

SITUATION COMMENT

Consistent regular rainfall has kept the paddocks green and growing. It doesn't take long, from not wanting to see another drop of rain to gratefully accepting everything that comes our way. General sentiment as a result is very positive and while wool might only be breaking even at least it's not a major cost. The \$10 dairy payout is looking very good. It's nice to have some positivity after a tough few years. The staffing situation here will have more change in the first few months of 2025 than what we have ever had.

Goodbyes/see you later ...

Jan (Lumsden) – nursing opportunity
 Mo (Jans temporary replacement) - Christchurch to study
 Taylor – to the farm with a new big ring on her left hand!! Congratulations.
 Sahra – to the farm ...but no ring!!
 Lochie – to the UK on his OE....also no ring!!
 Rebecca and Nuria – baby on board!!
 Congratulations

Welcome....

Kendra – to Lumsden clinic
 Paige – Riversdale reception
 Pippa – Riversdale vet nurse
 Mikaela – Vet. Settling back in the south after 3 years working for Tararua vets in Pahiatua. Mikaela will be a fabulous addition to the team here.
 Melissa and Beatrice – vet techs starting in April

We are delighted to welcome our new team members and sad to see those leave.

Morgan Greene BVSc



Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

IODINE – FLEXIDINE/DEPODINE

Generally levels of iodine need to be very low, or goitrogens (as found in brassica) high to see visual signs of goiter (which we do see from time to time) but not seeing goiter does not mean your iodine levels are fine. Most pastures inland are likely to be iodine deficient.

Iodine is required to make thyroid hormones. These then regulate development of the foetal brain and nervous system, and maintain metabolism and regulate temperature

There are three key areas of interest for iodine for ewes

1. Conception – iodine can increase ovulation rates, giving more multiples, (rather than reducing drys). The mechanism does require adequate selenium levels to work though, so if selenium is low/there has been no supplementation, then consider this first/as well!
2. Foetal development – Iodine deficiency can slow brain development, reduce body weight, delay skeletal maturation, and reduce wool follicles
3. Lamb survival – lambs born to deficient ewes may be born premature. Less wool follicles and and poor lung maturation, and impaired suckling all increase the risk of starvation/mismother/exposure complex, dying soon after birth

Long acting Flexidine or Depodine injection is the easiest way to supplement iodine and cover all three of these areas, with one dose lasting around 8 months. As it is slow release it needs to be given at least 4 weeks before the ram goes out so that it is in the system by tupping.

Oral iodine is still an option but is short lasting so needs to be repeated throughout pregnancy.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



CONTENTS

- Pg 1
- Situation Comment
 - Iodine
- Pg 2
- pink eye season
 - Johnes
- Pg 3
- Salmonellosis
 - Wormwatch
 - Bit of a laugh

Deer Reminders

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

PINK EYE SEASON

While we often see 'pink eye' cases in winter with break and bale feeding, nationally, summer is considered to be the highest risk period.

The vaccine (for cattle only) is not available worldwide this year so prevention through management is the only option.

Risk Factors

- Strong sunlight (UV light) - Provide adequate shade during peak sunlight hours.
- Eye irritants - minimise exposure to dry, dusty, and windy conditions e.g. watch yarding and droving practices, wetting yards may be an option, move stock away from gravel roads
 - ◊ (Note these things will also help reduce pneumonia risks for lambs too)
- Reduce injury from stalky feed/seedhead through topping paddocks
- Reduce head to head contact were possible (bale feeders, yarding)
- Fly Management - Implement effective fly control measures;

Some forms of pink eye can be highly contagious so it is best to watch for early signs of the disease, like tear staining, and squinting, and act quickly to limit its spread by isolating affected animals. Due to the incubation period (14 days) the main mob must continue to be checked for new cases. As well as this, 'healed' animals can still be shedding bacteria and spreading the disease so ideally a three mob system is employed i.e. normal-treatment-healed mobs.

Treatment can be challenging as every yarding is an opportunity for spread, however left untreated, particularly for cattle, eyes can be permanently blind or even rupture requiring removal. In the early stages treatment with topical antibiotics can be successful. For more advanced cases a vet visit is necessary to save the eye.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

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

JOHNES - THE SLOW BURNER

Spring 2024 was particularly testing for farmers this year, so I can imagine it is nice to finally start seeing some increasing pasture covers and more enjoyable weather conditions. There has been a variety of increased animal health issues due to the aquatic spring, but one that may be continuing to grind away is the frustrating Johne's disease.

Johne's is something that cannot be over-simplified. It infects animals from birth, up until potentially 18 months old. It takes time to recognise clinical signs in the disease – weight loss, watery/bubbly scour, and concurrent drop in milk production. Advanced stages with have "bottlejaw", a watery swelling under their jaw. These typically show up in older cows, and need culled before salvageable income is lost and they become a welfare issue (BCS 3 or below).

One of the issues is that these cows will be spreading Johne's around the farm before they show you these signs. Predominantly through faecal material, but also in milk (important) and across the uterus when pregnant. What this means is that eradication is impossible, as we can never truly say a cow is "free" from Johne's. However, we can manage the disease .

Testing and culling is one cornerstone of Johne's disease management. Many of you who herd test will hopefully have a Johne's test booked in with your vet this season. Testing at the initial herd test allows earlier identification of potential Johne's cows to reduce shedding, but may miss some who have not had enough "stress" from lactation. Testing later allows more cows to be picked up, but allows more shedding around the farm.

Recent research has shown a daughter born to a cow that is either positive at time of calving OR 1-2 years after has a 2-3x higher chance of becoming a Johne's cow. This highlights the trickiness of the disease – unlike BVD, where a heifer can be tested before it enters the herd, an animal infected with Johne's can enter apparently healthy and with no detectable antibodies. The slow timeframe for disease development also means that even with gold standard management, the time taken to get it to an acceptable level in the herd is years, not months.

Testing and culling alone will not be enough to reduce Johne's to a manageable extent in moderate-severe cases (heifers and 3yo affected). In order to minimize transmission to young stock:

- twice daily pickups
- whole milk powder feeding for replacements
- avoiding grazing young stock on the dairy platform/ where effluent has been spread

These changes are not just important for Johne's, they also reduce other disease transmission and improve calf health. Biosecurity is also important – further work is being done to give farms who test, a Johne's "grade". Until then, ask if they do routine testing and what that has shown.

Johne's is something that is likely to be on farm to varying extents, so is not worth hiding away from. Please contact us at the clinic or discuss with your vet on farm if you want to develop a Johne's management plan.

SALMONELLOSIS

We saw an increase in Salmonella cases in dairy cattle this Spring. Now is the time to consider vaccinating your herd to protect against Salmonella this Winter/Spring.

Vaccinating with Salvexin +B is an effective way of protecting the herd against Salmonellosis. Unvaccinated herds require a sensitiser and booster vaccination 4weeks apart. This should ideally be done in March and April prior to dry off and not at the same time as leptovaccination.

Salmonellosis is caused by the ingestion of Salmonella bacteria, which can live for long periods of time in the environment (~28 weeks). There are a variety of types or serovars of Salmonella that can affect dairy cattle, with the most common being *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella bovismorbificans*.

The occurrence of Salmonella is increasing in New Zealand, in parallel with a world-wide trend, largely as a result of intensification, higher stocking rates and/or higher use of supplementary feed.

The most common signs of infection include:

- Sudden drop in milk production
- Loss of appetite
- Profuse diarrhoea
- Anorexia with a fever
- Dehydration
- Abortions (sometimes)
- Death

In New Zealand, carrier animals are the leading means of spreading infection, especially as re-shedding of infection can be brought on by stressors such as calving, transportation, bad weather or deprivation of food or water. The risk of Salmonellosis also increases when supplementation with magnesium (e.g. Mag oxide, Mag chloride), is of poor quality or occurs at above recommended dose rates.

Prevention should focus on reducing the risk of infection, minimising the spread of infection, and enhancing the immunity of animals within the herd.

- Vaccinating with Salvexin +B
- Good biosecurity procedures for any new animals entering the herd
- Appropriate storage and application of effluent, with a minimum stand-down period between application and grazing
- Effective rodent and bird control

Salmonella can transfer between cows and humans so ensure good hygiene measures are in place when dealing with sick animals.

If cases do occur, it is important to seek veterinary advice promptly. Early treatment of cases with broad spectrum

antibiotics will usually result in the survival of the animal. Delayed treatment (~48 hours) will result in severe dehydration and irreversible damage to the gut. Treating these cases will require supportive therapy, which may improve the chances of recovery, however this is likely to be a lengthy process.

Talk to NSVets if you are interested in vaccinating against salmonellosis prior to dry off.

Sam Lee BVSc

Pet Reminders

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

WORMWATCH

Regular rain, just when we need it, will be assisting larval development and maintaining parasite challenge in young stock. Continue to monitor and manage parasite burdens in lambs and calves, utilising parasite management techniques that go beyond simply drenching them. Consider summer crops, paddock selection, mixed species grazing, adult stock, nutrition etc. We continue to see drenches failing so make sure you are checking your drench is working – collect 10 fresh faeces, 10 days after drenching. This FEC is a simple and cheap way to check if your drench is doing its job.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

We will be about to get started on these. Please get in contact with Rochelle or I as now is the time to collect 10 faecal samples from your undrenched lambs to test whether levels are high enough. Please bring these in as soon as you collect them to keep our results accurate. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the clinic.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

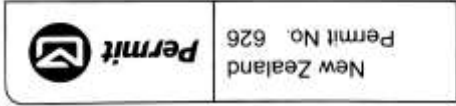
BIT OF LAUGH

Why do cows wear bells?
Because their horns don't work!



Cattle Reminders

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



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