



HVC
YOUR CLUB

Dec 25

What Form Of Drench Is Best For Weaners???

We often get asked this question. While there is no definitive answer we would suggest that in most situations oral drenches are the best option (and tend to be the cheapest!). Intervals of between 4 and 6 weeks tend to be appropriate for bucket reared calves. Beef calves on cows rarely need drenching before weaning.

Once weaners get difficult to handle for oral drenching, injectable drenches are a good option. When winter lice control is also required combination pour-ons are often good.

Looking After Drench Guns

The days of cheap, disposable drench guns with every drum of drench appear to be gone. While the odd freebee is still sometimes available, many guns now have to be purchased. The cheapest guns start at \$72.00 and go up to \$166.00 so looking after them to ensure they keep working accurately is sensible. Extending a gun's life primarily involves washing it out immediately after use with clean water and in most cases leaving the guns 'loaded' with water which can be squirted out when the gun is next used.

If you need to lubricate plungers, castor oil is generally recommended as a good option. While lubricating guns also check front and back valves are clean and working freely.

A reminder—**always check** and calibrate guns before and during drenching! Old, used syringes are ideal for this job.



Well, as another year comes to an end it is hard to believe where the farming world is ending up, considering where it started! Any farmers wish list from last Christmas must have come true. Here's hoping the next 12 months brings a consolidation of the good times, and the rest of NZ benefits enough to vote with some sense of belief that the country has turned a corner, meaning the lunatic's stay where they need to be!!

Once again, thanks to all our loyal members for your business and support over the year. We wish you a very merry Christmas and hope that 2026 is every bit as good as 2025.

Drench Resistance In Cattle

Everyone is now pretty aware about the threat posed by drench resistance to sheep productivity. What is less well known and talked about is drench resistance in cattle.

Rest assured that drench resistance is an issue when it comes to cattle. This is especially so where young cattle are farmed intensively. For example, in heifer rearing or bull finishing systems. If you run intensive cattle systems you should be checking for evidence of drench resistance. Like sheep, faecal samples can be taken 10 days after drenching and checked for the presence of worm eggs which should not be there if the drench is 100% effective. The two species of worms that are causing most resistance issues are Cooperia and Ostertagia. Cooperia is predominantly a problem in cattle less than 12 months of age while Ostertagia can be a problem in weaners and R2 cattle.

Egg numbers in cattle tend to be much lower than sheep and the relationship between faecal egg count numbers and worm burdens is more difficult to predict. Growth rates and clinical appearance are also important in making decisions around drenching.

Weaner cattle will now be well into their 4-6 week worm drenching programme so plan to get some faecal samples and check the resistance status of worms in your cattle.

Survey results indicating widespread resistance in cattle would suggest you need to carefully consider your **quarantine drenching options** for young cattle especially. If you are purchasing cattle from intensive cattle systems in particular there is a strong argument that you should be using **Zolvix** as your quarantine drench.

As an aside, we often get asked questions about drenching cows. There should be very little reason to drench adult cattle as they develop good immunity to worms and do not have the issues with lack of immunity at calving that we see in sheep around lambing.

Low B12 in Dairy Herds

Over the last few months, as we have checked mineral levels in cows pre-calving and pre-mating, we have seen some lowish B12 blood levels. In past years this is not something we have seen too much of.

We do know that some soils in NZ can be marginal or low for cobalt which will result in B12 deficiency. Soils around Hunterville have not been recognised as being low in cobalt. We do know however, that farming and agriculture will slowly erode cobalt levels as product (milk / meat / wool) goes off the farm. This may be part of the reason lower B12 levels are now being seen. It may also be related to greater feeding of concentrates and grains which come from other areas and contain less B12 / cobalt.

Whatever the reason, low B12 can affect the productivity and health of milking cows. Supplementation with cobalt in the feed or B12 injections will rapidly correct B12 deficiency, and cobalt added to feed will maintain B12 levels going forward.

Heat Stroke

Even though it is not officially summer yet, it is really starting to heat up and we have seen a few cases of heat stroke already, with one dog dying. Any sign of your dog getting a little wobbly and panting a lot while working could be signs of heat exhaustion which can rapidly turn into heat stroke. Make sure you immediately stop what you are doing, find the dog some shade, a drink of water, and cool it down by splashing water on it, especially in armpits and groin where there is less hair. Even better, put your dog into a trough.



Even if they look like they have recovered somewhat, it is imperative to keep a close eye on them as the worst effects are on the internal organs which are obviously not visible externally.

When the body overheats to greater than 43 degrees, the proteins inside the cells of the circulatory system, internal organs, gut and brain are partially cooked. This can cause a massive inflammatory response, issues with clotting, neurological signs and sometimes even death. The longer a dog is at this high temperature, the worse the damage will be.

Some dogs may be more prone to heat stroke, young or old dogs, dogs with a heavy thick coat and also dogs that are thick winded when they are working. There are also those dogs that don't know when to stop and will keep working regardless.

If you are away from handy water sources when working your dogs, maybe have a spare bottle of water and a container on the bike to give them a drink if the weather is hot. Also remember to give them plenty of breaks and don't work in the heat of the day. Heat stroke can be worse on humid days as it makes panting as a means of heat reduction, not as effective.

As always, please phone us if you are concerned about heat stroke in one of your dogs.

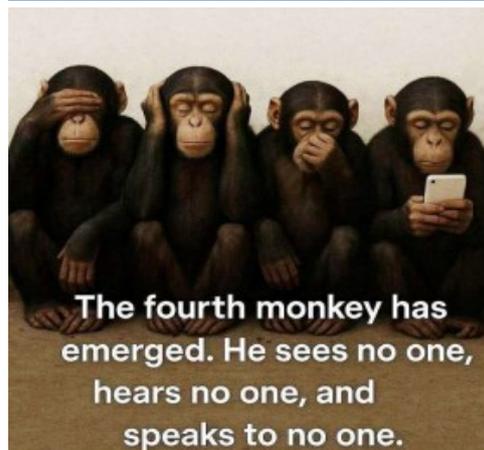
Tasks for Summer

Sheep

- ◆ Get rams checked and **vasectomies** done
- ◆ Plan **toxovax, campy and salvexin** vaccination programmes for 2.2ths or hoggets, and get your orders into the clinic
- ◆ Take **faecal egg samples** 10 days after drenching to assess drench efficacy

Dairy

- ◆ Consider early scanning in herds where **phantom cows** are an issue ASAP
- ◆ Keep an eye on **herd bulls**, replace bulls that are lame or have lost condition
- ◆ Watch for spikes in **somatic cell counts**
- ◆ Weigh heifer replacements regularly to ensure you are on track to meet **target liveweights**



The fourth monkey has emerged. He sees no one, hears no one, and speaks to no one.

Hams in 2025

We have a limited number of hams with various products this year. If you require a vet club ham to feed the family this Christmas please contact the clinic in the next couple of weeks.



Horses Need Selenium Too!

Most soils in NZ are low in selenium. In our area this is especially true and a large proportion of sheep, cattle and dairy cows are constantly supplemented with selenium in one form or another.

Selenium is a very important element for growth and good health in all animals and horses are no exception. We blood test a lot of horses to assess selenium levels and they virtually always tend to be low or marginal.

Selenium can be very cheaply and effectively given to horses by adding 1 to 2mg of selenium per day to the diet. The good news is that this doesn't have to happen every day. Even 1 month dosing intervals supplying 30 to 60mg of selenium gives excellent blood levels. Contact the clinic if you wish to discuss selenium supplementation in your horses.

Shopping

Rege's wife asked him to go to the store. "Please get a dozen eggs and if they have avocados get three."

So Rege came home with three dozen eggs.

"How come you got three dozen eggs," his good wife asked.

"Because they had avocados," replied Rege.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

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