

STAFF COMMENT

Our staff enjoyed another successful pet funday in January. We loved seeing everyone enjoying the sun and animals with their kids and we hope everyone had a good time.

Thank you to the Dolton's for bringing along their dog agility course again this year and thank you to the RDA team for bringing along some ponies for kids to ride.



By the time you are reading this we will have farewelled Kate, temporarily, as she heads to the foaling paddock/springer mob. Best wishes to Kate and Jared, and big brother-to-be Archie, we hope to see you with the new arrival before too long.

Kayla Burton will be joining the team shortly as our new graduate vet for 2024. She is originally from Hawkes Bay area and is very excited about joining the team here (as we are to have her here) and getting stuck into working life.

We send our deepest condolences to Mike Baer and family after his Dad, Reini, lost his long battle with ill health just before Christmas. Reini was a huge influence on Mike and will be terribly missed.

We also send our best wishes to Ashley and her family. Ashley's husband Stew was in a big accident last month and has a long recovery ahead of him.

Morgan Greene BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

Pet Reminders

- Check for barley grass - especially between toes, under arms and around ears.
- Worm & flea prevention and treatment

HORSE WOUNDS

With horses out and about over summer, we have seen an increase in the number of wounds and injuries that are unfortunately part of transporting, riding or even just owning a horse.

The first thing to do if you notice your horse has a wound is – don't panic. Often wounds may be discovered the morning after the injury, so rushing around and stressing is unlikely to change much in the long run.

Next – make sure the horse is put somewhere dry and ideally sheltered. Avoiding further contamination of the wound site will make cleaning easier and help reduce the chances of infection. This is a good time to give the vet a call.

If the wound is still bleeding, a small pressure bandage can be applied (a tea towel and vetwrap or gladwrap is fine). If the wound is dirty, cold hosing any contamination off beforehand will help. In both instances, stop if your horse/pony/donkey is going to put your safety at risk, or if you don't feel comfortable doing it. It is not likely to hinder the long-term outcome.

It is then time to take a few deep breaths while waiting for the vet to arrive. We will often ask a few questions, which may at times seem simple or mundane, but are asked to help with decision making around treatment and ongoing management. Sedation is often used – even for stoic animals, it makes for a safer working environment as well as providing pain relief.

Many wounds will be around the cannon bone and down. These are notoriously difficult to stitch, so will often require bandaging. We will assess beforehand if any important structures are obviously involved (bones, joints, tendons/ligaments). These wounds can be frustrating as they have a poorer blood supply than wounds over the body as well as being in high movement areas, so tend to form 'proud flesh'. This can be assessed and trimmed if necessary, at bandage changes. Antibiotics and a tetanus shot are also mainstays of an initial wound callout.

Wounds over the body (often flaps from being caught on wire/gudgeons) can usually be stitched – the earlier this happens the better. The same principles apply – keep it clean and dry, and give us a call.



Lachlan Chittock BVSc

Deer Reminders

- Sex and tag fawns
- Copper supplementation, pre-mating & weaners
- Weaners—Yersiniavax first injection
- Clostridial vaccination

KENNEL COUGH

Recently we have seen a few dogs with signs consistent with Kennel Cough. Although not fatal, Kennel Cough can lead to a more complicated disease such as pneumonia. It can be an inconvenience with many farmers doing lots of stockwork at this time of year. A run of Kennel Cough through your team can stretch on for a month or longer, with clinical cases often taking weeks to recover and infections staggered.

Kennel Cough is not “one disease”, but the two most common causes are found in the Kennel Cough vaccine. Vaccination is recommended in an outbreak, however, is not recommended for dogs who already have clinical signs. Whole farm/team vaccination is available and strongly recommended, but we do need a few days’ notice to order in stock.

Things to look out for:

- Dry, hacking cough
- Foamy mucous
- Eye/nose discharge
- If your dog becomes lethargic/less hungry, further treatment may be warranted



Lachlan Chittock BVSc

Sheep Reminders

- Inject Toxovax
- Inject 1st dose campylobacter vaccine
- Inject Ovastim
- Faecal egg count lambs
- Check & exercise rams
- Palpate rams
- Treat ewe lambs with B12
- Dipping
- Inject iodine at least 4 weeks pre-tup

BODY CONDITION SCORING

When you spend a few hours in the milking shed, you can't help but notice that some cows are looking like a bag of bones, while others are more elephant than cow. It seems funny that cows being fed similar rations can have so much variation in condition.

It is a good idea to get your herd Body Condition Scored (BCS). A BCS is a measure of the amount of fat at different locations around the body. It does not depend on her frame size and so is an excellent way to assess the condition of a range of animals in your herd. Some points of measurement are the tail head, pin bones, ribs and backbone.

So, what are the targets?

BCS at calving	BCS at mating
Mature cows: BCS of 5 Heifers & rising 3-year-olds: BCS of 5.5	The average loss in BCS after calving should not be more than 1.0
There should be no more than 15% of the herd above or below these targets.	And there should be a maximum of 15% of cows below BCS 4.0 and early calving cows should be gaining BCS before the planned start of mating

Why do we need to worry about this now? The most important times to BCS your herd are in Autumn and Summer. Having an accurate picture of Body Condition in your herd can allow you to make decisions around management – do some need to be dried off early? Do some need to go into a OAD mob? Do others need to be preferentially fed? Do you have enough feed to get them through to dry off? In the upcoming season, skinny cows are more at risk of metritis, dystocia, and more days to their first cycle post-calving.

That's just the skinny cows! cows which are over-conditioned are more likely to have difficulty at calving, retained placentas, or metabolic issues. Regular scoring can keep an eye on these girls who are more likely to put your hard-earned feed dollars into body fat than milk fat.

Being able to make changes now can help you meet those targets later in the season. It also sets you up to meet goals for next season, allowing you to make the most out of your cows.

Body Condition Scoring can be done by accredited scorers. There are plenty of great BCS resources on the Dairy NZ website which can help you to get a better understanding of how to BCS. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to talk more about how BCS can help your herd.

Holly Gardyne BVSc

WORMWATCH

It's been a vastly different start to summer than last year and with consistent rainfall comes consistent parasite development. Drench intervals are likely going to need to remain at 28 days and faecal egg counts are worth monitoring from 25 days post the previous drench. However, remember that parasite management is more than just 'drench down the throat'. The aim of any parasite management plan is to minimise production losses, reduce larval contamination of pasture and maintain the efficacy of our drenches. Utilising summer crops, using adult stock to clean up pastures and mixed species grazing are all tools that should be used when managing parasites. When parasite burdens are high enough, then we can look to drench, but we also need to consider how we are providing refugia. Now is also a good time to check your drench is working by doing a FEC 10 days after drenching. This is as simple as pushing lambs into the corner of the paddock and collecting 10 fresh (warm) samples from the ground and bringing them to the clinic.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

Those of you that are still interested in a faecal egg count reduction test, remember to keep those 100 lambs undrenched and keep them in with the other lambs to help get them wormy enough. We will be in touch during February to start proceedings. If you haven't contacted us or have any questions, please give us a call at the clinic.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

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WHY TEST RAMS?

Brucella ovis was first confirmed in New Zealand in 1956 and volunteer control schemes were in place in 1987 involving ram palpations. After 37 years it would be nice to think Brucellosis was no longer an issue but it still pops up throughout the country, including our region. Why is this? Ram testing is voluntary. Not all suppliers of rams come from *B. ovis* accredited breeders (e.g. sale yards). Some rams invite themselves to your farm (I believe this is a big issue in parts of the North Island with a wild ram population) so it is a good idea to monitor your tally. Be wary also of the crypt - that can certainly spread *B. ovis* - or ram lambs. These seemingly harmless critters can rapidly spread infection once they become sexually active. Brucellosis is just one of the things we are looking for when palpating rams. Other things we more commonly find include:

- o Small or uneven sized testicles
- o One ballers (even in a newly purchased ram!)
- o Poor testicle tone
- o Abscesses or wounds
- o Mange
- o Hernias
- o Pizzle issues
- o Lameness

Remember sperm is made 60 days in advance, if something nukes the swimmers today, new recruits are 60 days away, something to consider when planning yarding, transport, shearing or dipping dates close to mating.

You should expect a call this month for ram rounds or give us a call if you have a day in mind and we will do our best to accommodate. We often carry dog vaccine with us on these runs and can check out any issues in your dog team too. We know its not always easy to get them to the clinic. See you all soon.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Cattle Reminders

- Calves worm treatment
- Remove bulls—beef
- Pregnancy test