



HVC YOUR CLUB

Jan 26

Diary Tasks for January

- Book cows in for scanning and aging—most herds should be ready to go in early / mid January!
- Ensure that the calf second leptovaccinations have been done.
- Plan to start zinc supplementation on farms where FE is likely to be a problem.
- Consider selenium and copper supplementation for weaner replacements.



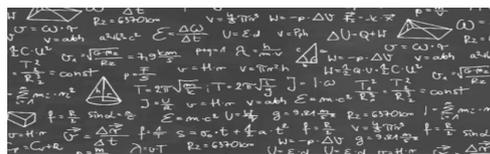
Uncomplicated Maths

The manager of an up-market restaurant was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his stunning blond waitress for some mathematical help.

He called her into his office and said, 'You graduated from University. I need some help.'

If I gave you \$20,000, minus 14% how much would you take off?'

The waitress thought a moment and then replied, 'Everything but my earrings.'



Well, we are into 2026!!!

The year has started with some damp days which have been great for crops and grass in general. Reports are that lambs have been doing well post weaning and FECs done in the last month have generally been pleasing. Toward the end of January will be the time to start monitoring any Barbers Pole threat. Don't forget to book in your ram checks and get teasers done.

We will soon begin our spore count monitoring from our FE hotspots. The rain at new year should have given the first kickstart to spore development. You can checkout spore counts on our website or Facebook.

Cows seem to be milking well but the hot days this week will be putting heat stress on herds. Think about ways of minimising this challenge.

If you have not booked in your herd pregnancy testing give us a call.

Ticks are about

In recent weeks we have spotted ticks on dogs brought to the clinic (not because of the ticks) and had farmers calling concerned about finding ticks on stock; most often ewes/lambs at shearing.

We are lucky in NZ that we only have 1 species of tick (Haemaphysalis Longicornis). In many parts of the world several species of ticks can be found which are responsible for transmitting nasty diseases to animals and even humans.

In our part of NZ ticks are responsible for one disease—Theileria. Theileria is spread by ticks and causes red blood cell haemolysis and anaemia in cattle. If you find ticks on your stock this is the disease you should be concerned about. We have now seen cases of Theileria in most of our area and know that ticks are present on many properties although numbers can be pretty low.

Ticks proliferate in warm environments especially where there are areas of rank pasture (they don't do well on short, well grazed pasture). They spend most of their life on the ground climbing onto any animal they come into contact with 3 times in their life-cycle, once as larvae then as nymph and finally as an adult. After a feed of blood they drop off and develop to their next stage This feeding pattern occurs in waves and we are currently nearing the end of the adult feeding cycle.

Tick control in our patch really revolves around good pasture management and hard grazing. Warmer conditions in recent years seem to have boosted tick numbers.

For our deer farming clients ticks can be an issue as they feed happily on fawns (causing anaemia) and velvet which can cause down grading of the velvet. Pour-ons can be used on deer at this time of the year to help control tick numbers.

If you know when ticks are feeding you can introduce ewes that have been dipped with Seraphos to areas of the farm with high tick numbers. They act like bait, the ticks hop on for a feed and are killed by the Seraphos.

As for ticks on dogs and cats, there are flea treatments available that also kill ticks.

Please talk to us if you have tick issues and questions.



The Dirt On Fleas

Fleas are making their yearly return and if you don't want to be caught out with an infestation, it's a good idea to start treating your dogs and their surroundings now!

Spraying kennels and bedding with Ripcord will help control the fleas in the environment as the larvae and eggs aren't found on your dog.



We have a range of topical, oral and collars to treat the fleas on your animals, and some of these products are effective against ticks, which we are seeing more of at this time of year as discussed in this newsletter! Oral treatments can be superior to topical treatments if you have a dog who likes to spend time in the water (troughs, streams etc).

None of the treatments act as a flea repellent so fleas will still jump on your pet. If the flea product is still working, the flea should be moving slowly and is easily caught.

Don't forget to treat your household dogs and especially your cats too!



Grandpa

Grandpa was reminiscing about the good old days...

"When I were a lad, Momma would send me down to t'corner store wi' a dollar, and I'd come back wi' five pounds o' potatoes, two loaves o' bread, three pints o' milk, a pound o' cheese, a packet o' tea, an' 'alf a dozen eggs. Yer can't do that now.

Too many security cameras."

Zinc Supplementation

Damp days around New Year will have been a good kick start to the FE season. It pays to start your FE prevention planning now. For dairy farmers this means starting to add increased levels of zinc into feed. It takes some time for cows blood zinc levels to reach protective levels.

For dry stock and sheep, watch spore count levels on indicator farms or, for greater reference, do some spore counts yourself.

If you have any questions around FE protection or spore counting please call the clinic.

Weddings

When I was younger I hated going to weddings.

It seemed that all of my aunts and the grandmotherly types used to come up to me, poke me in the ribs and cackle, telling me, 'YOU'RE NEXT'..

They all stopped doing that after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

Uddering Ewes—Best Time ???

I have had some questions about the best time to udder ewes. Generally the best time is **4-6 weeks** after weaning. This gives time for the udders to dry up and gives any mastitis issues time to result in detectable lumps in the udders / teats.

Uddering ewes at weaning will identify problems that have been brewing for some time but mastitis that develops around weaning can often be missed.

If you are really keen you can check at both times!! This can be useful for older ewes and where udder issues have previously been identified as an issue.



Iodine Issues??

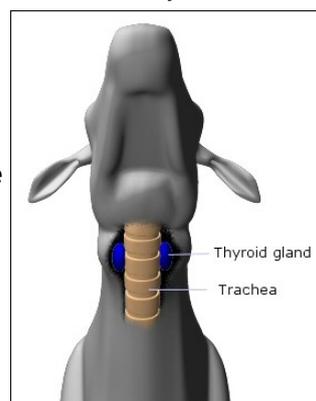
A number of clients post docking expressed concerns about having too many dry ewes that couldn't really be explained by some of the old culprits—bad weather, poor ewe condition, and the abortion diseases for which they had vaccinated.

Blood testing of dry ewes carried out pointed to possible issues with low iodine. Stock get a lot of their iodine from soil ingestion (plants don't need iodine) so dry winters like the one we had with minimal mud may have reduced iodine intakes. Low iodine has been associated with increased lamb losses at lambing.

Iodine can be given to stock as a long acting injection or an oral drench. Drenching ewes with iodine or a mineral supplement containing sufficient iodine can be carried out at times such as scanning and pre-lamb.

There is some debate around what blood levels constitute iodine deficiency. We intend to carry out supplementation programmes on some properties where iodine levels appear low and attempt to assess any positive response to treatment. We will also be picking up dead lambs from properties next spring to assess the weight of the lamb's thyroid glands in relation to the lamb's weight. Bigger thyroids are also an indicator of iodine deficiency.

We would be keen to hear from other clients who feel they have had poor lamb survival this year.



AFTER HOURS VET

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Monday to Friday

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