



HVC
YOUR CLUB

Jun 25

Fertiliser Toxicity

It is good to see planes flying and trucks working again as farm budgets allow fertiliser to be put back on the agenda.

Just a reminder to consider the possible risk that fertiliser application poses to stock grazing pastures when super phosphate fertiliser has been applied. In the small print you will find that Ravensdown and Balance state that stock should not graze dressed pastures until 21 days after application or after significant rainfall—25mls. In practice this does not always happen!!

Over the years we have had cases of toxicity. When problems have occurred it has generally been when fine, dusty superphosphate has been applied at high rates (200kg / ha +), grass covers have been over 1400kgs / ha and the grass has been damp either from a good dew / frost at the time of application. In this situation the fert has stuck to the leaf rather than falling through the sward to the dirt allowing ewes in particular to ingest damaging amounts of fertiliser.

The answer is not to apply high rates of fert or good covers if the grass is damp and stock are likely to graze the area before good rainfall occurs. Often this just means waiting until the afternoon for things to dry out.

A point to note is that it is not the superphosphate as such that causes the poisoning. Fluorine is a contaminant found in phosphate rock which causes kidney damage if ingested and is the cause of the toxicity.

A Cracker May

The weather gods continue to deliver. Warm soil temps and just enough rain has seen very good grass growth over the last month; setting things up nicely for winter. Even the market gods are playing ball and there are plenty of farmers out there with big smiles on their faces after recent stock sales. Long may it continue!



Unfortunately road cone insanity hit little old Hunterville early in the month! They arrived and departed just before the road cone reporting hot line came into effect. 😞. It looks like they are migrating south to areas where the population has not been tormented by them for quite so long.

Autumn Issues

We are now into June and heading towards the shortest day. At this time of the year there are a number of animal health issues that need to be kept in mind and action taken where required.

Nitrate levels in new grass and crops.

It pays to test these types of feed before introducing stock to them, especially cattle. Testing over the last month has revealed a wide range of results from very high and dangerous, to low and safe.

Sudden ewe deaths.

Whenever you note dead ewes for no good reason you should consider the one good reason that often occurs at this time of the year—**Salmonella**. We reported on an outbreak in last months newsletter and have had two further outbreaks.

We have also reported on two salmonella outbreaks in dairy cows. Dairy farmers should be concerned when cows develop sudden diarrhoea and are obviously sick, especially where herds have not been vaccinated.

Autumn worm burdens.

We have had several cases of poor weight gains and lamb deaths as a result of high worm challenges or poor worm kills due to drench resistance issues. On many properties the next worm drench will be the last one for ewe hoggets. It is really important that this drench is highly effective. You do not want to leave resistant worms behind that happily go on producing eggs over winter to infect next seasons lambs. For most that means closing out with Zolvix or Startect drench.

Capsules are Back!!

It is hard to miss the advertising notifying farmers that Drench Capsules are back on the market. In the time capsules have been absent from the market a lot has changed on many properties due to the rapid emergence of drench resistance.

While we can debate the part capsules have played in early resistance development, there is no doubt that on properties where a population of drench resistant worms exist, the incorrect use of capsules will rapidly accelerate the severity of worm resistance to white and ivermectin type drenches on the property.

There will be places where the use of drench capsules or long acting injections may be justified however the method of their use will need to be very carefully thought through. Whole flock usage will be very hard to recommend!!

The price for Bionic Plus Capsules will be around \$5.00 inclusive dependent on numbers. Please contact the clinic to order capsules or more importantly to discuss their use on your property.



Watch Withholds

A reminder to dairy farmers to keep drug withholds in mind at this time of the year. Two of the ones that can catch you out are:

- **Drench milk withholds.** Some Abamectin drenches used to have a nil milk withhold. *This is no longer the case!* If you want to drench cows or incoming heifers in the dry period or in lactation, Eprinomectin based drenches such as Eprimax or Eprisure are the only type now available with a nil milk and meat withhold.
- **Dry Cow treatment withholds.** If you have used Cepravin, the milk withholding period is 49 days. If the cow calves early or slips, milk cannot enter the vat until the 49 day withhold and first 8 milkings has elapsed. The same advice applies to shorter action dry cow treatments, but withholds are also shorter so it tends to be Cepravin that causes any problems.

Lepto Programmes

We have now completed our annual RVM consults with dairy farmers. Lepto vaccination programmes were discussed and ticked off. Just a reminder, for many herds lepto vaccination of cows and incoming first calvers was going to occur at dry off. Please ensure that this has been the case. Remember to also give a booster vaccination to any bulls that may still be on farm from last season and will be used again this year.

Vet Club Golf Day

Thursday 19 June 2025

11am start - be prompt!

\$40 per player (first 50 members will be free to enter)

Teams of 3—
Ambrose

Call the Clinic now
to book your place



Leg Amputation

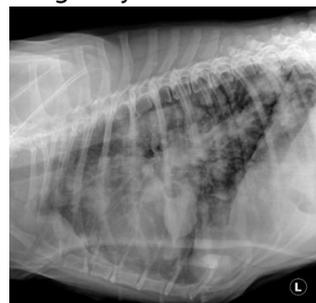
We had a surgery of a different kind recently. We amputated an extra leg from a dairy calf. Surgery went well and we expect the calf to make a full recovery!



Cancerous Spread

Recently we have mentioned bringing in dogs with mammary tumours/masses. The xray on the left is a normal chest xray. The xray below on the right is the sad reality of leaving lumps too long. You can clearly see the secondary tumours that have developed in the lung. Some of those lumps you find are actually an aggressive cancer and can spread to the lungs as in this case.

The sooner lumps are noted and then removed, the better the outcome for your dog. Any new lump should be checked. Cancerous lumps are often not painful and they can grow on any part of the body so make sure you are running your hands over your dogs and also under their bellies regularly to check!



Genetics and Worm Resistance / Tolerance

It has been very interesting to watch the track worm burdens have taken in different replacement ewe lamb flocks this summer and autumn. From these observations it is very apparent that there are hoggets out there that can handle worm challenges better and shed eggs at lower levels than other hoggets. These hoggets tend to develop immunity to worms earlier in life which is a very useful attribute when it comes to combatting worms.

In some cases there also appears to be quite large within flock variances. This would support the argument of putting some degree of challenge on your hogget replacements so the cream comes to the top and lesser types can be culled!

At the end of the day these findings are encouraging. We need ewe flocks that don't require drenching when well fed and produce lambs that rapidly develop immunity to worms thus requiring fewer drench inputs to grow and be productive.



**Cull Ewe
Drive**
20th July 2025

The Hunterville Sports Club are fundraising with a Cull Ewe Drive. Funds raised assist with keeping costs down and sports accessible for all children. If you can help, please contact Amber on 021 039 8090 for more information.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz