

STAFF COMMENT

Our staff are now managing to exhale after getting orders out the door on time. We have drench reduction tests underway, and in dairy, with final pregnancy scans done, we are on to herd body condition scoring and dry-off discussions. The teatseal trailer is dusted off, and our techs are chomping at the bit to load-treat-rinse repeat over the next 3-4 months. Pre-winter horse dentals are well underway also, Lochie has recently completed specialist extension training in this area to share the load with Morgan.

Now it wouldn't be a staff newsletter without some sort of baby announcement, so with pleasure I can inform you that in March, Kate and Jarrod welcomed Claire, a beautiful sister for Archie.

In last months newsletter we offered \$100 to the first 5 people that phoned in after noticing the notice. Now I know that you all read the notice, as you do every word of this newsletter, but I noticed you simply forgot to call in about the notice, but there is a slight chance that (almost) no one read the notice, or indeed the newsletter, as we are boring you to tears, cramming your mailbox and littering your tabletops with unwanted tidings. The result is we may be reducing our newsletter frequency. If you have feedback on our newsletter (past or future) do feel free to message me at rochelle@nsvets.co.nz (but be kind with your suggestions particularly if you have advice on where we can put it).

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Deer Reminders

- Drench weaners
- Check copper & selenium status and treat if necessary

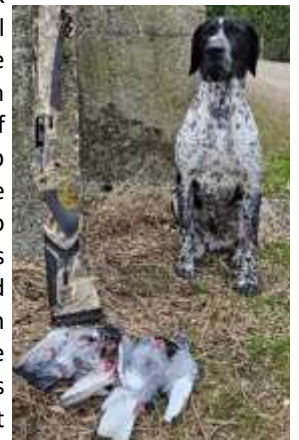
DUCK DOG WOF

The greatest day of most Southlanders year is rapidly approaching – duck shooting. The more organised of us have started feeding ponds, and others are getting their maimai up to scratch. Although it pays to be prepared, there is often one area that can be overlooked: The dog.

If you're shooting on a new pond, get them out and familiarise them with their environment. Even running a few retrieve drills can help ensure your dog isn't completely green on opening morning. If your dog is short-haired, then it may pay to make sure they won't get too cold. If your toes are cold, you can imagine how a soaked dog might be feeling! There are some good options for dog coats to help them float and keep them a bit warmer.

Now is also a good time to ensure that you're feeding the right food to ensure they'll have enough energy to perform on the day. A high quality, working dog food is likely to be enough. Start transitioning them now so that they can get used to it before the big day.

It's also a good idea to bring your duck dogs into the clinic for their annual duck dog WOF. We'll do a full physical exam and ensure they're up to date with worming (important if you're shooting on sheep and beef farms). If you've got an older dog who might feel it a bit this season, we can also try and manage arthritis pain with medication to help make opening weekend painless for both you and your best mate.



Holly Gardyne BVSc

LAMENESS SEMINAR

We had a fabulous day and great turnout for our lameness seminar held recently with guru Neil Chesterton presenting. Neil wanted to pass on that our group was the most attentive and rewarding group he has taught, he was really impressed.

With such big numbers attending, it was not possible to each do lame cow treatments, but if this is something you would like to go over we can do this on your farm. Alternatively we may look to run a trimming session over winter pending interest.





There's a new lice treatment in town!
Flexolt is the first ever oral lice treatment for sheep.

Flexolt Factsheet	
Active ingredient	Fluralaner – no known resistance for lice control in sheep
Suitable for	<p>Sheep of all ages Safe for pregnant and lactating ewes Safe for lambs over 6kg All animals on the property can be treated at the same time to ensure complete treatment of the entire flock Newly purchased sheep can be treated off the truck, but need to be rehydrated first and be quarantined for 4 weeks (if off-shears) or 6 weeks (for long wool)</p>
Wool length	Any length of wool – has been tested on short wool, long wool, and off-shears
Time of year	<p>Any time, including in rain and cold weather Recommended to be given after shearing, before the risk period in autumn/winter Treat ewes at least 4 weeks before lambing starts, to ensure no lice can be transferred to newborn lambs</p>
Withholding period	<p>Meat – 56 days Wool – 0 days Milk – not for sheep producing milk for human consumption</p>
Dose	<p>Sheep are dosed at 1.5ml per 10kg body-weight Safe at up to 5x the label dose Don't retreat in less than 54 days Don't give another oral product at the same time</p>



For complete lice control, ensure you follow additional management principles:

- Shearing exposes lice to sunlight, rain and reduced humidity and will reduce their numbers. Ensure shearing is done properly with no tufts of wool remaining.
- Shear and treat all sheep at the same time. Avoid split-shearing if possible.
- Clean up wool from the shearing shed
- Ensure your boundaries and fences are well-maintained. Ensure there are no straying sheep, or animals getting exposed to the neighbour's sheep.

For availability or price of Flexolt give us a call.
Currently available in a 5L container.

Nuria Holzleg BVM BVS

FRUSTRATING DRY RATES IN EWES?

Last year we had a few cases of very high dry rates in normally well performing sheep flocks. Testing for the usual suspects ran into dead ends. By default, the word Zearalenone was thrown around. Many people have heard of it but most stumble to understand it (or say it).

Zearalenone is a naturally occurring mycotoxin from the Fusarium fungus which grows on moist, dead plant material in many New Zealand pastures in autumn (March-May), but only some years. Exposure may result in shortened (or even absence of) cycles and reduced ovulation rate and reduced fertilisation. Higher doses or longer exposures lead to poorer outcomes.

The timing of the challenge from zearalenone is variable and unpredictable so it is difficult to confirm (and avoid!). Note it is NOT like facial eczema and fungal spore counts are not useful. Testing pastures for the toxin can be unrewarding as it can be distributed randomly in the paddock. Testing requires urine samples taken about 1 week prior to mating. If found, paddock/feed changes could be made, possibly followed by the decision to extend mating. Feel free to call to discuss.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Pet Reminders

- Worm cats & dogs
- Duck dog W.O.F -call us to make an appointment.

BIT OF A LAUGH

Anyone want to buy a broken barometer?
No pressure.



COGLAVAX 8-IN-1

By now some of you will have seen the TV ad circulating during halftime in the rugby with a familiar face or two. Coglavax is a vaccine against the normal clostridial bacteria (tetanus, pulpy kidney etc) but instead of protection against the normal 5 strains, it has protection against 8. The 3 extra strains protected are related to *clostridium perfringens* type D which causes pulpy kidney – *clostridium perfringens* types A, B and C, which have also been implicated with sudden death. In the Lorne Peak example shown on the TV ad, Matthew saw a significant improvement in the death rate of lambs compared to the normal 5-in-1 that he had been using. We see coglavax 8-in-1 as a good option for farms that are seeing deaths despite a robust 5-in-1 programme, especially those of you feeding high quality forages to young stock. One of the other advantages of Coglavax is that the price is comparable to the traditional 5-in-1 options – less than 4c difference per dose. Give us a call at the clinic if you think Coglavax could be an option for you.

	Coglavax 8-in-1	Traditional 5-in-1
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type A	✓	
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type B	✓	
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type C	✓	
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Type D	✓	✓
<i>Clostridium chauvoei</i>	✓	✓
<i>Clostridium novyi</i> Type B	✓	✓
<i>Clostridium septicum</i>	✓	✓
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	✓	✓

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Cattle Reminders

- Pregnancy test
- Drench beef weaners
- Review mastitis control—plan dry cow therapy
- Vaccinate for salmonella
- Liver biopsy check for selenium
- Lepto herd
- Drench cows at least 4 weeks pre dry off



HOW MUCH HEIFER MASTITIS IS IN YOUR HERD?

Many NZ farms have heifer mastitis rates over 25%. Often the heifers are found to have mastitis in the first few days after calving. The main bacteria associated with heifer mastitis is *Strep. uberis*, an environmental bacteria found in mud and faeces. Mastitis in heifers increases the risk of light quarters, teat canal thickening and being culled in both early and late lactation.

Teatseal is proven to reduce the incidence of mastitis in heifers with an 84% reduction in *Strep. uberis* infection at calving and a 68% reduction in clinical mastitis in the first two weeks of lactation.

Teatseal is inserted into the teat canal 4-12 weeks prior to the planned start of calving. Teatseal acts to plug the teat canal as illustrated in the below image.



Jill MacGibbon BVMS

Sheep Reminders

- FEC ewe lambs
- Record mating data
- Check and change ram harnesses
- Foot conditions in rams
- Teasers out with hoggets 17 days before ram

WORMWATCH

Autumn is here (although it already feels like winter at times), which means we need to prepare for the autumn worm challenge. Given the wet summer we can expect that larval challenge may be high, but larval development will be slowing in this colder weather so we may not see the autumn challenge last as long as previous years. Trichs will be becoming the predominant worm species and it is this worm that we see the most resistance to. Triple drenches are the best tool in our arsenal, although we are seeing these fail regularly so make sure you do a drench check in April to test that your drench is working.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

We have completed three of these and so far one has come back with substantial resistance to all drenches, we are still waiting on one result however so watch this space.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc