



# Veterinary Centre EwesNews

## Lamb Tailing and Castration

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**



As most of you are aware it has become a law that farmers need to leave a stumpy bit behind when tailing now. This has been a “best practice guideline” for 4 years, the consultation was done in 2016. Many of the meat works report on it, and most Western European countries have decided it has to be this way...so (as usual) we end up following to keep the peace. The evidence of any meaningful or useful reason for this change is sketchy at best, but we will get used to it. Most tailing contractors have been compliant for a number of seasons now.

**Minimum standard for tail length came into effect May 2021.** \$500 fines will be issued if 2021 born animals are non-compliant.

**The tail MUST be no shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold.** <sup>1</sup>

Another way of stating it is:

**No shorter than the third palpable joint**

Or... **The tail shall be docked with sufficient length to cover the vulva of a ewe, and the equivalent length in rams.** <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Beef and Lamb Fact Sheet July 2020. minimum standards and best practice guidelines please refer to Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare available from MPI Tel: 0800 008 333 or [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/)

<sup>2</sup> RWS Tail Docking Standard Operating Procedure. Publication Date: August 13, 2020



Caudal Fold

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## Go Sheep!

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**



Lamb prices are quite spectacular this year, and it is great to hear some of the success stories of the breeders and traders that have stuck with their sheep over what has been a difficult 12 months weatherwise.

Investing in good clostridial vaccine, sustaining mineral programme and drenches that you know work and do the job can all pay dividends at this time of year.

*Some nice spring shorn hoggets starting to get their “grease-up” again post shears.*



by the Big Blue Cross

# Bloat

Gwenyth Mark BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE OMARAMA

Bloat can be a common cause of sudden death in the springtime. Signs of bloat can occur within 15mins, and death can occur rapidly (<2 hours). Lush Legume pastures cause 'frothy bloat' by acting as foaming agents within the rumen, trapping gas in a stable foam which cannot be belched up as normal.

## Risk Factors include:

- Feed: Lush immature pastures with high amounts of clover or lucerne.
- Stock: Younger animals especially those which haven't adapted to grazing high risk feeds.

## Treatment:

- Early bloat signs: remove animals from pasture and feed high fibre feeds e.g., hay, mature grass/silage.
- Mild bloat: treat orally with bloat oil and monitor closely.
- Severe: Stab in the left flank, should be a clean stab of a decent size (5-10cm) to let the froth out.

## Prevention:

- Pasture management: Provide fibre, avoid hungry cattle gorging on high-



risk pasture. Monitor animals when introduced to a high-risk feed.

- Rumensin (monesin): a 100 day capsule, the most reliable and convenient prevention. It should be given 1 week before feeding risky feed.
- Trough treatment with bloat oil (anti-foaming agent).

Prevention of bloat can be difficult through pasture management alone. Rumensin has the added advantage of improving feed conversion efficiency (7-15%) meaning bloat prevention can also improve production/profitability of finishing cattle.



# Ewes and Lambs at Peak Lactation

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc  
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



After lambing, ewes have the highest energy requirements they will have all year – in fact they reach peak lactation about four weeks after lambing, but only reach peak feed intake levels **eight weeks** after lambing. So initially they can't physically eat enough to satisfy their energy needs. Providing ample quality forage over this time will not only help the ewes but also the lambs, as their pasture intakes start increasing.

- At peak lactation twin bearing ewes are producing about **3.5 litres of milk** and eating around **3kg DM** per day. Singles are eating about **2.5kg DM** per day and producing about **2.3 litres of milk**.
- After peak lactation **milk production starts dropping by 20 – 25g per day**, and lambs that have been eating pasture from about two weeks of age start steadily increasing their intakes of forage.
- **Lamb growth rates will peak between week 3 – 6 of lactation**, then start to decline as milk availability drops. To maintain high lamb growth rates in later lactation good quality feed is essential e.g. leafy pasture, legumes or brassicas.
- Target feeding at least **1200 – 1400kg DM/ha of leafy pasture** if possible.
- In many areas dry conditions have limited feed available – prioritise multiples, and poorer conditioned ewes.
- **Herb mixes** such as chicory/plantain/clovers are ideal high quality lactation feeds, but are **high in calcium** compared to ryegrass, so avoid moving ewes off these mixes until after peak lactation as the sudden change can increase the risk of milk fever. If they're not ready to be grazed from the start of lambing wait until after peak lactation before putting ewes on.
- Lactating ewes require about **16% crude protein** in the diet, which should easily be provided by leafy grass, legumes or herbs.



Twin and triplet bearing ewes on lucerne

# Capsule Monitoring

Daley Watson-Krawitz BVSc  
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Reminder about capsule monitoring:  
The Veterinary Centre are again offering free faecal egg count monitoring for any long acting products purchased with us.

What we need:

- 10 individual samples (please **don't** mix all together in a pot). We have sampling packs in store available.
- These need to be **60-80** post administration.
- At this point if working effectively then we would hope for zero or very minimal numbers of eggs (the claimed payout of a Bionic is 100 days).

A sample with eggs means 1 of 3 things:

- You have resistance
- There was an animal/s which did not receive a drench (refugia) in the group
- The sample was taken too late (closer to the 100 day mark)

If you would like to discuss lamb drenching programmes when the time comes, please feel free to contact one of our vets.

Charlotte Mercer  
performing a FEC



# 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.



# The Merino Wether Research Field Trip

## PART 1: Spring Muster (September 2021)

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Patearoa Station set-stocked 3000 horned merino wethers on the higher ground of the Rock and Pillar range in April. At the annual spring muster all sheep were pretty much accounted for. Due in large part to the expert mustering team of course, but also due to their constitution, foraging ability and a bit of animal health along the way. A single dose of Gudair vaccine as a hogget has all but eliminated the age-old issue of ill thrift and early losses due to Johnes disease.

Although at high altitude, in cold conditions with thousands of hectares of native country to forage around, how much parasite challenge occurs in wether flocks? How much drenching do they need? How does parasitism effect wool production and body condition? The answers to these questions cannot be found in a textbook or by googling. You sometimes have to go and look for yourself, take some field measurements, listen to the people that have farmed the area for a while to help form a sound animal health recommendation.

\* Photos supplied by Charles Hore



Condition scoring wethers at the top yards



Collecting samples for FECs from a sheep camp



Jim Hore overseeing operations



Neville, Potter and Bubba planning their beats

# Multimin – One stop shop to mineral supplementation pre-mating for your beef herd

George Smith BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



- Multimin is an injectable trace mineral supplement containing copper, manganese, selenium, and zinc.
- A 1ml/100kg dose of Multimin is scientifically proven to enhance

immunity and increase fertility in your beef herd. Each individual trace element plays many important roles in multiple body systems. The key role of each element is outlined below:

## TRACE ELEMENTS

### MORE THAN JUST GROWTH RATES



**29**  
**Cu**  
Copper

- Reproduction/fertility
- Reduced retained placenta
- Disease resistance
- Coat colour

**34**  
**Se**  
Selenium

- Reproduction/fertility
- Reduced retained placenta
- Disease resistance
- Embryo survival

**30**  
**Zn**  
Zinc

- Reproduction/fertility
- Healthy feet/hooves
- Healthy skin/coat
- Spermatogenesis
- Cell division

**25**  
**Mn**  
Manganese

- Spermatogenesis
- Reproduction/fertility
- Embryo survival
- Ovulation
- Bone development

- The key to enhancing profitability in a beef system is to maximise 1st cycle conception rates. Multimin covers the trace element component of this.
- All artificial insemination programs use Multimin pre-mate to maximise embryo survival and implantation. Multimin data has been shown to improve first service conception rates following Multimin supplementation.

- Heifers and cows should be ideally jabbed 4 weeks prior to mating. Good to coincide with BVD booster vaccinations.
- BVD is one of the biggest limiting diseases in a beef system. Ensure heifers receive their first vaccination in September and a booster in October (4 weeks pre-mate).
- Cows should ideally be booster vaccinated 4 weeks before the bull goes out.

# Common Working Dog Orthopedic Injuries – Not always career ending



Sarah Boys BVSc - VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Like all athletes involved in an extreme sports, working dogs are at risk for a number of traumatic orthopedic injuries. These injuries can be major, causing a 3-legged lameness but in the majority of cases they are fixable and do not mark the end of dog's working career.

## Here are four of the most frequent injuries that we repair:

### Hip dislocations

- Typically occur following an impact (kicked by a cattle beast or hit by a vehicle) or after getting hung up in a fence.
- 50% successfully treated by relocation of the hip and strict rest. The other 50% require a 'hip toggle' surgery to replace the damaged ligament of the hip.
- Excellent prognosis with a 3-4 month recovery period

### Fractures of the forearm and shin bones

- A range of causes
- Surgical repair is most often with a plate and screws. For more fragmented fractures an external skeletal fixator may be used. An ESF consists of pins placed through the bone both above and below the fracture which are joined together by long bars on the outside of the leg.
- 3-4 month recovery period

### Torn ligaments of the hock joint

- Most commonly seen after catching foot in the bars of a farm bike or being stood on/kicked
- Surgery involves repair of the ligaments and stabilization of the joint in either a cast or hinged external skeletal fixator for 5-6 weeks.
- 4-5 month recovery period

### Rupture of the cruciate ligament

- Often seen after getting hung up in a fence although occasionally due to an underlying disease of the ligament.
- Most common surgical treatment involves placement of a specialized wedge into the shin bone to change the angle of the joint and eliminate the need for an intact ligament – A TTA procedure.
- 4-6 month recovery period.

# Lice Control – Timing of Treatment is Vital



Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

We are currently seeing lots of cattle (both dairy and beef) coming out of the winter scratching like hell due to lice infestations. Lice obviously cause a lot of irritation and excessive rubbing. Cattle quickly start wrecking gates, posts, and troughs.

In New Zealand there are two types of lice, biting lice which feed on the surface of the skin and sucking lice which pierce the skin and feed on tissue fluid. Both species cause intense irritation resulting in rubbing/licking and hair loss on the neck, shoulders and along the flanks.

As temperatures cool down in winter and cattle coat thickness increases, the environment for lice is much more favourable and the population rapidly increases. Lice populations peak in the winter and early spring.

Lice can't fly or jump and need close animal to animal contact to be able to spread, lice problems are often particularly apparent when cattle are wintered behind a hot wire. Lice also can't survive for long off the animal.

**The most important thing to consider in managing a lice problem is all cattle need treating, especially if mixing of mobs is occurring.**

There are three main chemical groups that are registered for lice control in cattle. Pour On organophosphates (Destruct) and synthetic pyrethroids (Blaze) will target lice. Mectin based drench's

target both internal parasites and lice (Cydectin/Exodus pour on, Genesis pour on and Dectomax injection). Oral drench's do not kill lice.

When proactively treating cattle for lice, it is best to start in the autumn when lice numbers are lower and coats are less dense, allowing lice to be exposed to greater amounts of chemical.

It is important to be aware that when any of these pour on products are applied in the winter to cattle with full coats or covered in mud or faeces only suppression of lice numbers will be achieved at best. Lice

numbers will rebuild again over the next 6-8 weeks, often requiring a follow up salvage treatment in the spring. This is due to some lice escaping a lethal dose in thick coats and none of the chemicals having an effective persistent effect on lice or killing eggs.



# Tailing is Underway!

Tailing season is starting and we're looking forward to spring. We are going from 3 crews up to 4 crews, they are based locally in Ranfurly, Lawrence, Kurow and Geraldine. We're excited about the season.



# Beef Production and Mating Artificial Insemination in Action



**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
**VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

Hawkdun Station has a 600 cow self-replacing angus herd. The owner, Hamish Cavanagh, has always been interested in breeding quality stock that can handle their Central Otago hill country. They have been doing an AI synchro program with his heifers for the last 2 years and are starting to see results.



*Thanks to Hamish & Anna Cavanagh*

# Scour Power Hour

**Ellen Hodder BVSc**  
**VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**



Runny back ends got your pet lambs feeling sour? If lambs are bright and still drinking, these tips will help your lambs get on top again. If lambs are not drinking, dull, depressed and not responding to the below treatment, contact your vet.

- Keep scouring lambs in a warm, dry environment. You can give a 0.5ml injection of Metacam, an anti-inflammatory, under the skin over the ribs. Our vets can dispense a single dose for you if needed.
- Reduce the volume of milk fed for 2-3 feeds.
- Give electrolyte. **Dehydration is the main killer of scouring lambs.** Make sure lambs are well hydrated by giving them the same volume of electrolyte (such as Enerlect or Nutralyte), you would milk (25ml/kg per feed) between feeds of milk. Continue to give electrolytes until scour has stopped.
- Give warm electrolytes and milk. It takes a lot of energy to warm up liquid once inside the body.
- Give Scourban, an anti-bacterial and anti-diarrhoeal product, at 10ml to start, then give 5ml morning and night by mouth, for 3-5 days.



"The AI yearling heifer progeny are 30kg ahead on what is normal around here." Hamish is not only pleased with the genetics he can access for his breeding program through AI, but there are other management benefits. "The heifers calve in a condensed group." This has helped with feed allocation and tightening up the calving spread. "The yearling heifers also took the bull really well as 2nd calvers". The plan this year is to increase the number of heifers AI'ed and not use bulls at all for the heifers. The objective is to get more than half the replacements from AI progeny. This has the potential to really move the commercial female - focused breeding programme forward to a consistent type that Hamish believes suit the country. Efficient cattle with calving ease, moderate frame, positive fats, 1st cycle conceptions, and above average growth are the genetics being targeted.

## What does a heifer AI synchro programme look like?

A typical heifer synchro programme

October 8	2nd BVD vax, 5mL Multimin, and Eclipse Pour-On
November 8	CIDR in
November 15	CIDR out
November 17	am inject 12 noon AI

A follow-up option is to re-synchro heifers and re-AI those not held to the 1st insemination.

Aim for 50-60% in-calf after 1st round, and 75 – 85% in-calf after 2nd round.

We can of course AI with all shapes, colours and breeds of bulls. Pays to get organised early.

Give Dave Robertson a call to discuss costings, logistics and bull options if interested. You do have to have well-grown heifers or good-conditioned cows, good yards and enough feed handy to the yards.

Morning	Lunch time	Afternoon	Evening
Milk	Electrolytes	Milk	Electrolytes

# Beef Production and Mating

## Some Angus options of commercial AI bulls to use 2021

### Earnsclough Pisanrange

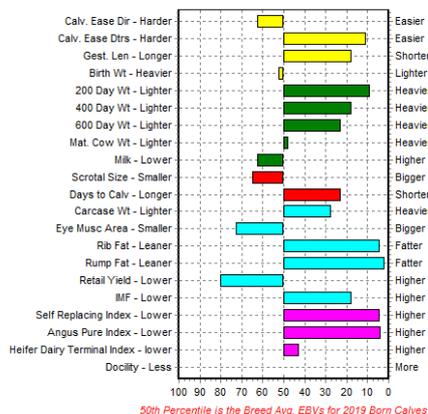
188313. \$35/straw



Maternal bull with calving ease, early growth and positive fats.

Fresh and frozen available. A son of GDAR Regulator 364 (a genuine curve bender sire with trait leading calving ease, explosive 200 day growth and low mature size).

EBV Percentiles for EARNSCLEUGH PISARANGE 188313 (PV)



### Fossil Creek Prophet

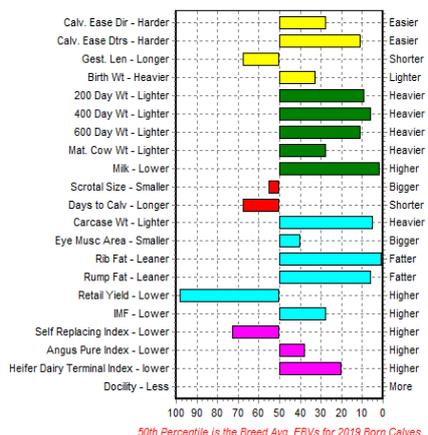
p136 ET \$35/straw



Fossil Creek Prophet is a deep bodied and well-musclred bull out of a fertile, moderate frame cow.

Another versatile curve bender with calving ease, early growth and lower mature size. The carcass weight, rib and rump fats are all in the top 5% of the breed which is quite rare.

EBV Percentiles for FOSSIL CREEK PROPHET P136 (ET) (PV)



### Te Mania 18 427



A son of the widely used Te Mania Powerhouse. He has interesting number set with very high 200, 400 day growth and carcass weight figures but a below average mature cow size. Breed average fats and birth weight make for a very efficient beef producer.

We can of course AI with all shapes, colours and breeds of bulls. Pays to get organised early.

Give Dave Robertson a call to discuss costings, logistics and bull options if interested. You do have to have well-grown heifers or good-conditioned cows, good yards and enough feed handy to the yards.

## Product of the Month

# CLiK Extra



### Active ingredients

- Contains Dicyclanil (65gms)
- Effective against Fly (Blowfly)

### Length of protection

- 14 to 26 weeks protection

### Withhold Periods

- Meat withhold 21 days
- Wool withhold 60 days

### Application

Ideal for protecting docking wounds. At docking apply between 5ml and 10 mls over the crutch as per diagram A.

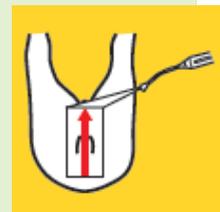


DIAGRAM A

For breech and body protection on all breeds from 4 weeks wool.

### PREVENTION OF BODY STRIKE

Body weight (kg)	Total Dose Volume (mL)	No. of bands x volume per band (mL)	No. treated (5 L)	No. treated (20 L)
10-20	20	2 x 10 mL	250	1000
21-30	25.5	3 x 8.5 mL	196	784
31-50	30	3 x 10 mL	166	666
>50	36	4 x 9 mL	138	555



Pricing  
**\$1289** Incl GST  
 20 litre

**56 cents** plus gst  
 per 10ml Dose

# Veterinary Centre

## Lamb Tailing Order Form 2021

Place your Tailing Orders early to ensure products are supplied when you need them

COMPANY	CONTACT NAME
FARM NAME (if different)	PHONE
DELIVERY LOCATION	

I would like to be contacted by a vet to discuss the animal health program in my flock.

### CALCULATOR

Product	Pack Size	Dose Rate (ml)	Number of Doses (Animals)	Total Quantity Required (ml)	Packs (Units) Required	Date Required
<b>SCABBY MOUTH</b>						
Scabigard (250 doses per pack) <small>Label Dose Rate: 0.02ml per Animal</small>	5ml	0.02				
Scabigard Applicator Gun	Each					
<b>DOCKING/TAILING VACCINE</b>						
Lamb Vaccine Plain <small>Label Dose Rate: 2ml per Animal</small>	500ml	2				
Lamb Vaccine Selenised <small>Label Dose Rate: 2ml per Animal</small>	500ml	2				
Injection Applicator Gun	EACH					
Needles for Applicator	EACH					
<b>CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINE</b>						
Multine 5-in-1 Plain <small>Label Dose Rate: 2ml per Animal at Docking with 2ml Booster at 4-6 Weeks and Annually</small>	500ml	2				
Multine 5-in-1 B12 <small>Label Dose Rate: 2ml per Animal at Docking with 2ml Booster at 4-6 Weeks and Annually</small>	500ml	2				
Multine 5-in-1 B12 Selenised <small>Label Dose Rate: 2ml per Animal at Docking with 2ml Booster at 4-6 Weeks and Annually</small>	500ml	2				
Covexin 10-in-1 <small>Label Dose Rate: 1ml per Animal at Docking with 1ml Booster at 4-6 Weeks and Annually</small>	100ml	1				
Injection Applicator Gun	EACH					
Needles for Applicator	EACH					

### SCABIGARD REMINDERS

Please follow the below points to ensure the vaccine stays live! Scabigard cannot be returned.

- Keep vaccine at 2 - 8°
- NO BLOOD – Ensure you do not draw blood when scratching
- USE IN INNER THIGH ONLY (NOT EAR)
- When applying dip ensure you DON'T APPLY over the scabigard scratch.

For further information please visit: [www.sheepvax.co.nz](http://www.sheepvax.co.nz)

Oamaru • Waimate  
Ranfurly • Palmerston  
Glenavy • Kurow • Omarama  
[www.vet111.co.nz](http://www.vet111.co.nz) | 0800 VET 111

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## CALCULATOR

Product	Pack Size	Dose Rate (ml)	Number of Doses (Animals)	Total Quantity Required (ml)	Packs (Units) Required	Date Required
<b>FLYSTRIKE TREATMENT</b>						
<b>CLiK Spray-On</b> <small>Label Dose Rate: 5-10ml per Animal at Docking</small>	20 Litre					
<b>Clik Extra Spray-On</b> <small>Label Dose Rate: 5-10ml per Animal at Docking</small>	20 Litre					
<b>Clikzin Spray-On</b> <small>Label Dose Rate: 5-10ml per Animal at Docking</small>	20 Litre					
<b>Spray-On Applicator Gun</b>	Each					
<b>PRE-WEANING DRENCHES IN LAMBS</b>						
<b>First Hi-Mineral Oral Drench</b> <small>Label Dose Rate: 1ml per kg</small>	20 Litre					
<b>Oral Drench Applicator Gun</b>	Each					
<b>B12 and SELENIUM</b>						
<b>SMARTShot B12</b> <small>Label 0.5ml - lambs for slaughter animals Dose Rate: 1.0ml - lambs for ewe replacement</small>	500ml					
<b>SMARTShot B12 PLUS Se</b> <small>Label 0.5ml - lambs for slaughter animals Dose Rate: 1.0ml - lambs for ewe replacement</small>	500ml					
<b>Injection Applicator Gun</b>	Each					
<b>Needles for Applicator</b>	Each					
<b>TAILING SUPPLIES</b>						
<b>Docking Rings (Orange)</b>	Pk/500					
<b>Docking Rings (Blue)</b>	Pk/500					
<b>Shoof Ring Applicator (Metal)</b>	Each					
<b>Shoof Ring Applicator (Plastic)</b>	Each					
<b>Disinfectant</b>	5 Litre					

Once you have completed your order, send back to us ... thanks!



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