



EWES NEWS

Worm Control in Hoggets

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Its another odd month conditions wise. Faecal egg counts from any hoggets that have come through the clinic have indicated very high worm burdens. The moisture, lack of frosts and green pick seem to have stimulated movement of parasite larvae. Normally we would advise stretching drenching intervals at this time of year, but that does not seem to be the case presently.

Two case studies. One farm autumn drenched hoggets with Zolvix, and a 70 day post drench FEC test showed an average FEC of 965 e.p.g and a second farm, with a 30 day post Startect drench had an average FEC of 925 e.p.g. While both of these farms have used an effective novel drench in the autumn but lambs have re-infected to high levels.

Advice: Monitor and keep effective drench going this "winter" as required.

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Animal Health Plans

Animal health plans are a good opportunity to review animal health treatment for this coming pre-lamb period. Sustainable and rational chemical use is one of the main objectives. We also review prescription antibiotics, vaccines and any production limiting disease that is relevant to you.

Book one in this July. It doesn't take too long, it's a worth while exercise and you'll pass your next audit with ease!

Month	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Sheep Events	Weaning Wooling Fly protection	Weaning Fly protection	Crutching	Rain in	Rain in	Rain in	NSC	Shearing Scanning	NSC	Lambing	Lambing	NSC
Treatments	NSC	Drench lights Trough	Fly protection Lamb, Crutch	Colostrum booster Flavonoid Drench if req	Drench lights if req	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
MAE Ewes (6000)	Monitoring	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Treatments	Jelling Lanes	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
2hks	Monitoring	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Treatments	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Ewe health (6000)	Monitoring	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Treatments	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Rams	Monitoring	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Treatments	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Wethers (6000)	Monitoring	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC
Treatments	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC	NSC

YOU'RE INVITED VETERINARY CENTRE Special Road Show

We've had some great events over the years with our clients and we are keen to catch up with you again this July.

- *What do we do this pre-lamb if anything?*
- *Do I need to use primer drench if I capsule?*
- *What about these bigger capsules, are they appropriate for my ewes and my resistance status?*
- *What about this vitamin D and bearing prevention?*
- *Have I been out to catch up with my neighbours in the last month?*

WHERE & WHEN

HYDE HALL

Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 5pm

FREE Faecal Egg Count

If you purchase your Long Acting Drench Injection or Drench Capsules from any of our Veterinary practices, you automatically receive a FREE Egg Pack to check efficacy of the product 60-80 days after use.



OUR CLINICS

- Oamaru Ph 03 434 5666
- Waimate Ph 03 689 7213
- Palmerston Ph 03 465 1291
- Glenavy Ph 03 689 8118
- Kurow Ph 03 436 0567
- Omarama Ph 03 438 9868
- Ranfurly Ph 03 444 1020



NEW BIONIC PLUS

Long Acting Anthelmintic and High Mineral Combination Capsules for 40-80kg Sheep with 2 actives released over 100 days

15% MORE
Abamectin

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Aba	185mg
ABAMECTIN	
Abz	4.62g
ALBENDAZOLE	



Hind Scanning



Luke Smyth BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The dry conditions through summer and autumn have had an impact on scanning percentages. Mobs of hinds with low average body condition score have had a higher rate of dries, but it is not always the thin hinds who are dry. The value of scanning is highlighted in these situations. Getting rid of dry hinds in the current environment is a frustration, but at least if you know who they are you can prioritise feed and animal health inputs into the pregnant ones.

Yearling pregnancy rates have been down on many farms. These girls are so much more sensitive to a feed pinch at mating, even if they were above target weight when the stag went out.

On some farms there are more late-fawning hinds than normal. Identifying these and fawning them as a separate mob or quitting them is a great idea. This makes management of the earlies much more flexible in late spring as you can start opening gates or quietly moving mobs without worrying about mismothering of new fawns.

Se Co With Selenium (24mg) and Cobalt (118mg) Minerals

Price from **\$3.25** plus gst
Terms: December payment
Free Drench check at 60 to 90 days

Withholding Period for Meat & Milk
126 Days

Sustainable use: Recommended to be used as part of a targeted treatment or refugia plan.

Iodine, Vitamin A, D, E, C + Cr and Se



Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Pregnant ewes (and their lambs) on brassicas need iodine. If they have not had flexidine pre-tup then supplement mid pregnancy. LSD drench is a good option.

Vitamin D (hideject) or LSD reduces bearings...?

Vitamin D comes from sunlight. This is lowest in the winter. In some situations people and cows need extra vitamin D to function to absorb calcium and have normal smooth muscle activity... Yes it looks like I am about to draw a very long bow and say sheep vitamin D to prevent their smooth muscle prolapsing, but there could be something in this.

Last year we published Sue Chapman's "wee study" drenching half their ewes with LSD and found a lower incidence of vaginal prolapse in treated ewes.

BEARINGS			
LSD		No LSD	
Twin Ewes	Single Ewes	Twin Ewes	Single Ewes
10	2	26	9
12		35	

If you want to do something about vitamin D July -August are the months to do it. 0.5mL hideject or 10mL LSD oral drench will do the job.

Animal Health Planning Around KPI's



Euan Tait BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Key Performance Indicators are a good baseline to monitor performance of your flock. You can use them to set targets and also to assess where and why performance issues are arising.

Our Animal Health Plan focuses around KPI's to help maximise the potential within your flock. For example, with record lamb prices predicted to be on the cards, reducing lamb scanning to weaning loss would be a great KPI to focus on this season. The target is less than 18%. Do you know how well you're performing in this area?

- Data required
- Number of ewes scanned
 - Scanning percentage
 - Number of lambs weaned

How to reduce losses?

- Effective vaccination programs – clostridial and reproductive
- Pre lamb mineral and trace element supplementation improving lamb survivability and growth rates
- Good ewe condition – body condition scoring at scanning/ shearing can allow you to implement preferential feeding changes in plenty of time before lambing
- Drench planning to get ewes in optimal condition
- Good stocking rates

The pre-lamb period allows for a great opportunity to sit down and plan for the future productivity of your flock. To discuss animal health planning and how to improve your KPI's please get in touch with one of our sheep and beef team.

Feet Reminder

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Wet, mild conditions in June have stirred feet issues in some sheep flocks. My main message is to not leave these to 'sort themselves out', rather have a look at what the cause is and consider some options for removing, reducing or treating the issue. Shearing and scanning are times when feet can be addressed. It is the last chance to REMOVE AND TREAT chronic footrot cases for set stocking. Our tilmovet system has been in-place for over a year now and have some good farmer feed-back about its effects. Please contact the Veterinary Centre about options for sorting out lame sheep before lambing.

Also there is more to lameness than just footrot. Abscesses in the toe or white line cause considerable pain and need attention.

"Newetration"

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Scanning is underway now and with it one of the last chances to have a meaningful impact on lambing outcomes. Along with identifying singles/multiples, and early/mid/lates, scanning is a key time of the year to run your hand over the back of your ewes as you push them up and get some solid body condition score data.

The **ideal BCS range is 3 – 3.5**, which means the spine and short ribs are smooth and rounded, and the bones can only be felt with hard pressure. The bit you are feeling is between the end of the ribs and the pelvis.

Ewes to identify for preferential feeding:

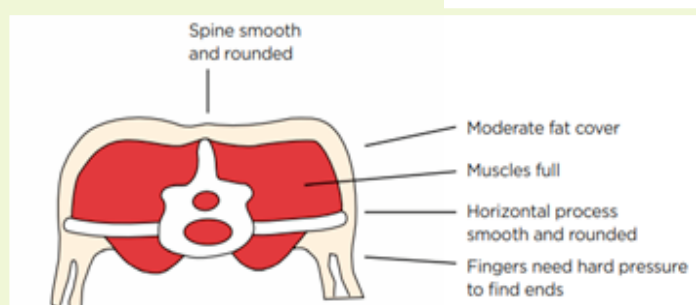
- **Ewes with a BCS < 3.0** – these girls are running out of time to reach targets before their low body condition affects their lamb's odds of survival, so start feeding them more than maintenance within 2 – 3 weeks of scanning if possible.
- **Prioritise your twinning ewes** – the additional energy demand from the extra lamb increases substantially over the last couple of months of pregnancy. If intakes are not increased gradually too, ewes can start to lose condition in later pregnancy.
- If these lighter, twin bearing ewes are not fed well from scanning to lambing this leads to **lower birth weights, poorer lamb survival, and less milk produced for the lambs to drink.**

What about the others:

- **Ewes with a BCS > 3.5** – can be used to clean up paddocks so feed can be saved for lighter, multiple bearing ewes BUT **take care with sudden feed changes in heavily pregnant ewes** – they are at risk of metabolic issues such as sleepy sickness or milk fever.
- **Late lambing ewes** can be left at maintenance levels of feeding for longer.

SCORE 3

The vertical processes are smooth and rounded: the bone is only felt with pressure. The horizontal processes are also smooth and well covered; hard pressure with the fingers is needed to find the ends. The loin muscle is full, with a moderate fat cover.



Winter Shearing

Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Mid-winter/pre-lamb shearing can be a tool used to help increase birthweights and potentially increased lamb survivability. There can also be additional benefits such as increased wool production and quality. It does come with its own risks and pitfalls however.

Lamb survivability is increased when lambs are born between 4-5.5kg. Lower weights are significantly more susceptible to starvation/exposure and above these weights (i.e large single lambs) are at greater risk of dystocia/lambing difficulty.

Mid winter shearing may produce these effects by an increased feed eaten by the ewe, body store mobilisation and shelter seeking behaviour of the ewe around lambing time. There can be between a 0.3-0.8kg live weight increase of lambs born, however this gain is not guaranteed in all scenarios. Ewes in poor body condition and on low levels of nutrition are shown to have little to no response in birthweights.

Pregnant animals will require 10-30% more feed for 2-4 weeks following winter shearing and this should be accounted for, with plenty of high quality feed for them to go onto. Cover combs leave an additional 1-2 weeks worth of wool growth so this may shorten the increase feed requirements.

The greatest benefits are from lambs that would otherwise be born light (i.e twins), in the ideal world we would probably try and only shear the twin bearing ewes, this would obviously come with its own management issues.

Interestingly it appears that the greatest change in birthweights increased the earlier in winter shearing was done, in studies shearing around the 70-90 days gestation (around scanning time) produced the biggest effects.

Meanwhile late winter/pre-lamb shearing may increase the ewes shelter seeking and lambing area selection. Shearing in late pregnancy has increased risks for metabolic disease (pregnancy toxemia/sleepy sickness and milk fever).

Seemingly small changes to twin birthweights (>300g) can have large impacts on survivability of those small lambs and even minor increases of lamb survivability (1-2%) there can be significant economic benefit.

E.g 2% increase in lamb survivability in 1000 ewes = 20 extra lambs @\$150/lamb = ~\$3000

Timely Reminders Beef cattle production

- Long acting selenium and boost of copper prior to calving.
- BVD vaccine can be given as a sensitizer prior to calving, boosting again prior to mating



Sheep eating barley and nuts

Kennel Cough Outbreak

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



Gary, stock manager at Shag Valley Station, is passionate about farming and loves his dogs. You get the sense he does enjoy working with them and studying and understanding their separate characters. However, when they all went down with Kennel Cough it was not much fun...actually, it was a real hassle. Fortunately, his team have pulled through and they are back to work. During the outbreak rest was important, anti-inflams helps with mild cases, antibiotics were required for severe cases. Vaccination will help if you get them before they were infective.



Gary Gore, Shap Valley Station and his dogs.

Maniototo Update



Raechel Parker BVSc
Ranfurly Veterinary Centre

- Despite some areas greening up a little after recent rainfall, many are tight on winter feed after such a dry season with flooding further north driving value up on forage
- Bull sales went well on the whole with some impressive animals exchanging hands this year
- Conversations are starting around pre-lamb with Bionic Plus now on the market, containing 15% more abamectin
- Wormer resistance is presenting challenges as ever regarding capsule use. Get in touch with us if you wish to discuss Bionic Plus and the use of primer drenches with capsules

Listeriosis in Ewes



Gwyneth Mark BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Clinic

As pasture is in short supply coming into the winter, there will be a large amount of feeding out of stored feed. The quality of this feed is important for many reasons, one of which is poor quality silage and baleage can grow the bacteria *Listeria* which can cause listeriosis in stock.

The *Listeria* organism can live for a long time in soil but cant survive in well preserved silages which have a low pH (less than 5.5) limiting the bacteria's growth. In silage which is poorly stored the pH increases (pH>5.5) creating an environment where listeria is able to grow and multiply. For example punctured bale wrap or the edges of silage stacks that have been exposed to the air and deteriorated before feeding out.

Listeriosis can occur in several forms:

- 1) The neurological form: the most common and well known form of listeriosis affects the brain. Clinical signs are classically severe depression, circling in one direction and facial paralysis. These signs occur a few weeks after exposure to listeria.
- 2) The enteric form: this is less common and normally occurs in winter. The listeria can cause a severe gastroenteritis which quickly results in death. Often sheep are found dead a few days after being fed silage, occasionally sheep will be scouring prior to death.
- 3) Listeria can also cause abortion in pregnant ewes.

Sudden death a few days after feeding out silage/baleage or neurological signs a few weeks later would indicate listeria as a possible cause of death in ewes. A post-mortem on a freshly dead ewe can confirm the diagnosis and rule out other causes e.g. salmonella or clostridial disease. Treatment of animals with listeriosis is usually unsuccessful therefore making sure silage and baleage is of high-quality and stored correctly is very important.

If you are experiencing ewe losses this winter, please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian for advice.