

Welcome Eleanor

We are fortunate to have a new veterinarian working for us. Eleanor Leslie has been working in Palmerston North and has made the move to employment in Hunterville! While she has worked mainly in small animals, Eleanor is keen to get out on farm so if you see a lost vet, introduce yourself and point her in the correct direction.

While Eleanor has joined us, Sam and Sarah who were working primarily in the clinic have finished up with us. We thank them for their time working for us and wish them all the best in their future veterinary endeavours.



Wanganui Deliveries

If you live closer to Wanganui than Hunterville and would like to pick up your order in Wanganui we can arrange that!

Phone the clinic, we can let you know where your goods can be collected from.

What To Do With That Grass

We have had enquiries from a couple of farmers looking for grazing for various periods and classes of stock. If you have grazing available or are looking for grazing, give us a call. We may be able to help.

A Lot To Be Said For A Dry February?

The good times continue. While some areas experienced record rain fall and severe damage, we escaped all the drama and rainfall was perfect for grass growth. Throughout our area feed covers are excellent and stock are in very good order. For many, the question is what to do with the grass and purchasing store stock at current prices takes some thinking about!

Given the current situation there is quite a lot to be said for a dry February! Worms (especially Barbers Pole), flies and facial eczema all love moisture. A damp February might grow more grass but would also see big challenges from all three. There is a lot to be said for a dry spell for the next 4-5 weeks provided it rains again in March. Not too much to ask.

On a completely different tangent, I drove past a car / ute yard of the organisation that I seem to love to hate (no, not traffic management). You know it as Horizons. The early woke adopters. The ones that, if you listen to ZB, will tell you how to stack your firewood, or make sure you check the website before you go for a swim in our polluted rivers!

But it was the cars and utes in the yard that got me thinking. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of shiny late model vehicles. In 40 plus years I have had 4 work vehicles and done close to 2 million kilometres. Apart from flat tyres and falling asleep on the main road once, the Monday after Duck Shooting (which I can't really blame the car for), they have never let me down going to a call.

The question is, why weren't there any A B C or D registered vehicles in the car park? I guess that's what you can do when you're spending other peoples money and can just put the rates up when there's not enough of it!

Whether To Hogget Mate??

Great prices for lambs appear to be renewing interest in hogget mating, given the questions I have fielded in recent weeks. If you are going to mate hoggets successfully there are no short cuts and success is based on doing the job properly from the start to the finish at hogget weaning.

The following are some of the observations and suggestions I would make to ensure success from hogget mating.

- If you aren't prepared to adjust your farming system to ensure hoggets are well fed, don't even contemplate it!
- Hoggets need to be a **minimum** of 38kgs going to the ram (and higher for some larger framed genetics).
- It is critical to keep growing hoggets through to lambing but trying to catch up on body weight targets in late pregnancy will lead to problems with bearings and difficult lambings.
- Don't let trace element deficiencies penalise your hogget growth rates.
- Teasing hoggets is a very good practice.
- Ensure you manage worms in hoggets. This can be done through drenching, capsules, etc, but also involves creating cleaner country for hoggets to lamb on.
- Summer and winter crops can be very useful for ensuring hoggets meet target liveweights and growth rates.
- Abortion vaccines, toxo and campy, are also recommended.
- Make a good job of feeding hoggets with lambs at foot and wean them in early January at the latest to ensure hoggets are up to weight for 2.2th mating.
- 800 hoggets mated and lambing at 85% produce 680 lambs. Weaning at 28kgs at a sale value of \$4.75 / kg liveweight equates to \$133 per head or a total sum of \$50,500.

Worth thinking about??

Common Horse Conditions In Summer

Ryegrass staggers

We've had reports of multiple horses this year with ryegrass staggers. The toxin (Lolitrein B) accumulates in the seed head and also in the base of the plant and an increase is seen in hot and humid conditions.

Signs to look out for are staggering, tremoring, spooking easily and sometimes falling over. Left long enough without intervention, death is a possible outcome.

Tips to prevent it are keeping horses off pastures with a lot of ryegrass, topping off the seed head and also preventing pastures from being grazed too low.

Treatment consists of removing from affected pastures, providing ryegrass free hay and if bad enough, using a toxin binder.

Horses can take up to 14 days to come right but usually start responding after a couple of days off affected grass.

Founder in horses and ponies

Founder, or laminitis is when the soft tissues, that suspend the bone within the hoof become inflamed. It is an emergency condition as left untreated, the pedal bone can sink within the foot, causing irreversible lameness and ongoing problems.

It is most commonly caused by an over consumption of lush, high sugar grass at this time of the year. It can also be caused by some metabolic conditions, gorging on feed and retained foetal membranes.

Signs include shifting the weight off the front feet (leaning back), lifting of feet, reluctance to move, warm hooves and strong digital pulses.

Treatment consists of removing the horse from lush pasture, bedding in thick wood shavings, ice baths for feet for 30 minutes at a time (in the acute phase) and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Prevention includes avoiding obesity, grazing pastures early morning and evenings, avoiding overstressing pastures by implementing rotational grazing and feeding soaked hay to leach out the sugars.

Udderly Innovative— Technology Integration In Dairy Farms

*Cosmin's summary of the Dairy NZ-
Taranaki Dairy Tech Expo.*

Key takeaways:

Know your goals before investing in new tech. Tools like AI and digital tech give you reliable data, helping you make smarter decisions faster.

Using these technologies keeps you ahead of the game, giving real-time insights so you can act sooner. But it's the right people and processes that make the tech really work.

Soon, AI will help create action plans and reports for things like fertilizer application, based on cow pasture intake, pasture cover and weather forecast.

The expo reminded us to stay open to new ideas, invest wisely, and work together to build a strong, forward-thinking dairy industry.



What happens when Old Car Guys get sent to a nursing home ...

Don't Do It!

With dairy cows currently worth big money it might be tempting to retain a few higher cell count cows and hope that some dry cow will clean them up for next season. In 90% of cases this won't work, especially if the cows are older, have had more than one case of clinical mastitis (especially if it was staph), or have been high cell count cows for some time.

Culling these types of cows is an integral part of mastitis control. Keeping them threatens the future health of your herd when it comes to mastitis. Take the meat-works \$7.50 per kg and move on!

Looking After Little Lambs

It surprises me how many farmers, especially breeders, farm tail end lambs in with the rest of the lambs. Given these lambs are small they are unlikely to compete and grow in competition with bigger, healthier stock.

Many of these lambs have just had a bad start and your best chance of turning them around is on high quality feed with limited worm burdens and little competition. High quality feed and low worm burdens at this time of the year generally means leafy crops, plantain, chicory or red clover. But being small means they don't need a lot of it! (0.75kg DM for 22kg lamb vs 1.3kg DM for 37kg lamb).

You can give B12 injections and vitamins to these lambs but generally 'vitamin G' will see them grow. They don't have to grow much to be worth plenty this season!!

PS. At this time of the year lambs can be prone to developing pneumonia typically resulting in shelly coughing lambs.

*Treatment with **Bivatop** or **Tenaline** antibiotic will reduce the death rate and turn affected lambs around. But you must ensure you meet the recording and ear tagging requirements of Quality Assurance programmes.*

Shake It Up

Just a reminder when using drenches, especially combination products, to ensure you shake them up well before use. These 'suspensions' are quite complex in their formulation and can settle with time. Also ensure they are not left lying in the sun.

If you ever have concerns about the consistency of drenches or dips, don't charge on and use them. Please contact the clinic for advice or replacement product while we investigate the issue.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz