



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

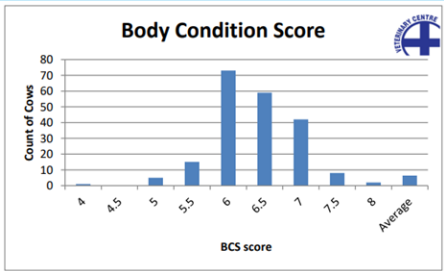
Beef Cow Pregnancy Testing Updates

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

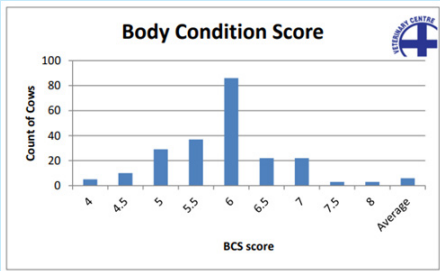
We are getting through the herds now and it's been great to catch up with beef producers. As a general trend in-calf rates are good with the highest body scores we have ever recorded. There are always some niggles with bull soundness, mineral deficiencies and wondering if BVD has played a role in some poor performance. An example of where cow condition is now compared to last year



Herd 1 BCS Profile 2022



Herd 1 BCS Profile 2021



An example of where cow conception rate is at this year compared to last year

	2022	2021
1st Cycle	68%	48%
2nd Cycle	16%	30%
3rd Cycle	7%	9%
Dry	8%	13%

Probably the biggest issue with higher dry rates this year has been bull soundness and calving spread from the previous year. Would recommend getting lame bulls tipped over and feet sorted now, so by bull sale time you will know if they are going to be sound or not. Also veterinary service testing bulls can be done from now on, especially if you have insured or suspect bulls.

Our aim at the Veterinary Centre is to add value to this all important monitoring step

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for your beef herd. Farmers appreciate the extra data and service provided whether that's cycle groups or late cows identified, twin pregnancies, generating estimated calving date lists, taking off horns and checking out illness or lameness.

Recording your PD data can take many forms. We generally try and leave you with a summary docket for your records. Some even still write it down on paper!



Tim Cameron (Haka Valley) with his "100% pregnancy rate" recording twinning cows.



Rhonda Whittle one of our super techs recording calving dates and BCS data for Steve and Yvonne Dennis (Seacliff).



The modern shepherds Riley Bell-Taylor and Guy Latham swapping cow PD files at Omarama Station.



Amy Parish, head vet tech multi-tasking on farm ...

Weaner Beef Cattle Animal Health

Example

R1 Weaner Beef Calf Animal Health program

Replacement heifers add BVD vaccination in the spring.

Time	Animal health	Weight and feed targets
Weaning April	FIRST Covexin 10-in-1 Eclipse E Se+B12 Injection	220- 250kg 6-8kgDM/day
May (6 weeks later)	SECOND Covexin 10-in-1 2mL Coppermax (or Copa Caps) Eclipse Pour-On (for lice + worm control)	
September	Selovin LA 3mL Eclipse Pour-On FIRST BVD vaccine	260 – 280kg 7-9kgDM/day
October	SECOND BVD vaccine	300+



Eclipse E with B12 + Se
A combination product that is convenient and effective for beef calves. The injectable is a reliable way to deliver the drench without having to get in the race too much.



Eclipse Pour-On
Controls internal parasites and lice in cattle with a convenient pour-on.



Alliance
A good triple combination drench for the management of internal parasites

Contact your vet to discuss the right products and Animal Health Plan for your farm

Autumn Trace Element Levels

Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly



Trace element supplementation to sheep and beef cattle is challenging in the New Zealand extensive farming system. Rather than year round dosing of each trace element, targeted delivery of specific elements at vulnerable phases of the season should be utilised.

The major trace elements we think about close to winter are copper and selenium in cattle, plus iodine in sheep. All three are essential for the health of both the animal and their continued growth over winter as well as the health of any pregnancies they may be carrying.

Selenium

- Antioxidant
- Immune system function
- Milk production
- Fertility
- Deficiency causes white muscle disease in lambs

Selenium is deficient in much of the New Zealand's East Otago and Canterbury regions. Browntop grass contains more selenium than ryegrass and clover, so occasionally we see deficient stock on newly improved pasture.

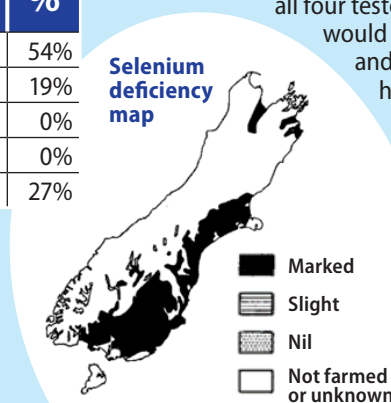
Deficient soils (<0.5ppm) mean deficient pasture (<0.03ppm) causing ill thrift of stock.

Young sheep and cattle in the first year of life are affected most and have slow growth and poor wool and hair production. Even marginal deficiencies can produce good weight responses when supplemented.

Dave Robertson recently blood tested some beef heifers at scanning. We normally expect the first cycle conception rate to be around 65%, and empty rate after 2 cycles with the bulls to be 10-15%. As these were fat happy heifers he decided to investigate the trace mineral status and take some blood.

Preg Status	%
1st Cycle	54%
2nd Cycle	19%
3rd Cycle	0%
Late	0%
Dry	27%

The selenium levels were too low to register at the lab in all but one of the heifers tested. There are many selenium supplements available for cattle, and after discussion with this farmer, Multimin was given for an immediate boost in selenium and copper levels, with a Selovin LA planned in one months time to keep levels high through winter.



Iodine

- Thyroid hormone production
- Metabolism and heat production
- Nervous system, brain and lung tissue growth
- Foetal development
- Lamb survival via heat production and fleece growth

80% of the iodine in the adult sheep is in the thyroid gland and will last for months when the diet is low in the element. Therefore deficiency is most commonly seen as goitre in lambs and in severe cases in calves who don't have a stockpile. Iodine deficiency occurs due to low available levels of iodine and the presence of goitrogens. These occur in brassica crops and clovers which prevent uptake of iodine into the body and cross the placenta to prevent the foetus from receiving adequate supplies of iodine.

A routine pre-tup condition score and blood test visit resulted in the above bloods from mixed age ewes being tested. Iodine was low in all four tested samples which without supplementation would have had effects on lambing percentage and lamb survival. The farmer in this situation has opted to use Flexidine 1.5ml for each ewe 4 weeks pre-tup which will sustain the lambs through to tailing. Another option would be LSD given orally pre-tup and at scanning.

Animal ID	Serum B12 pmol/L	Inorganic Iodine * µg/L	Blood Selenium nmol/L
NO ID 1	>1500	20.0 L	
NO ID 2	>1500	14.0 L	
NO ID 3	>1500	12.0 L	
NO ID 4	>1500	14.0 L	
NO ID 5	>1500		
NO ID 6	>1500		
NO ID 1			2969
NO ID 2			3385
NO ID 3			3391
NO ID 4			3704
NO ID 5			3933
NO ID 6			3557
Mean		15.0	3490
Adequate Range	500 - 1500	45.0 - 220.0	250 - 6500
Regional Trend	L 30% A 70% H <1%		L 9% A 91% H <1%

If you have any concerns around your stock mineral levels this autumn, give your local clinic a call to organise blood or liver testing by your vet or the Mineral Check paperwork for the works if you have stock going soon.

Constipation in Working Dogs

Sarah Boys BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Constipation is very common in working dogs, especially Huntaways. Working dogs are often fed majority meat diets which predispose them to constipation due to the low fibre content.

Signs of Constipation include:

- Straining to defaecate and only producing a small amount of mucousy liquid or nothing at all
- Generally uncomfortable
- Vomiting



There are many causes of constipation ranging from dietary to enlargement of the prostate and abnormal healing of the pelvis following a fracture. The longer the episode goes on for, the more water is absorbed from the colon and the harder it is to get things moving again.

Early treatment is key to avoid the need for procedures under general anaesthetic and reducing the risk of long term damage to the rectum and colon. Untreated or repeated episodes of constipation can result in obstipation requiring surgical removal of much of the colon.

Preventing Constipation

- Provide a diet high in fibre with unlimited access to water – we recommend **Royal Canin 4800**
- Castrate male dogs once fully grown to prevent benign enlargement of the prostate gland
- Avoid feeding bones that can be splinter or be swallowed



NEWTRITION

Hogget mating – Feed planning



Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

By this point most of you would have made the decision on whether or not to go ahead with mating your hoggets. Managed well, hogget mating has the potential to boost your flock's overall productivity and profitability, but poorly done and it will have the opposite effect. Reaching **target liveweights before and after mating** is the key to successfully mating your hoggets. The heavier she is at mating, the less pressure there is on your winter feed, to reach target weights after lambing:

- **40kg/65% of mature LW** is the minimum target for each animal at mating, not the mob average – this may mean only a proportion of your ewe lambs are mated in a particular year
- **Target growth rate during pregnancy: 135g/d**, to gain at least 20 kg and reach a minimum of 60kg before lambing – 50kg straight after they've had the lamb.
- Hogget lambs may need to be weaned early so that mums reach targets of **at least 60kg mated as 2-tooths**

To meet these feed requirements during pregnancy, decent pre-grazing covers of at least 1200kg DM/ha will be necessary, or forage crops can help achieve this. If feed is short reducing other stock numbers is worth considering – **the extra feed required to feed 7 in-lamb hoggets (vs 7 dry hoggets) is roughly the same feed required by one pregnant mixed age ewe over winter** – an efficient use of resources. Post-lambing legume-based forages consistently give the highest growth rates in both lactating hoggets and their lambs.

What about feeding lucerne before & during mating?

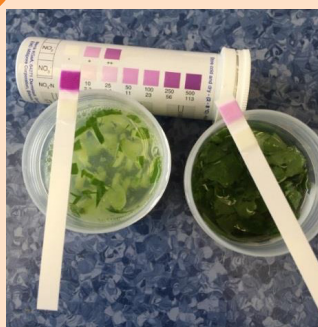
Phyto-estrogens found in red clover, subterranean clover and lucerne are known to cause issues with fertility and reproduction, and hoggets are more sensitive to the depression in ovulation than ewes. However, many farmers successfully flush and mate their ewes on lucerne with no issues, and in most cases the advantages of the high-quality feed will outweigh any potential decrease in fertility. Some precautions to take:

- Oestrogen levels are elevated when the crop is stressed e.g. from aphid attack, leaf spots, moisture stress, or fungal disease (warm, wet weather)
- If there is any risk that oestrogen levels in the lucerne may be elevated, ewe and hoggets can be flushed on lucerne but should be **removed 2 weeks before mating and mated on pasture**
- If you have the option, flushing on lucerne, removing 2 weeks before mating then returning to the crop after mating is the safest scenario
- It's not foolproof, but if ewe lambs develop pronounced udders or elongated teats after grazing lucerne, take that as a sign oestrogenic compounds are being produced and the crop is not safe

Product of the Month

Nitrate Test Kit

- For checking nitrate toxicity in crop or pasture.
- The kit provides for on farm analysis of nitrate levels in at risk crops.



RISKS

- Slowed plant growth caused by cold and cloudy weather.
- Excess Nitrogen uptake in crops following fertiliser application going into winter.

PRICE
Full Kit
\$189.40 incl GST
(25 tests = \$7.60 per test).
Testing Strip Refill only
\$129.50 incl GST
per Pk/25



Waitaki Collie Club – Dog Trials

A Wormy Autumn and the reality drench resistance emergence

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



With rain, dew, mild temperatures and extra pasture thatch there are greater opportunities for parasite larvae to mature, to be consumed, to proliferate in sheep and ultimately cost you feed, time, lamb growth rate and profit margin if not addressed.

Well-fed ewes in good condition can handle larval challenge and there is probably little advantage in drenching adult stock if they are up to weight for mating. Ewes also play a vital role in being net removers of pasture larvae and providing worm population turn-over that has not been exposed to a drench. They are an essential part of

lamb finishing rotation. The more cases of drench resistance I see the more important I realise undrenched ewes are best used for slowing the emergence of drench resistance parasites accumulated in lambs.

Current drench resistance reports are somewhat alarming. Many 10-day post-drench FECs are not clean and farmers in this situation are seeing the value in using a novel drench family (Zolvix or Startect) to provide effective worm clean-out in lambs this April. These newer drenches need strategic use as they are not likely to withstand routine pressure in the face

of triple drench resistance. However, now is that time to use them. Triple drench failure is arguably the biggest animal health issue facing New Zealand sheep farmers and threatens the viability of many lamb finishing operations. The trade in drench resistant worms in store lambs is widespread and is not duly considered by many. Store lamb properties have a responsibility to know their drench status. Finishers need to regularly do post-drench checks (FEC10) before they start “squirting and dying” 3 weeks after arrival.

Examples of recent drench checks

Home Bred Lambs	DOUBLE Product Oxfendazole, Levamisole Date: 09.3.22
Days since drench:	11 days
Sample ID	Strongyle (eggs / gram)
1	50
2	200
3	150
4	50
5	100
6	0
7	150
8	150
9	0
10	0
Average	90 EPG

Wether Lambs	TRIPLE Product Triple Tape Date: 14.3.22
Days since drench:	10 days
Sample ID	Strongyle (eggs / gram)
1	500
2	50
3	550
4	100
5	100
6	350
7	850
8	250
9	150
10	1350
Average	425 EPG

Vanessa Love from Veterinary Centre Ranfurly with Rachael and Shane (Pup) Houston at Matarae Station



Drench resistance is not the end and is not absolute. Once diagnosed in a season the current hot larval challenge needs addressing with novel drench use, undrenched ewes then cattle clean-up or cultivation. The follow up is a 2- 3 year process to resuscitate drench efficacy. It involves

- More monitoring with FECs (pre and post drench)
- Alternating novel drench use and tentative triple drench use in the 2nd year.
- More undrenched ewes with and behind

lambs with pre-lamb refugia plan.

- Selling lambs store or killing more off mothers, trading freezer ewes instead of lambs are also ways of keeping the sheep business going whilst not exacerbating the problem.
- Avoiding larval challenge with specialist finishing forage.
- Not contaminating young grass and baleage aftermath paddocks with resistant larvae
- Commitment to refugia concepts in lamb mobs.

Products of the Month

Startect

broad spectrum oral combination drench for sheep

Active ingredient
Derquantel, Abamectin

Controls
Itch Mite, Lungworm, Nasal Bot, Roundworm



Withhold
Meat 14 Days

63c Per 30kg Lamb Dose
Excluding GST



Autumn Exit Drenching with Novel Active Drench Products

Zolvix Plus

broad spectrum oral drench for sheep and cattle

Active ingredient
Monepantel, Abamectin

Controls
Roundworm



Withhold
Meat 14 Days

75c Per 30kg Lamb Dose
Excluding GST

