

## SITUATION COMMENT

As I reflect upon the last 12 months, I've been reminded how quickly we must deal with change. This time last year we had had a very good spring and early summer generally, however, we then had a long late dry into autumn and early winter. Food supplies were used up and we worried about what winter and spring would bring. We have since had phenomenal growth the last few months and supplement supplies have been completely replenished.

Lambs while looking good for the most part, have not weighed well and weaning drafts have been back in general. You still need to ensure that the common culprits for less than optimum growth rates are under control though, namely internal parasitism and trace elements. Cobalt levels in pasture are often lower in a growthy season like this so keep a close eye on levels with the best test being liver analysis. There is increasing evidence of multi-drench resistance in NZ and the best tool we have to know where we sit is with a FECRT (faecal egg count reduction test). It is very important to have one of these done every few years. Refugia is the key prolonging effective drench life.

We have just started into some early heifer aged pregnancy testing (to determine if AI or not) and results are a little back with other years so far. Cow scanning is just around the corner.

Globally the war in Ukraine has been most important with continued challenges around lockdowns in China. Rising inflation and cost of living will be issues for the next 12 months at least. I have concerns around our supply chain for the near future at least - raw materials and logistics are under severe pressure. We are doing our best to carry product in advance and predict our needs.

Finally, I hope everybody had a lovely Christmas/New Year and hope that you managed to spend it with family and friends.

*Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS*

### Cattle Reminders

- Early pregnancy testing
- Check lame cows
- Rotate breeding bulls
- Remove bulls—dairy
- Dairy calves—worm control including lung worm, FEC, Lepto vaccination (if not done early)
- Arrange winter grazing



## STAFF PET CORNER

You know we are running out of ideas for staff pet corner when we stoop so low as to include a goldfish. But Lucky isn't "just any goldfish", he is an indestructible beast of an animal with a heart of gold. Lucky is a rescue goldfish (if such a thing exists). He was found abandoned and alone in a pond.



Taking pity on the little guy, Kate and Jarrod welcomed him into their house. After all, how much time and money could possibly be spent on a single goldfish? It turned out quite a bit.

Two years, and two tank upgrades later Lucky continued to grow. The weekly tank cleans were getting too much and Kate tried to palm him off to the Riversdale vet clinic during the 2020 lockdown. The office staff quickly grew to despise him after witnessing him eating his own poo, multiple times.

Lucky has now moved into a 1500L stock tank in Riversdale. Fortunately, Lucky's life has improved drastically since moving outdoors. We managed to find him a lady friend and together they have spawned lots of little calico babies. Hopefully he doesn't eat them too!

*Kate Taylor DVM BSc-Hons*

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## DRENCH RESISTANCE RESULTS

If you follow Wormwise on Facebook you will already know that Gribbles laboratory have released their summary of National drench test results for sheep for the 2021-22 season. The results cover 64 North Island and 102 South Island farms. The last time we saw a national summary was for 2016-17.

The biggest stand out for us in the South Island is the rising triple drench resistance (from <2% rising to 8% – where the North Island remains around 20%) and the change that *Trichostrongylus* is becoming the more troublesome worm in the South Island, from 3.41% resistant to a whopping 24%. A further concern is the resistance to the new actives Derquantal (Startect) and Monepantal (Zolvix).

Now to be fair, there is always some sludge with FECRT especially when slightly different techniques may have been used. The tests would have occurred at different times, when different worms predominate. Also we don't know exactly what drench was used in each of the tests. We have seen some instances where generics have not performed as well as the gold standard brands so this may be a factor. Ivomec appears to have zero resistance in the South Island, but it is more likely that no one tested it! It is possible farms seeing drench issues on farm already are those that are testing, so the results are skewed toward resistant farms, however, this is not the case at NSVets, where well performing farms have been proactively monitoring their drench, and are included in this summary.

The biggest take home message though should be that you cant manage what you don't measure – get on the list for FECRT this season, and talk to us about how you can manage in the face of drench resistance.

Drench resistance	Triple		Clear/White		ML/Clear	
	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
Teladorsagia (Ostertagia) most common in spring/summer	6%	18%	18%	36%	3%	30%
Trichostrongylus (Black scour worm, predominates in autumn)	1%	33%	13%	42%	3%	29%
Nematodirus	2%	4%	21%	11%	0%	7%

Note: Clear/white may include products like Arrest, and scanda, ML/Clear may include products like Switch and Converge

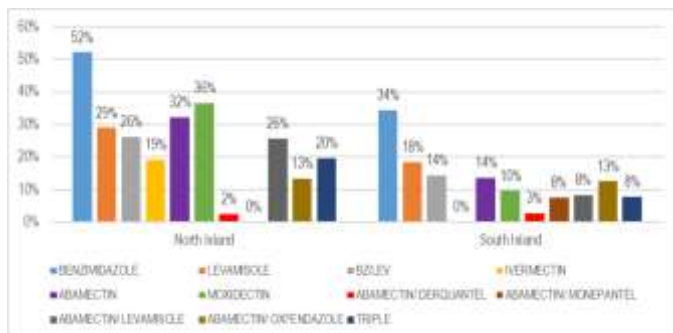


figure 1: Prevalence of resistance to anthelmintic recorded in sheep FECRTs submitted to Gribbles Veterinary laboratories during 2021-2022 stratified to North Island and South Island (n = 3272).

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

## ULTRAVAC 7-IN-1 OR LEPTOSHIELD?

Autumn is the time to vaccinate the whole dairy herd against leptospirosis. But what product should you use? We have two options:

### Leptosshield

To be "LeptoSafe" accredited, all animals in a herd are required to be vaccinated annually against leptospirosis. This is done so to protect both the animals themselves and more importantly, farm workers who may contract the disease whilst at work. Leptosshield provides protection against the major serovars of Leptospirosis and is generally the most popular product due to its affordability.

### Ultravac 7-in-1

Ultravac 7-in-1 is a little bit more expensive but in addition to vaccinating for leptospirosis you are boosting the herd's immunity to clostridial diseases that often get forgotten about. These diseases include Blackleg, Malignant oedema, Black Disease, Pulpy Kidney and Tetanus – which often will result in sudden and unexpected cattle deaths. Annual boosters are recommended for herds to enhance immunity so if it has been a few years since you have done this, perhaps this product would be a better choice for your farm.



Kate Taylor DVM BSc Hons

## WORMWATCH JANUARY 2022

Parasite management is more than just 'drench down the throat' and as we move into the middle of summer it is important to consider what the likely larval challenge is and how we can reduce it. 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. December was wet, so parasite challenge will remain high until we start to dry out, although this may be offset for some of you with higher pasture covers.

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

## Deer Reminders

- Cut velvet re-growth

## BIT OF A LAUGH

*What is a New Year's resolution?*  
Something that goes in one year and out the other.



## Horse Reminders

- Worming treatment for foals
- Check condition of brood mares
- Dental check horses not holding condition

## RABBIT CALICIVIRUS

An interesting case presented earlier this year when three pet rabbits died unexpectedly. The rabbits were housed exclusively indoors and were only about 6 months old when they died. They ate a pretty standard diet of meadow hay, commercial pellets and leafy greens. One of the rabbits was found dead and the others were vaguely ill for a few hours before their deaths. A post-mortem confirmed that they all died from calicivirus.

But the question was, how? They never had any contact with wild rabbits or even been outdoors. We are still at a loss to discover the original source but our best guess is that it was from contaminated feed, possibly the meadow hay.

Calicivirus can be spread through droppings, urine, mating activities and respiratory secretions. In certain conditions, the virus can stay in the environment for 3 months. It also appears to be transmitted via certain insects (like fleas) so even keeping rabbits completely isolated from one another may also not be 100% effective at preventing the disease.

Calicivirus is always fatal so we want to protect our pet rabbits from this at all costs, and the best way to do this is by vaccination. The vaccine we now use is called Filavac. It is not infallible but it does provide some protection from the major strains of calicivirus. The first vaccination can be given to rabbits once they reach 10 weeks of age. After that we vaccinate annually to maintain immunity.

*Kate Taylor DVM BSc-Hons*

## Pet Reminders

- Worm and flea cats and dogs
- Check for barley grass
- Check for skin problems
- Pet Fun Day at Riversdale

## YOUR HORSE IS NOT BIG BONED!

As there is now lots of grass, we must think about our horses' weight. An overweight horse may not only have a poor quality of life but is also at a higher risk of several health problems.

Excess weight is one of the most common triggers of laminitis and there's also a clear link between it and equine metabolic syndrome (EMS), which is another key cause of laminitis. Carrying excess weight also places extra strain on your horse's heart and lungs, as well as added pressure on his limbs and joints.

Here's some tips to make things a bit easier:

1. **Know your horses' weight:** either by a weight tape or preferably scales. Monitor for any changes.
2. **Get a base line:** record what you are doing with your horse now. How much do you feed, how often and what type feed you give. Weight loss isn't just about feeding less, so any plan needs to cover all aspects of your horse's lifestyle. Looking at the current situation will help you see where a few small changes can make a big difference.
3. **Feeding solutions:** Alternative hard feed options with less calories, soaking hay, small holed hay nets are just some of the options.
4. **Grazing:** reducing grazing time isn't always the answer, try reducing the potential area – strip grazing.
5. **To rug or not to rug:** Horses that are a little colder expend energy to keep warm and don't store it as fat – take that rug off in summer.
6. **Exercise:** any exercise is better than none. Plan! Hand walk for a start if you must and then incrementally increase levels. This is the best strategy for rapid weight loss.

**REMEMBER - YOUR HORSE IS NOT BIG BONED.... DONT MAKE EXCUSES!!**

*Shaun Campbell BVSc*

## Sheep Reminders

- Monitor trace elements
- Monitor worm burden in lambs
- Check rams
- Vaccinate lambs pulpy kidney
- Dip sheep flystrike
- Vasectomise rams
- Monitor lamb growth rates
- Faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT)
- Organise abortion vaccine requirements