



### Fly Strike Treatment

Due to resistance issues we have limited options for the prevention and treatment of flystrike - Click, Klikzin, Cyrazin KO, Cyrex Contact John at the clinic to select the best



### Cancer Eye

The commonest bovine cancer that we can and do actually do something about is cancer eye, otherwise known as squamous cell carcinoma. It usually begins as a benign smooth plaque anywhere on the white surfaces of the eyelids, but is most often seen on the margin of the third eyelid (the flap in the corner of the eye that comes across when they blink.) It can progress to a knobbly wart like lesion which then breaks open and ulcerates, leading to bleeding and/or infected discharges – this is often the stage we are called. Cancer eye is a malignant cancer and can spread into the eyeball itself (treating this may mean removal of the whole eyeball and most of the tissues in the eye socket), the eyelids, the bones of the eye socket and to the lymph glands of the head and neck. Any spread into these deeper structures means condemnation of the whole animal at the works. Call us early – when you see the first signs on the third eyelid. At this stage it is a simple head bale job to remove it, and most times, that's a cure. Metastatic spread can occur even in the early stages, but as a rule delaying treatment increases the chance that your cow is only fit for dog tucker, not hamburgers; let alone having a further lactation or two. The other important point is welfare – it is not acceptable to leave these until they are a real mess, when early intervention could prevent unnecessary pain and discomfort.

### Ewe Vaccination

For protection against **Toxoplasmosis** abortion

- Ewe hoggets and two-tooths most susceptible
- 2ml of Toxovax into the muscle of the neck once only
- One injection lasts a lifetime
- At least 4 weeks before teaser introduction if using teasers
- At least 4 weeks before ram introduction if not using teasers
- Given before the end of February
- Consider giving a booster to two-tooths if vaccinated as hoggets

**It is important you order your vaccine 3-4 weeks in advance of requirement. Toxovax is a live vaccine that has a very short shelf-life (10 days).**

For protection against **Campylobacteriosis** abortion

- Ewe hoggets and two-tooths most susceptible
- Campyvax 4 gives protection against Campylobacter fetus plus C. jejuni
- Campylobacter species account for about 36% of sheep abortions in NZ and C. jejuni is responsible for up to 40% of these abortion cases
- Campyvax 4 - 1ml under the skin in the front half of the neck; require 2 injections 4-8 weeks apart
- We recommend that 2 injections are given pre-mating
- Should give pre-mating booster to two-tooth ewes if vaccinated as hoggets
- Can be given with Toxovax

### Vaccination Planner for Sheep Farmers

Can't remember when the optimum time is to do all these blasted vaccinations pre-tupping? Go to [www.sheepvax.co.nz](http://www.sheepvax.co.nz) & you'll find that MSD Animal Health have done all the hard work for you. Click on the 'tools' option & a planning wheel comes up. All you need to do is put in your Ram in date & the program does the rest. It's brilliant.



**Mark Duffy pictured with Ben & Casey receiving the Lightforce 170 Enforcer Spotlight he won after purchasing Bionic Sheep Capsules**



**Ross Goodchap won the Stihl MS 211 chainsaw after purchasing Eprinex Pour-on in Spring**

### Optimism

*Tony always looked on the bright side. He would constantly irritate his friends with his eternal optimism. No matter how horrible the circumstance, he would always reply, "It could have been worse." To cure him of his annoying habit, his friends decided to invent a situation so completely bad, so terrible, that even Tony could find no hope in it. On the golf course one day, one of them said, "Tony, did you hear about Tom? He came home last night, found his wife in bed with another man, shot them both and then turned the gun on himself!" "That's awful," said Tony, "But it could have been worse." "How," asked his angry friend, "could it have been worse?" "Well," replied Tony, "If it had happened the night before, I'd be dead now!"*



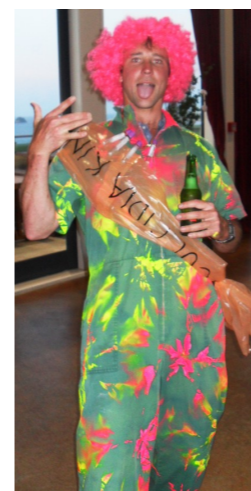
December 2015



All my superstitious plans worked & we re-claimed the World Cup.

Firstly I was successful in keeping Mark Muller in the country - that was a biggie as he clearly cost us the 2007 Cup by bloody going there (not that I'm still bitter Mark). Secondly I stopped Grant Pease in his tracks when he stupidly considered flying over for the semi-final. I'm not sure if he eventually went to the final but thank goodness he saw sense & waited until after we beat South Africa. And lastly it seems that Geoff Campbell & Ray Willy are the keys to winning future World Cups so I think we need to start a Give-a-little page to get them to the next one; well if Jonah's wife can start one I don't see why we can't. It might have also had something to do with the quality of our team but I'm claiming most of the credit (and rightly so).

Mating is nearly over for another year (well our part in it anyway) & not surprisingly we were not nearly as busy this year as in the last few. That followed on from an extremely quiet spring period & while pay-out forecasts & dairy auctions remain volatile I guess that will continue. Fortunately I think it's fair to say most people have had a reasonable AB period & perhaps that good old-fashioned thing "a rising plane of nutrition" made the difference as cows came out of a cold wet spring much lighter than most people would have liked but appeared to respond to an improvement in the weather & pasture growth in the lead-in to mating. I guess we'll find out at scanning time.



Jimmy Bruce has flown the coop & starts his new job in Okato in December. He gave one of the finest ever leaving speeches at his farewell (all 17 minutes of it) & we will definitely miss him. We wish him the best at Okato & when he realises his mistake we'll welcome him back!

Our new vet, Erika Pieper will start with us for a week before Xmas & then full-time after New Year. Erika is a Hokitika girl, off a dairy farm originally & made a good impression when she saw practice with us earlier in the year as a student. Some of you may have met her at our end of spring BBQ. And no, despite many of you asking, she's not from Gloriavale but did go there once with a vet when she was a student. Erika will introduce herself

in our next newsletter in the New Year. I'm confident she will fit in well & make a good impression with you also.

So another year draws to an end & we reflect on 2015. What a year. "Challenging" would be an appropriate word when we look at farming this year. That challenge will remain for a while yet but as always I have great faith in our primary industries to roll with the punches, adjust & come out swinging when the time is right. With everything else going on in the world right now at least we know our problems are temporary & there is light at the end of the tunnel. Let's face it if a flag change is our biggest issue things can't be too bad here!

All of us here at Eltham Vets wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a happy & prosperous New Year.

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Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO  
Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS  
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Jim Robins BVSc, BSc, DipPharm  
Polly Otterson BVSc, MSc,  
Teresa Carr BVSc  
Adrian Clark BVSc  
Linley Gilling BVSc  
Lindsay Lash BVSc  
Leon Christensen BVSc

### Office

Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS  
Jill Watson CVN/RAT  
Sue Morresey Nicola Childs CVN  
Frank Suter

### IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION



**RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS HAM WITH SELECTED MERIAL ANCARE & ALLEVA DRENCH AND POUR ON PURCHASES**



**Calf vaccinations start Dec/January!! Give Nicola a call to book Lepto & BVD vaccinations**

Herd can be vaccinated at scanning; heifers out grazing or upon return.

**Join us at the clinic for an end of year celebration**



**Thursday 17th December late afternoon/evening**



## Contagious Mastitis and Shed Hygiene

With the steady march into summer (and in theory, drier, warmer weather) the emphasis will switch from environmental causes of mastitis to predominantly contagious causes. Cows are less likely to get infections from contact with muddy bits of race and what-have-you than they are from bacteria picked up from their skin or other cattle during the milking process. Overall the challenge, or opportunity for infection, will be a lot lower since infectious mastitis generally runs at a much lower level under NZ conditions than environmental mastitis.



Bacteria responsible for such infection include the well-known Staphylococcus aureus, usually referred to as 'Staph', and members of the 'Strep' or Streptococcus family. These bacteria are resident on the skin of cattle, the people who milk the cows and in the machinery used milking the cows. Both the people and the machines (the cluster usually) are capable of transferring infection from cow to cow. Bacteria particularly like to live in or on cracked and damaged skin. This is part of the argument for teat spraying all the cows properly all through the lactation with a reputable spray containing a conditioner.

However this is not the only issue to consider. As early as the 1960s it was shown in a survey in the UK that half the people involved with milking cows had bacteria on their hands capable of causing mastitis at the start of milking and all of them were contaminated at the end of milking. Following from that, potentially harmful bacteria can be found on milkers hands for up to 10 days after contact.



When dealing with known/potentially infected quarters:

- Try and milk them last (draft them round rather than milk in the row).
- Avoid creating aerosols – clusters falling off and howling half way round the platform.
- Never get milk on your hands.
- Use a sanitizer and lots of warm (dissolves milk solids) water to clean potentially contaminated clusters.

Note that teat spray is formulated to deal with skin contamination and is designed for slow release. It is not suited to machine and hand disinfection which needs to happen much more quickly.

Gloves offer a marked improvement over bare hands as far as hygiene is concerned. Bacteria do not get any chance to colonise the skin. They can generally be rinsed clean pretty quickly and will lead to an improvement in the overall skin condition on the hands of those of us who use them. The idea that bugs might sit about on one's hands for days after contact, in spite of being washed regularly, is perhaps the most compelling reason to consider the use of milking gloves – especially if casual milkers are a feature of your farming system.

## Adverse Drug Reaction

As some of you may have heard, we experienced some unfortunate issues with calves we disbudded early on in spring. The issues arose due to the addition of a new anti-inflammatory into our procedure after which some calves experienced an adverse reaction. In some calves this adverse reaction resulted in death.

The anti-inflammatory was licensed to be used in calves to offer prolonged pain relief post disbudding. Once we realised it was causing problems we stopped using it and contacted all farms involved to help resolve any issues that had occurred. It turns out one other practice in another part of the country was affected by the same issue & the drug's registration for use in calf disbudding has been withdrawn.

If you were not contacted by us through September or October then your calves were not exposed to the drug in question. After we stopped using this drug and went back to our tried and true method, which we have been using for over 10 years with no issues, the problems stopped and we are confident that we are still operating a premium disbudding service and will be offering it again next year.

## Preventing Footrot

If you get a cluster of Footrot cases in your herd there will be a place on the farm, often on a race, where broken concrete or sharp stones are hidden under shitty mud or water. Stones or broken concrete used as infill around leaking troughs is another likely place, so are hollows at the bottom of underpasses. Boggy river crossings used to be trouble spots but most of those have been bridged now. Because the cows can't see the sharp bits they can't avoid them so they get nicks and cuts on their feet. The Footrot bug flourishes in boggy acid conditions so these places can quickly become heavily infected and then so do the wounds on the cows' feet.

Of course the long term cure is to drain and repair the boggy place, but in the short term a good dose of lime to change the pH will work. Throw on ordinary agricultural lime so that it looks like a heavy frost and repeat every 2 weeks or until the bog hole dries up completely.

## Road Crew

*Paddy got a job working on a road crew. The road crew supervisor hired him to assist his crew with painting the yellow line down the middle of the road. He explained to him the work assignment and told him he had to complete 2 miles of yellow line on his road. He then set him up with some brushes and paint and got him started. After the first day, the supervisor was pleased to find that Paddy did an excellent job and was able to paint 4 miles of road in his 8 hour shift. The supervisor told him that he did an excellent job and how pleased he was with his progress.*

*On the second day, Paddy completed painting 2 miles of road. The supervisor was surprised because on day one he had completed twice as much work. He did not say anything, since 2 miles of road was the amount that the job required anyway. He decided to just accept it, and to look forward to the next day when he was sure he would pick up his speed again.*

*On day 3 he was shocked to learn that in his 8 hour shift, Paddy only completed painting 1 mile of road. He called him into his office and asked him what was the problem; "On your first day, you completed 4 miles of road, on your second day, 2 miles of road, and now on day 3, you are only able to complete 1 mile of road. Can I ask you, what is the problem?" "Well," Paddy replied, "I keep getting further and further away from the paint"*

## Drenching Calves

Anthelmintic treatment in calves can be a confusing topic, especially considering the amount of discussion and decisions that surround drenching. Considering such things as - the method of application (oral, injection or pour-on); when to drench; the active ingredient(s), single active or combination; refugia; faecal egg counts; testing for resistance; current resistance status; feed type and quality; larval challenge; even the giveaway with the drench and many other factors is certainly a challenge. Without getting too technical, let's take a look at some of the recommendations for calves, and remember every situation is different, so it always pays to discuss your specific operation/situation with your vet.

Worms reduce voluntary feed intake and feed utilisation and are one of the most common causes of poor performing calves. Immunity to parasites starts to develop at six months of age but still requires energy from the animal. In today's climate of increased farming efficiency there is pressure to finish prime stock earlier and get replacements to mating weight. This emphasis on growth rates of young stock means lost growth rate early on can have serious long term effects on farm profitability.

**When to start drenching?** This depends on the individual farm as calves on a young stock area of pasture will have higher exposure than those sharing grazing with cows. For some a drench at weaning will be appropriate. One particularly important point is to **not mix drench with milk, or drench calves at or near the calfeteria**. This is because the oesophageal groove can close resulting in drench bypassing the rumen and causing toxicity which can be fatal. This is especially applicable to drenches containing abamectin and/or levamisole.

Using an oral drench in young stock is preferred, and research has shown combinations are better for slowing the onset of resistance. Ideal oral combinations include ARREST C and OXFEN C PLUS (contain a benzimidazole and levamisole). SWITCH C (abamectin and levamisole) and the gold standard triple combination MATRIX C (oxfendazole, levamisole and abamectin) are also options which need to be used with care. Occasionally young animals are sensitive to abamectin toxicity, so ideally abamectin should be avoided in calves under 100kg.

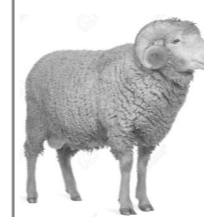
Young stock dosing (<100kg) guidelines:

- Animals should be weighed and split into groups if necessary.
- Drench guns calibrated (use a syringe to check).
- Dose rates and product double checked.
- Never mix drench with milk or give near calfeteria.
- Don't drench dogs with abamectin as 'mectins can be very toxic to dogs.

Once animals reach a size where oral dosing is no longer practical or safe, then injectable or pour-on drench methods become options. ECLIPSE E injection, containing eprinomectin and levamisole, is a good combination choice for young stock, as the eprinomectin has a good safety profile and the levamisole gives excellent Cooperia control. Pour-on products are often the only practical option in older larger animals simply due to safety. In stock under 18 months of age, ideally use a combination product such as ECLIPSE Pour On (abamectin and levamisole).

**Regardless of the method of application, taking the time to make sure drenching is done properly is important, as incorrect administration is a leading cause of drench problems. The choice of three application methods is a luxury that must not be abused. Adherence to label instructions along with other best practice parasite management guidelines is required for on-going product use and productivity. If in doubt, pop in or give us a call & talk to John or a vet about the best options for your young stock**

## Ram Testing time approaching



Summer is generally the time we get on to ram testing (palpation +/- bleeding) for brucellosis, general soundness and so on. It's the perfect time to make sure your rams are fit, ready and tested clear well before mating starts next autumn.

Crouching over a ram's testicles is not everyone's idea of fun on a hot summer's day but it does present an opportunity to chat with your vet about issues that are of importance to you such as drench performance and the like so take the opportunity to chew the fat with our vets this summer about what's happening on farm and any issues that we may be able to help you with in the coming year. And let's face it; when it comes to chewing the fat, sheep farmers leave dairy farmers for dead!

Expect a call from one of our team in a month or so to book in all your ram testing and general flock health requirements this summer.

## Kennel Cough Reminder



Dog trialling season is upon us again & after last year we thought it would be timely to remind those of you who will be taking their dogs to places where there are large numbers of other dogs that a vaccination booster would be a very good idea.

Kennel cough in particular is very contagious & last year we saw a couple of dogs that (probably) picked up kennel cough at a trial & became seriously ill.

Don't let that happen this year; book us in to give all your dogs a booster before they go away to compete.

## Fixing the Jury

*This very smart lawyer bribed a man on his client's jury to hold out for a charge of manslaughter, as opposed to the charge of murder which was brought by the state.*

*The jury was out for several days before they returned with the manslaughter verdict.*

*When our clever lawyer paid the corrupt juror he asked him if he had any trouble convincing the other jurors to see things his way.*

*"I sure did" the juror replied, "the other eleven were all determined to acquit."*