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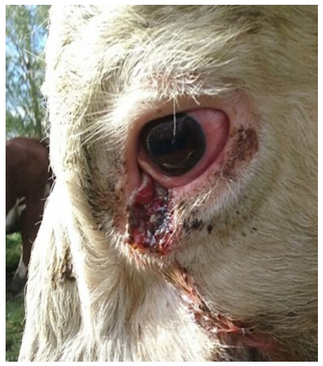
NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE

Cancer Eye In Cattle

I have been called to several cases of cancer eye in beef cows recently. In all cases these cows were unable to be transported to the works due to the severity of the lesions (discharging/bleeding or larger than 3cm). Options for these cows include humane euthanasia or removal of the eye. In all cases it was elected to remove the eye. With the current beef market, this is a viable option and still results in a good return. If the cow is pregnant and not destined for slaughter, she can continue to be productive in the herd (it is not recommended to keep offspring however). When assessing these cows it is important to first determine the likelihood of the cancer having spread, this can result in the cow being condemned at the works or wastage and death if kept in the herd.



What is cancer eye?
Ocular squamous cell carcinoma or 'cancer eye' is one of the most common tumours that affect cattle. They are most common in Friesian and Hereford cattle and typically affect the poorly pigmented areas of the eyelid or the eye itself. Exposure to UV rays plays a major part in the development of lesions and there is also a genetic component (heritability in Herefords estimated at 0.4).

What are my obligations?
Cancer eye cannot be left untreated and prosecution under the animal welfare act is possible if animals are left to suffer. If you find a cow with cancer eye, you are limited to three options:

1. Slaughter at the meatworks - if small and not discharging (requires veterinary certificate)
2. Humane euthanasia on farm
3. Veterinary treatment - involves surgical removal of the eye or affected eyelid

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Critical Feed Periods for the Ewe over Pregnancy

10 d Pre mate	Mating	10 d post mating	D 25	D55 (up to 80)	D56-114	35 d pre -lamb	Lambing	20 d post lamb	30 d post lamb	40 d post lamb
Critical feed period			Maintain, never under feed		Free period – feed pinch can happen here but only if ewes ≥ 3.0 BCS	Critical feed period		Peak lactation D 30 (+/-10d)		
	Flock in Lamb					1.9 x maintenance		3 x maintenance		
	Growing Placenta					No weight loss				

Horse Reminders

- Supplementary feed horses over winter
- Clip horses for hunting
- Lice treatment

Pet Reminders

- Check diet for winter
- Check bedding warmth for the winter
- Arthritis check

Congratulations to Willie and Phillipa Menlove for taking out the National Ewe Hogget Competition, the Perendale Breed, Phenotype and Large Flock Awards. Congratulations also to Dave and Melissa Bullmore for winning the Flock Performance and Composite Breed Awards.

Staff Comment

After more than 10 years we have a change in the vet staff in Te Anau. Nigel is leaving us to pursue his long held interest in wildlife. We will miss him greatly and wish him well in his future. As he will remain living in the basin we hope to see him more than occasionally. Mike Tapper, who worked in Riversdale around the turn of the century, is starting on 20th June as Nigel's replacement. We would like to welcome Mike, Bernie and their two children to the NSVets family.
Te Anau has also welcomed Cherise Cribb our new vet nurse. She has settled in well and is already an established fixture.
Becky is nearly half way through her OE and is working in England. She is becoming extremely adept at dealing with foxes and ferrets but disappointingly no snakes, lizards or spiders yet.
On 1st May NSVets celebrated our 10th Birthday. We would like to thank you all for the support we have received and hope the next 10 years are as much fun.

Parasite Control in Horses

Management of parasites in horses involves more than just drenching. The recommended approach to controlling parasites in horses is targeted drenching which involves faecal egg count testing and then drenching based on results, as well as pasture management. There are four types of worms that commonly affect horses; roundworms, redworms (cyathostomes), pinworms and tapeworms. Parasites can cause diarrhoea, ill-thrift, colic and in severe cases, death.

Drench resistance is becoming more widespread in New Zealand. Resistance is when parasites are no longer susceptible to a drench that previously killed them. The consequence of resistance occurring is drenches will no longer kill parasites.
Resistance can be prolonged by following some simple guidelines:

- Drench according to faecal egg count results and veterinary advice
- Use combination drenches
- Do not underdose
- Pick up manure regularly

Faecal egg count requires a fresh or refridgerated manure sample and examination under a microscope to identify eggs. It is recommended this is done every three months with a moxidectin combination drench in autumn to cover encysted cyathostomes in the gut lining.

Cost Analysis

- Previously recommended drenching every 6-8 weeks. Approx. 7 drenches a year. $20.00 per drench equals **$140.00** (single family drenches)
- Targeted drench programme – 3 FEC a year at $10.00 plus moxidectin drench at $38.00 plus maybe another one at springtime for $30.00. Total of **$98.00** (combination drenches)

A targeted parasite control programme has benefits of less drenching, saving money, less product used and prolonged life span of drenches.
Call one of our vets today to discuss a parasite control programme for your horse.
Megan Reidie BVSc

Cattle Reminders

- Lice control
- Milking machine annual check
- Calf rearers
  - organise suitable housing
  - organise milk powder requirements
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Salmonella vaccination
- InCalf Fertility Focus review
- Preferentially feed light cows
- Teat seal heifers

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Whelping Problems: When Should You Call A Vet?

The vast majority of bitches are able to whelp on their own without any intervention. On rare occasions, problems can occur which are potentially life-threatening to the mother and her puppies. As an owner of a pregnant bitch it is important that you know what is normal during labour and in what situations you need to call upon us for advice. There are three distinct stages of labour:

Stage 1 (Preparation):

- During this time the cervix is dilating and uterine contractions are beginning.
- Mother seems restless and often seeks out a quiet, warm area.
- It is common for bitches to refuse food during this time, vomiting is also normal.

What can you do? Keep the environment as stress-free as possible. If this stage of labour goes beyond 24 hours without any signs of impending birth, contact us for advice.

Stage 2 (Delivery of the puppies):

- The uterus contracts and the puppies are pushed individually through the birth canal.
- Puppies are most commonly born with their noses first and stomach down. Occasionally, puppies will also come out backwards without any issues.
- The mother will lick and clean the puppies once they are born. This is a normal part of bonding between a mother and a pup so she should be encouraged to do this whenever possible.
- Most bitches will give birth at 30-60 minute intervals. She will rest between each delivery.
- Even though the bitch may not allow the puppies to suckle whilst she is still in labour, they should always be left with her so she is able to keep them warm.

What can you do? If the mother seems disinterested in the puppies after they are born, carefully remove them from the membranous sac and rub the puppy gently to stimulate breathing. The umbilicus needs to be tied off with a piece of thread approximately 2cm from the puppy's navel. Ideally the umbilicus should be dipped in iodine to prevent further infection. A normal puppy will move around and cry out within minutes of delivery.

Stage 3 (Delivery of the placenta):

- Each placenta is expelled within 5-15 minutes after a puppy is delivered.
- On completion of labour, the uterus will expel any remaining membranes, blood and fluid.
- The bitch may have a red-brown discharge from her vagina for a few weeks after giving birth. This is normal provided she is otherwise healthy.

What can you do? Once the labour has finished, ensure that both the mother and puppies are in good health. Check that the bitch is producing her own milk and allowing the puppies to feed.

Please phone the clinic immediately if you notice any of these issues:

- You are concerned about the health of the bitch at any stage.
- There has been >3 hours without the delivery of any puppies or more than 30 minutes of straining.
- The bitch stops straining but you suspect that she has more puppies inside her.
- There is a pup stuck in the birth canal which cannot be removed with gentle traction.

Kate Taylor DVM

Sheep Reminders

- Vaccinate 2 tooths 2nd vaccine Salmonella Brandenburg
- Re-evaluate winter feed budget
- FEC ewe lambs
- Introduce winter feeding
- Condition score hoggets and ewes
- Vaccinate mixed aged ewes Salmonella Brandenburg

H.A.P.P.Y Horse Package Deal

H.A.P.P.Y. Horse is an annual health plan that encompasses four main areas of essential equine health; vaccination, dental, parasite prevention and selenium monitoring. NSVets offers this programme as a bulk package that can be paid in a lump sum or a monthly fee of $20.00. The package includes tetanus vaccination, an annual dental and parasite monitoring including an annual autumn combination drench sent out to your home. A reminder system is set up so you don't have to remember when everything is due and there are other exclusive offers for H.A.P.P.Y Horse members. Phone the clinic today to sign your horse up. Make it easy for your horse to be HAPPY.

Getting Your Bearings Around Bearings

With the ram only just staggering from the ewe paddock bearings may be the last thing on your mind, however some things happening now may influence the risk of bearings later!

A study on a property - albeit in the North Island - with over 4017 MA ewes (Robinson, Cook, Dodunski) supported previous work. However that year there were a lower incidence of bearings making some conclusions difficult. In order to get clear guidelines that will reliably reduce bearings, **more work <u>STILL</u> needs to be done on this pain in the rear!**

The study aimed to find links with

1. Pasture constituents
2. Condition score, and condition score change and
3. The application of salt.

They found that

- Good body condition per se is not a risk factor for bearings.
- No link between bearing incidence and pasture components can currently be described (they considered ME, Protein, digestibility, nitrogen, phosphorus , potassium, sulphur, calcium, magnesium, sodium chloride, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron. Moly, cobalt and selenium as well as ratio K:Na, Ca;P and DCAD).
- Attempting to increase salt intake of ewes prior to lambing does not appear to be beneficial in reducing risk form bearings. Salt treated paddocks had higher incidence of bearings than untreated paddocks, however the rate of bearings overall was very low.
- Ewes which started mating in light body condition were more at risk from bearings.
- Weight gain or weight loss over pregnancy were not associated with differences in bearing occurrence. (again this would need to be repeated to be sure of this).

Current industry recommendations

- Avoid sudden changes in feed type and level.
- Avoid salt supplements and swede feeding close to lambing.
- Avoid marked increase in live weight over the first half of pregnancy.
- Shearing premating or late half of pregnancy lowers the risk.
- Avoid allowing ewes to sit for long periods close to lambing (alter shift regime).
- Red clover and other oestrogenic feeds *may* exacerbate the risks.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Foetal Loss In Maiden Ewes

Intra-uterine foetal death and resorption mid pregnancy has been reported since scanning became commonplace in the late 90s. It is not common but can cause large loss and frustration. It is seen more predominantly in mated hoggets and is rare in MA ewes. Studies to date have found no definitive outcome. It is possible that there are a range of different agents or physiological pathways and the exact cause varies from farm to farm.

In 2013 a small Massey study found on average 11% of maiden ewes effected on some farms (range 2-59%). Most cases did not find any pathogens although *Leptospirosis* Pomona was found in one case. A case in 2014 in the Hawkes Bay showed inflammation in the ovaries of unknown origin, and in another, *Listeria* was confirmed.

In the UK rapid weight gain (300g/d) with concentrates fed during pregnancy resulted in high foetal loss but this has not been seen in NZ grass fed systems.

In a NZ study (2015) low mating weight and/or poor weight gain between mating and first pregnancy scan were associated with increased foetal loss. This was seen also in a 2011 study where ewe lambs with foetal loss also had lower growth rates early-mid pregnancy than unaffected ewe lambs. It is not known how or why this occurred or if it is repeatable. This will be further investigated.

The recommended growth rate target for ewe hoggets during gestation is 100-150 g/d.

A certain level of loss in maidens is expected but as yet it is unknown what that level should be. Your scanner should be able to identify dying foetuses, if present in which case call us as timely examination of the uterus and foetus is the best chance of diagnosis.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Deer Reminders

- TB test
- Pregnancy scanning
- Weaners - drench for lungworm
- Liver copper and selenium check dry hinds