



# Eltham Vet Services



Welcome to the **March 2023** edition of our dry stock newsletter. It has been an interesting season to date, a wet summer has meant plenty of grass for most, so stock are looking good but I have had plenty of comments that lambs are still not killing out at what was thought they would. As always when we have a good wet summer it means a bad summer for fly and this season has been no exception. The massive downpours have meant some farms only getting half of the amount of protection that they would usually get. Most of the Toxo and Campy has been done on farm and rams will be getting ready to go out. Boehringer's withdrawal from the market has been very disappointing and created a few headaches and a lot more grey hairs. We are doing our best to find competitively priced alternatives with other suppliers. I have no doubt that in the future we will be well placed with new products in the pipeline.

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Join us at **Eltham Golf Course** for a fun day of golf, food, drink & great prizes. **Thursday 8th June**  
Entry Fee \$10.00. Entries limited. Ambrose format. Guest speaker - Eric Murray.

**Entries to the clinic by 3rd June**



## Intestinal Parasite Update in Lambs

With change to cooler conditions the sheep worm population changes from Barber's Pole worm to trichostrongylus. This is also known as the 'Black Scour' worm and can cause severe scouring and even deaths towards the end of a normal drench interval when challenge is high. Drenches containing just moxidectin, which has prolonged effect against barbers pole, can have very little effect against trichs so you need to be using a combo drench that you know is effective or a novel drench (Startect or Zolvix) to make sure the trichs are being cleaned up.

As drench resistance becomes more and more common throughout NZ, testing how drenches perform in your lambs is important to make sure you are using the best product available for that time of year. It is now getting too late to be considering a full drench test, however we can still do a DRENCH CHECK.

### What is a Drench Check?

This is a much cheaper option than a full drench reduction test and is easy to do. It involves collecting faecal samples from your lambs after they have received a drench. If the drench is working as it should, we should not find any eggs present. Therefore it is a great way to identify effective drenches or if any are potentially failing to achieve an acceptable kill.

All you have to do is collect 10 faecal samples around 10 days after a drench and get them into us for a faecal egg count, its that simple! These samples must be fresh, but lambs don't have to be yarded to achieve this. Just muster a portion of lambs into a clean corner of a paddock and hold them there for 10minutes. Once they have moved on pick up any warm poo you find. The rule is if it's steaming its fresh!

This can be a great tool to check how your drenches are performing and is a great idea if you have used one of the novel drenches a few times during the season.

## Preg Testing in Cattle

Pregnancy testing in cattle is obviously extremely useful in identifying Dry cows, however if done at the right time can also be a useful tool to identify early and late calvers and allow better management of your herd at calving time. We can accurately diagnose pregnancies as young as 5 weeks out to around 15 weeks, which allows you to gauge what your calving spread is going to be and when exactly cows are due to calve. This allows you to better manage your calving cows in spring and prioritise those closest to calving, especially if calving behind a wire, while leaving the later calving cows out on the hills that little bit longer.

If you want to make the most from your beef cow scanning this season ring us to book in your scanning early.



We received delivery of our brand new **Daytech conveyor** at the beginning of the year and Erin has already been busy putting it to use for pre tup treatments, including vaccinations, drenching, ear marking, mouthing and even a spot of dagging/crutching.

The feedback so far has been very positive with the new conveyor being easily manoeuvrable and much simpler to use than previous more bulkier types.

The most common feedback we have got is how much easier drenching ewes is when someone else (ie. Erin) does it for you! At around 700 ewes treated per hour and the option for multiple treatments to be given at the same time, it is a fast and economical way to tick off those animal health jobs which are a necessity to ensure peak performance from your ewes and lambs.

Call or email Erin today on 067648196 or [erin@elthamvetservice.co.nz](mailto:erin@elthamvetservice.co.nz), to discuss how the conveyor can be put to use on your place.

## Lepto in Beef Cows

Leptospirosis is a disease which can have a huge impact on your cattle's health as well as your own.

Leptospirosis is a contagious bacterium that localises in the kidneys and is spread in the urine of a variety of animals including rats, pigs, sheep, cattle and deer. It survives in wet environments, particularly stagnant water, where it can survive for long periods of time. Consequently, the likelihood of infection increases during periods of high rainfall or flooding, which means this year is going to be of higher risk after such a wet summer especially those poor buggers on the east coast.

Infected cattle may show a variety of clinical signs from lethargy, haemolytic anaemia, mastitis, weight loss and diarrhoea but can also show no signs at all. Abortion or stillbirths can also occur, even 6 to 12 weeks after infection. It is estimated that about 10% of abortions in beef cattle may be caused by strains which are commonly found in New Zealand. These can occur as abortion "storms" in acute cases leading to large losses in one season but can also be seen as increase in number of wet-drys every year on farms where it is a chronic problem. Cattle that become infected can shed for long periods of time back into the environment, infecting other stock and being of risk to any people handling them.

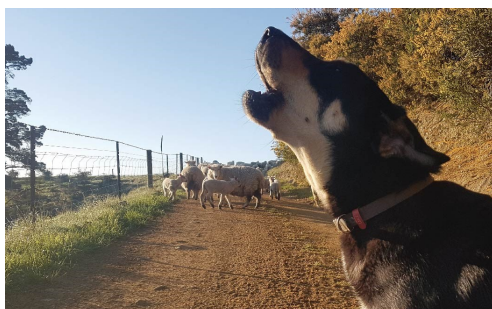
### Lepto in Humans

There are approximately 140 reported cases per year of leptospirosis in humans and many more non reported cases. High risk occupations are farmers and farm workers, meat processors and veterinarians. Infection occurs through direct contact with urine or contaminated soil or water and through inhalation of aerosolised droplets. All these things can occur while handling stock in yards.

It causes mild to severe flu like symptoms which can carry on for weeks and can have severe outcomes including hospitalisation, meningitis, organ failure, septic shock and even death. You only have to talk to one person who has been diagnosed with lepto to understand how bad it is.

The good news is **vaccination** is an easy and effective way to control common strains of lepto in your stock, reducing the risk to your herd and your family. It requires you to give your calves 2 injections 4 weeks apart from as early as 4 weeks of age. In beef herds this is harder to achieve than dairy cows, but we recommend you try to complete the first two vaccinations by 6 months of age. All cattle require an annual booster to guarantee yearly protection. To avoid reproductive losses only replacement calves and your breeding cows and bulls require vaccination however to reduce risk to people on your farm we would advise all stock which are handled and yarded be vaccinated. **At around \$2 a dose this is a cheap and effective way to protect your stock and your family.**

Receive a bush shirt with a 5L of BOSS or TURBO Pour On or a rugby jersey with a 2.5L of BOSS or TURBO Pour On\*



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## Mating your Hoggets

Mating hoggets can be a great way of increasing lifetime output of your ewes and increase your genetic improvement of your flock, however if not done properly can cost you in the long run with high wet-dry rates in your hoggets and high dry rates in your 2-tooths.

The key to hogget mating is having a well grown hogget and a be able to feed them properly for the rest of the year!

- Be absolutely ruthless with your cut-off weight – you'll get better scanning results and a better animal to go into the flock as a two-tooth if they are well grown at mating.
- Have a solid plan to keep feeding these to growing at 130-150g/day total LWG between mating and lambing.
  - \* For every 1kg gained between scanning and set stocking they are 10% less likely to be wet dry
- It is not too late to decide not to mate these. You are much better off to put less to the ram and do them well then throw the ram in with all your hoggets and see what happens!

If your hoggets are well grown and you have good feed waiting for them between tuppung and set stocking then you are most of the way there, however don't forget the small details as well.

Make sure they are given a knockout drench April/ May to get on top of any resistant worms that may be lingering, a liver fluke drench in winter and any mineral supplementation deemed necessary pre lambing (Healthy Ewe or LSD drench are great options here).