



June 2022

Welcome to our latest Sheep & Beef Newsletter. As I write this introduction we have just had a substantial deluge of warm rain after frosts last week so that should hopefully help with grass growth going into the winter months. Many farmers have said that it has been a 'trying' season whether it be surplus stock on farm, lack of grass at critical times or the hit of facial eczema to many farms. Fingers crossed we have a kind winter. We don't have enough results yet from beef scanning to give you a picture of how that's going - will update in our next newsletter. Sheep scanning will be starting up shortly - hopefully there will be plenty of lambs and the schedule stays up. Once you have scanned your sheep you will have decisions to make on what vaccines and/or drenches to use pre-lamb. If you have any queries about options please give me a call. Ideas for future newsletters are welcome as our intention is to provide information that is relevant to you guys.

- Daniel

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What's Coming Up

- ◆ Sheep Scanning
- ◆ Beef Scanning
- ◆ Pre Lamb



FECRT RESULTS

It has been great to see many of our clients get drench resistance testing done this past summer. This has allowed us to get some excellent information about the drench status across our region, with some very alarming patterns of Drench Resistance starting to emerge. Drench resistance is defined as the survival of parasites when exposed to what is normally a toxic dose of drench. This happens naturally but when over a certain percentage we deem this as a failure and, if that drench is continued to be used can lead to production losses and in severe cases dead lambs.

Unfortunately, we are seeing most farms with some level of resistance, with a growing number having resistance to both double and triple combinations! This means drenches which have been heavily relied upon, such as Matrix or Switch are no longer 100% effective against the common parasites we see here in Taranaki. In fact, on some properties, triples are now struggling to kill even 50% of the parasites present.

This is not an isolated problem with most of the North Island (and northern parts of the South Island) facing similar trends. Drench resistance is not a new phenomenon, however in the past the solution has always been to just use the latest and greatest drench whereas there is now an understanding within the industry that there is unlikely to be a new drench family anytime soon and we will have to come up with new strategies to manage parasites other than a reliance on anthelmintics. In other words, this is not a problem that is going to go away and we will have to learn to farm with drench resistance going forward on an industry wide level. The best thing you can do is find out the status of drench resistance in your lambs, so we can plan how to manage parasites and keep you farming long into the future. For more information around drench resistance and management tools have a look at [Beef+LambNZ Wormwise booklet](#) or give your vet a bell at the clinic.



Nobel Prize

A man is driving down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just sitting there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him,

"Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize.

"How?" asks the man, puzzled.

"Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize . . . To people who are out standing in their field."



COPPER IN CATTLE/CULL LIVERS

Now is the time of year those of you with breeding or young cattle to be considering a copper treatment. Taranaki hill country has been traditionally deficient in copper throughout winter and from testing done in the previous few years there is nothing to suggest this isn't still the case.

All cattle are sensitive to low copper levels, however breeding and growing stock are especially sensitive and both production and reproduction can be affected by low copper levels.

Ideally prior to any supplementation, you should test your stock to see what their exact requirements are. This is best done through liver sampling, as the liver acts as a store of copper and slowly drip feeds it into the cows blood until completely depleted. Liver stores can be assessed through liver biopsies done on farm or through cull cows sent to the works. If interested in either copper supplementation or testing for this coming winter please get in touch with Leon at the clinic.

BODY CONDITION SCORING EWES

Most people will agree that lambing and docking percentages are the biggest drivers of productivity on sheep farms.

Ewes are capable of conceiving, carrying, delivering and feeding twin lambs, which is what is required to maximise productivity. However, on many properties the marking percentage of twin lambs is very low due to the extra nutritional burden of twins.

The single most important determinant of reproductive rate is ewe nutrition. Ewes in higher condition score conceive more lambs. Hence, monitoring ewe condition during each phase of the reproductive cycle is critical in the lifetime performance of any sheep enterprise.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS) is a quick and easy management tool to increase productivity on your farm. Body Condition Scoring assesses the body fat of each animal, allowing you to compare ewes in your flock without worrying about breed, frame, gut fill and pregnancy. This means improved animal welfare and performance, increased conception rate, increased lamb weights, and more efficient use of feed. Body condition scoring is an incredibly easy and cheap way to ensure your flock is in the best position to get in lamb and feed that lamb properly through till weaning

Ideally you should be Body Condition Scoring your flock every time they are in the yards, however the key times are at weaning, six weeks prior to mating and scanning. By condition scoring at these times, you have enough time to make changes to ensure all ewes perform at their best.

Body condition scoring is a subjective measure, and it is a great idea to take up any chance to test your skills out and brush up on it, luckily for you **Beef+LambNZ are hosting a day on the 13th of June just south of Eltham related to BCS and feed budgeting.**

Get online and sign up to make the most of your levies!

<https://beeflambnz.com/events/blnz-ewe-body-condition-scoring-and-feed-budgeting-workshop-eltham>

MYCOPLASMA BOVIS

The country has done an amazing job getting to where we are with eradicating Mycoplasma Bovis.

As at the 19th May, we are down to one active confirmed farm with 271 cleared properties. There hasn't been a confirmed active case in the North Island for over two years.

Even if we could eradicate it on all farms tomorrow there will still be several years of surveillance testing to confirm "free from" status. Until we prove freedom, the M Bovis levies will continue (currently 29c/kg of milk solids and \$2 per head at slaughter).

The dairy surveillance is currently taken care of through bulk tank milk monitoring which dairy farmers will be aware of. Veterinarians nationwide have been tasked with collecting blood samples for the beef survey which includes beef cows, steers and service bulls over the age of 6 months.

All we need is a blood sample from 25-80 animals (no maximum for service bulls) and it costs you nothing. The testing also opens options for additional testing at reduced pricing (eg. BVD and trace element testing). If you are already getting your animals tested for BVD, by adding in M.bovis monitoring you will get the vet fees covered and save around 25% on the lab fees as well.

Anybody is free to book animals in for this testing if they wish and we will be contacting some of you over the coming years asking permission to add this testing onto jobs you have booked in for other things.

Feel free to talk to Adrian if you have any questions.



CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINES – EWE SCHEDULE

We have heard plenty of reports of well grown lambs dying 'out of nowhere' this summer and many of these could be put down to clostridial diseases such as Pulpy Kidney. This condition, and many other caused by clostridial bacteria can be avoided if you vaccinate your stock properly.

This vaccination protocol needs to start with your ewes:

When the ewe is vaccinated 4 weeks pre-lambing, maternal antibodies (colostrum) are produced in the udder. When consumed by the lamb in the first 12-24hrs after birth these specific maternal antibodies protect the lamb from the corresponding diseases for 6-8 weeks. This is essential to protect the lamb from death and illness until their own immune system has time to respond to the challenge.

Lambing, marking, weaning and any time there is a change of diet are high risk times for clostridial disease but sheep can be at risk from clostridial diseases at all times as their spores are found everywhere in the environment and within the animals own tissue.

Previously unvaccinated ewes and lambs require 2 vaccinations at least 4-6 weeks apart.

In ewes, ensure the booster is given 2-4 weeks pre-lamb.

In lambs, for optimal protection, begin the vaccination programme at docking, with the second dose 4-6 weeks later.

If replacements have been correctly vaccinated as lambs, a single annual booster 2-4 weeks pre-lamb is all that is required for continued protection.



MINERAL DRENCH PRE LAMB BENEFITS



Giving your ewes a mineral drench pre lambing is aimed to take care of those vitamins and trace elements proved to be deficient in many ewes in late pregnancy and confirmed as a cause of poor early lamb survival. The principal components are Vitamin E, Selenium and Iodine.

New Zealand research has shown benefits of extra Vitamin E with respect to lamb survival. The vitamin E antioxidant is tied up with selenium, fluid dynamics within the foetus and lamb vigour.

Vitamin E given to ewes prior to lambing has been shown to reduce perinatal lamb deaths and Improve both ewe and lamb vigour – reduced time to standing and suckling by the lamb and mothering by the ewe. The main production benefit is improved lamb survival.

Ewes being fed any number of crops over winter or stored autumn grass have higher chance of being deficient in minerals such as Vit E or iodine. So, you can probably decide whether your ewes might benefit from the additional vitamin supplement prior to lambing.

With the cost of lambs over the last few seasons and with prices forecasted to remain healthy, every lamb counts so call Daniel now to discuss whether a mineral drench pre lamb is right for you.

Sheep have high physiological demands for certain vitamins & minerals during critical periods of their reproductive cycle, pre-tup and late pregnancy, which may not be met by their normal feed intake.

Supplemental Iodine and Vitamin E in particular are key trace elements for successful reproduction and lamb survival.

The advertisement features a background image of a person on a boat. On the left, the text 'TAKE TIME OUT' is written in large, white, bold letters. In the center, there is a white DOMETIC Cool-Ice Box with the BIONIC logo. To the right, there is a white bucket of BIONIC Plus sheep capsules, labeled '500 CAPSULES'. Below the images, there is a blue banner with white text: 'While you kick back, know your ewes and their lambs will be looked after with the benefits of BIONIC Plus, the reliable combination worming capsule with over 100 days protection.' At the bottom, there is a small white box with black text: 'Together with this ultimate DOMETIC Cool-Ice Box, time will be on your side.' On the right side of the blue banner, there is a small white box with black text: 'So, talk with your vet clinic about how to get your FREE DOMETIC Cool-Ice Box with purchases of BIONIC Plus sheep capsules this season.' At the bottom right, there is a small white box with black text: '*Only while stocks last. Promotion runs from 1st May to 30th September, 2022.'

LOOKING AFTER YOUR OLD DOGS THIS WINTER

With the cooler months upon us, now is a great time to take stock of how your dog team is fairing after a busy summer and autumn. The winter can be especially hard on those older team members who may be suffering from aches and pains which come with age.

- Any lameness or stiffness should get checked by your vet, it may be something easily treatable that keeps these experienced, invaluable dogs working in the coming seasons. **ANTINOL** is a high dose marine lipid in tablet form tailored specifically to help support canine joints.
- If their coat is dull, consider increasing the quality of their feed or adding a supplement in to their diet. **EXCEED** is a great feed additive to help support your dog's immune system, coat health, etc.
- Use the best diet possible over these quieter months to help build back up any stores lost through the busier months. Good quality diets also help promote healthy joints and muscle which reduce the impact of conditions like arthritis on your dogs as they age. **ROYAL CANIN 4200** or **EUKANUBA PREMIUM PERFORMANCE** both contain ingredients proven to help support healthy joints, muscle mass and provide a good energy source.
- Consider adding or refreshing the bedding in their kennels to help with insulation through the colder months. This can greatly increase your dogs overall comfort.

Shout your old timers a coat for these cold nights, they are a very cheap way to keep them more comfortable and reduce the chance of them getting sick or sore over winter.

Most of you could not farm without a team of dogs, look after them now so they are ready to go come summer!



KENNEL COUGH IN DOGS

There is currently a nationwide outbreak of Kennel Cough in dogs. If your dogs are in contact with other dogs please check their vaccination status. Kennel cough is highly contagious, and spreads through shared food/water bowls, close contact and through airborne droplets. It also lasts for a long time in the environment.

Symptoms to look out for are:

- Honking, dry cough
- Sneezing
- Eye discharge
- Some dogs become very unwell



Contact Daniel to organise working dog vaccination.

A farmer got in his car and drove to a neighbouring farm and knocked at the farmhouse door.

A young boy, about nine, opened the door.

'Is your Dad home?' the farmer asked.

Sorry mate, he isn't the boy replied. 'He went into town.'

'Well,' said the farmer, 'Is your mum here?'

'No, sir, she's not here either. She went into town with Dad.'

'How about your brother, Greg? Is he here?'

'He went with Mum and Dad.'

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other and mumbling to himself.

'Is there anything I can do for ya?' the boy asked politely.

'I know where all the tools are if you want to borrow one.

Or maybe, I could take a message for Dad.'

'Well,' said the farmer uncomfortably, 'I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Greg getting my daughter pregnant.'

The boy considered for a moment. 'You'd have to talk to Dad about that,' he finally conceded.

'If it helps you any, I know that Dad charges \$200 for the bull and \$150 for the pig, but I really don't know how much he gets for Greg.'

NZ'S FIRST LOW VOLUME, MILK-CATTLE INJECTION JOINS THE EPRISURE FAMILY

EPRISURE MICROJECT

- Nil milk withholding for dairy cattle coverage during lactation
- Shorter meat withholding of only 14 days
- 1ml/100kg dosing for faster treatment and less site leakage

Purchase 3 x 500ml boxes of EPRISURE Microject™ and receive a powerful Night Saber 6500 lm spotlight*

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*This is a promotion run by the clinic displaying this promotion. Refer to staff for full terms and conditions.

BUY BRAVECTO AND YOU COULD WIN THIS SWANNDRI PICNIC BLANKET!

BRAVECTO

Bravecto products provide easy, long lasting flea protection for your cat or dog in one dose.

*This is a promotion run by the clinic displaying this promotion. Refer to staff for full terms and conditions.

