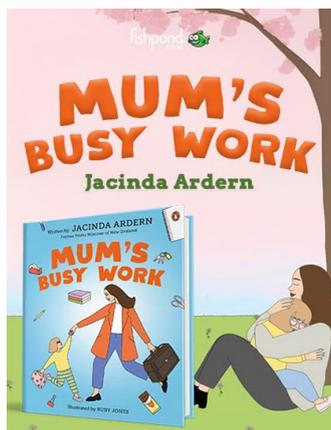




HVC YOUR CLUB

Aug 25



Jacinda's latest venture into the world of fairy tales where she seems to spend most of her life.

I think they missed out part of the title of this book—it should read, "Mum's Busy Work, Wrecking The Country".

Conveyor Work

With the return of drench capsules the demand for our conveyor has really ramped up. If you are considering using the conveyor please contact us ASAP. There are very limited numbers of days now not booked.

Broken Bark?

Like all organs in the body, the larynx is controlled by nerves. The larynx functions to close off the airway during swallowing, houses the vocal folds (creates a bark) and opens wide during inspiration, allowing air to get to the lungs. The main nerve controlling the larynx, the recurrent laryngeal nerve, originates in the brain but then take a rather long circuitous route, past the larynx, down into the chest and back up the neck to the larynx.

Because the nerve runs down the neck, an injury to a dogs neck can cause the signs. Even an exuberant dog, tied to a fence or on a chain that pulls hard on the collar can damage the nerve. Dogs with damage to the recurrent nerve can show changes to their bark, it may sound strained, weak and raspy. They can also make abnormal noises when running, generally on inspiration and it can get worse when tired or when it is hot.

Horses can get the same problem, we call them roarers due to distinctive noise they make when they are galloping.

A diagnosis is made based of the clinical signs and a sedated laryngeal exam. Unfortunately the damage will commonly be permanent, or at least very slow to heal and there's no medication to fix it. Surgery to tie back the larynx to hold it open will likely mean the bark is permanently altered.

Spring is Coming???

As I drive around the patch the first calves and lambs have appeared. The weather gods have been pretty kind to us when you consider the damage incurred in other parts of the country. A solid week of frosts has killed soil temperatures, slowed grass growth and dried things out. Dry conditions under foot always benefits lamb and calf survival. Let's hope they persist for the next few weeks.

It would seem that scanning results this year were a little back on last year. We have had several inquiries questioning why properties would have more dry 2.2ths than normal. Up to 12% dries, with 5 to 7% being common, have been reported. If you had more dries than normal, especially 2.2ths, I would like to hear from you as the problem seems to be widespread through our area.

I struggle to understand why people can't figure out supply and demand, although it probably has something to do with our current woke education system. It is great for farmers and the country when the soaring price of butter and meat makes the national news night after night. Ironically, most of those moaning and weeping are the same people who supported the lunatic policies of E waka noa, and fresh water plans, etc. These all had the potential to kill productivity and reduce supply, thus increasing food prices even further.

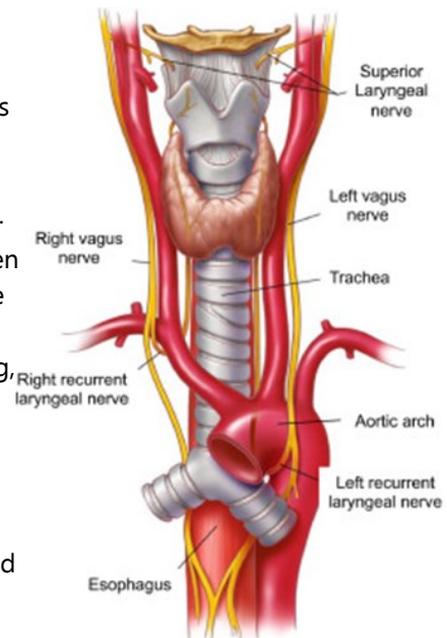
Milk Fever in Ewes

This is a condition most often seen in older, multiple bearing ewes in the last month before lambing. The condition is caused by a drop in blood calcium levels which causes the ewe to become weak and sit down. Interestingly, although cows also get milk fever from a drop in blood calcium, this tends to happen very close, to or immediately after, calving.

Sudden drops in blood calcium in ewes is most often associated with a sudden feed change from high quality forages which contain a lot of calcium (new grass, chicory, plantain, brassicas and clover) to poorer quality pastures. It can also be caused by prolonged yarding or bad weather that reduces dietary intake of calcium.

Ewes down with milk fever, if treated without prolonged delays, will respond very positively to treatment, especially if given IV. With the current value of sheep, calling a vet can often be justified where more than one ewe is down.

Subclinical milk fever where ewes are affected but not down can be associated with ewe weakness, prolonged lambing and increased ewe and lamb deaths. This is the condition that using Hideject injection on older, multiple bearing ewes can help to prevent. The take home message is, don't make sudden changes from high quality feeds to lesser quality ones without considering the risks posed by milk fever.



The Importance of Early Colostrum

With current beef values it looks as if any half decent calf will be reared this year.

Given this situation it is worth emphasising the importance of getting enough high quality colostrum into calves in the first 6 to 12 hours of life to ensure calves have strong immunity and are set up to thrive.

Calves, and lambs for that matter, are born with no immunity. They rely on ingesting sufficient colostrum in the first 6-12 hours of life to give them immunity. In this 12 hour period the large antibody molecules that confer immunity can pass through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream. After the first 12 hours of life this pathway begins to close.

Not all colostrum is the same. Cow colostrum quality can be assessed with a Brix Refractometer costing around \$70. High quality colostrum from the first milking should be greater than 22%.

When it comes to how much colostrum, the accepted recommendation is 10% of the calves (or lambs) bodyweight. That is 4L for a 40kg calf (300mls for 3kg lamb).

Achieving these targets for colostrum intake will go a long way to ensuring dairy farmers successfully rear healthy replacement stock with good immunity to the viral and bacterial challenges they will face in the first months of life. They can also be sure that the calves that are sold to rearers have been given the best possible start in life. Calf rearers need to identify these farmers.

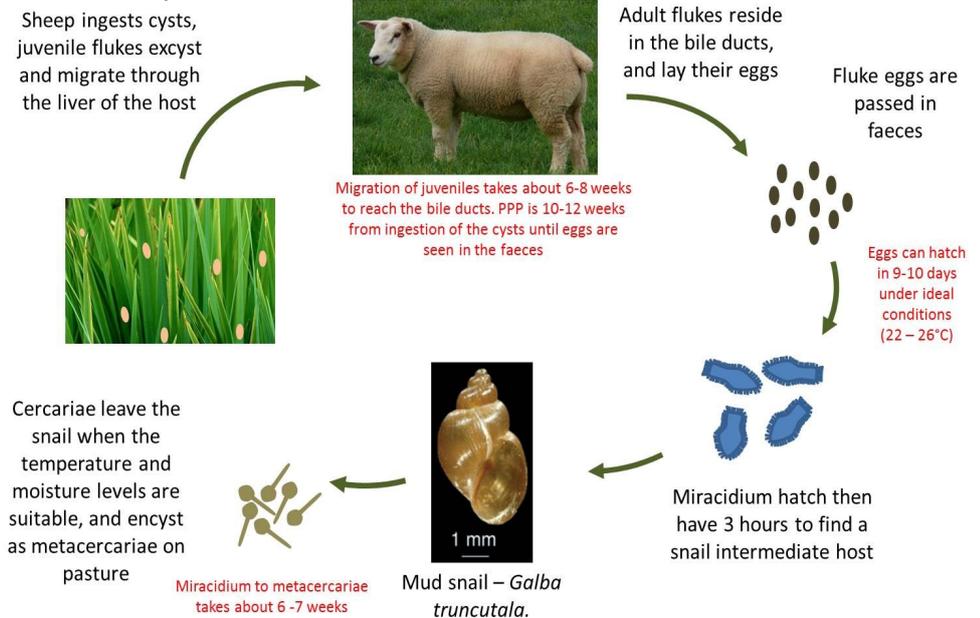
Frozen colostrum—we keep frozen colostrum for those calves that miss out on that first feed from their mum. Given the importance of getting this colostrum into a calf as early as possible, it would pay to purchase colostrum and have it in your freezer well before those calves arrive.



Liver Fluke In Cattle

We have recently had cases of older cattle / cows doing poorly where blood tests have confirmed the presence of liver fluke. While liver fluke generally cause more problems in sheep than cattle, heavy infections in cattle can cause enough liver damage to affect growth rates and health.

On properties with identified fluke issues, a late autumn or winter treatment for liver fluke is generally warranted. This not only treats the cattle problem but stops the shedding of fluke eggs (that can be a very significant source of infection for sheep in the next fluke cycle). This is because cattle get into wet areas more frequently than ewes which is where the snails live that need to be infected to start the fluke life cycle.



Drench Resistance Free Properties

As the challenge of drench resistance grows ever more prevalent, discussions have begun to arise around the possible premiums available for being able to sell store stock from properties that 'don't have resistance'.

To state, 'I don't have drench resistance' is a very big call. We know that resistance is now extremely widespread and just because someone claims a double or triple works fine on their farm and they haven't used Zolvix doesn't mean there is no resistance issue.

Unless a property has done a full drench reduction test in the last 12 months can you have any degree of confidence that you may be buying stock from a property where resistance is not a problem. If you want to go looking for premiums, start to plan your drench test for the coming summer. Alternatively if you are prepared to pay a premium for lambs, start looking for appropriate properties now and understand the questions you need to ask and testing results you need to see to have confidence you are backing a resistance free horse (ie lambs or ewes with worms on board that can all be killed with a triple drench!).

Magnesium Bullets

With current cow prices we have had a number of enquiries about the use of magnesium bullets. At \$38.00 they are expensive but better than a dead cow!

If you are considering using them, please get your orders placed as we have received notification that stocks available are getting down.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz