evident is that each year FE now seems to be a threat. We have been fortunate that once again, while spore counts rose, we did not get that final warm period to drive spore counts into really dangerous levels. What we do know is that eczema tolerant genetics would be a wise move for many of our clients.

Beef Pregnancy Testing

Generally results for beef cow pregnancy testing have been relatively good this year, many herds coming in at 5% to 8% empty rates. However some herds have been significantly worse with up to 25% empty cows. Investigations reveal the same two major culprits when cow condition and feeding are not an issue—BVD and bull problems.

Both these problems can be solved or minimalised with good management practices. Blood testing and vaccination programmes for BVD will address the BVD issue. When it comes to bulls, bull testing and semen evaluation can be considered. However, good bull management meaning keeping a close eye on bulls over mating, and having sufficient numbers of bulls, are also very important components in minimising problems.

Drop Offs In the Outside Kennels

If you need to leave a dog outside before we have opened, please leave a message on the answer phone letting us know who the dog is, what is wrong and what account it is under.

We get the occasional random dog left outside without any instructions or details!



What Clostridial Vaccine to Use

There are now a number of options available when it comes to clostridial vaccines—good old **5 in 1**, **7 in 1** (which is 5 in 1 with leptospires in it as well), **8 in 1** and **10 in 1**.

When it comes to hill country properties with standard types of hill country feed, 5 in 1 will still be adequate. If you require leptospires protection as well, 7 in 1 is the option.

Where cattle or sheep are likely to graze very high quality grass, herbs, forage crops, or have access to grain based diets, 8 in 1 for sheep and 10 in 1 for cattle are likely to be the best options.

It is important when full protection is required that unvaccinated stock get 2 clostridial vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart initially, no matter what vaccine type is used.

It can all get a bit confusing and if you have any questions, just ask.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntenvillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

House Keeping

There will be instances when you can not immediately get hold of an on duty vet. Please remember to leave your phone number when you need to leave a message or phone for the on-duty vet after hours. Your number **does not** come up on our vets phone when they are on duty and they have no way of knowing who has called.

Thanks.