

A Long Indian Summer

Fine days and cool nights with plenty of frosts have stretched on for a long time now. While it has meant flat seas and great fishing, it hasn't been so good for pasture growth or new grass establishment!

Consequently feed covers have tightened up significantly on many farms. If the current situation continues for too much longer, covers going into winter will be less than optimal. Most ewes went to the ram in excellent order and we expect to see very good scanning results which will increase feed requirements. It will pay to have a plan in place to address shortages. Given current livestock values, lightening up on stock numbers may be a good option. It is getting pretty late to use nitrogen now but an early spring application to ensure ewes / cows are fed well could be an option, even at current nitrogen prices.

If anyone has grazing available please call the clinic as we have dairy, and sheep and beef clients looking for grazing for various classes of stock.

Capsule Conundrum?

Ewe scanning is under way and clients are starting to think about possible pre-lamb ewe treatments. We are getting queries already around the pros and cons of drench capsules and long acting injections.

While the general veterinary consensus is that whole flock usage of these products should be avoided for drench resistance reasons, no two farms are the same and there are situations where targeted use of capsules or LA injections could be justified and very cost effective.

Please feel free to contact the clinic to discuss your individual situation and pre-lamb treatment.

Vet Club Golf Tournament

Friday, 19 June, 2026

11am start - get there early!

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

Teams of 3—Ambrose

Call the Clinic now to book your place.



Conveyor Staff

Due to some changes in circumstances we are on the lookout for new staff to help on the conveyor. We are looking for fit people who will be available part time during the season which runs from July until September. Training will be available where required.

Please phone the clinic if you are interested.

Also please ensure that you place your bookings for the conveyor well in advance so as to be sure it, and the staff members that you require to come with the conveyor, will be available when you want them.

Faecal Egg Counts

Over the last few months we have done a huge number of faecal egg counts (FECs). Samples are supplied to us in all manner of containers however some are not satisfactory and it makes getting counts that you can have faith in unlikely.

To summarise what is required:

- Take 10 to 12 individual samples from freshly dropped faeces. A good tablespoon full or more is sufficient. The samples **must** remain **separate**.
- Get the samples into a fridge as soon as possible to keep them cool and stop the eggs hatching.
- Samples cannot dry out so while in the fridge they need to be in a sealed container or plastic bag.
- Get samples to us ASAP but if stored correctly a delay over the weekend is okay.
- The biggest portion of samples arrive in egg cartons which is fine provided they are in sealed bags. Several samples deposited into a container like a yoghurt pottle doesn't work!!

As an aside, our faecal counting consistently highlights a surprisingly high number of results where drenching technique or administrative failure would appear to have occurred (around 10%). Good drenching technique, gun calibration and frequent re-checking and correct storage and handling of the drench are all highly important to ensure you get the required results from drenching! It is an expensive waste of time to drench lambs with a gun delivering 3mls of Zolvix when the lambs should be getting 4mls!!!



Salmonella Outbreak

In the last 10 days we have warned of a Salmonella outbreak on our Facebook Page and Website. For those of you who don't know, there have been cases of Salmonella on farms in the Ohingaiti / Mangaweka area, and we have also had an outbreak in the Peep O Day area. Salmonella often seems to strike in long, dry autumn periods when conditions suit bacteria survival, resulting in increased challenge. We would advise clients to keep a close eye on their ewe flocks for sudden, unexplained deaths, especially if your ewes are unvaccinated. If you do have unexplained deaths, immediate post mortem examination will normally confirm if Salmonella is the cause. If diagnosed, immediate vaccination is almost always the best option. With capital stock breeding ewes worth \$250 - \$300 you don't have to lose many to justify vaccination! Deaths normally decline / cease within 10 days from vaccination.

As we have suggested in many newsletters, an annual vaccination programme makes a lot of sense given the value of ewe flocks.

Cow Treatments At Dry Off - All Done??

Drying off has been in full swing and dairy farmers will be looking for a well earned break on spring calving farms. Just before you slip into neutral it would pay to ensure that those other tasks often carried out at dry off have also been attended to.

These include:

- Ensuring herds have received their annual leptospirosis booster vaccinations
- Carrying out Salmonella vaccinations and booster vaccinations on farms that vaccinate for Salmonella
- Ordering and planning the use of scour vaccines for the appropriate dates pre-calving
- Doing blood tests or liver biopsies to assess trace element levels and requirements
- Treating herds with long acting selenium for 12 months selenium supplementation
- Checking and treating cows after dry off for cases of drying off mastitis
- All done?? Take it easy!

Not All Baleage / Silage Is The Same!

Over Autumn I have dealt with two cases of falling milk production that proved to be due to nothing more than poor quality supplementary feed. It is pretty obvious but worth stating that not all baleage or silage has the same feed value! Low quality, mature grass will make poor baleage / silage with low ME and poor protein levels. You won't get good animal performance on this type of feed.

If you are buying baleage, consider the quality of feed you require. Open a bale and have a look at it, or get it tested for quality if you have any concerns. For young animals or putting weight on dairy cows, quality is important. Paying another \$15 or \$20 a bale for quality feed can be money well spent.

We often get asked about mould on silage. While many moulds are not a risk, there is no way we can be certain whether the mould will cause problems (abortions, pneumonia, etc), by looking at it. So our advice is if it is mouldy, don't feed it to valuable stock (and there ain't many cheap stock at present!).

Annual Dairy Seminar

Save the Date - Thursday July 16

We are running our Dairy Farmer Seminar again this year. Watch out for your email from Cosmin with further details. If you have any ideas for topics that you would like to discuss please let us know ASAP.

Genealogy

Fred came home from university thinking he was adopted. "Mum, am I adopted?"

"No, of course not," replied his mother. "Why would you think such a thing?"

Fred showed her his genealogy DNA test results. No match for any of his relatives, and strong matches for a family who lived on the other side of the city. Perturbed, his mother called her husband. "Honey, Fred has done a DNA test, and... and... I don't know how to say this... he may not be our son."

"Well, obviously!" he replied.

"What do you mean?"

"It was your idea in the first place," her husband continued. "You remember, that first night in hospital when the baby did nothing but scream and cry and scream and cry. On and on. And you asked me to change him? I picked a good one I reckon. Ever so proud of Fred."

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntermilletvetclub@xtra.co.nz