

The 6 week-in-calf challenge (www.6weeks.co.nz)

Your 6 week in-calf rate is possibly the most powerful indicator of how well your farm is operating. Much more than a basic measure of fertility it is the key to unlocking improved productivity and profitability. The truth is, improvements in farm management are at least as important as the genetics you use when it comes to improving fertility.

The empty rate is a measure of the final outcome of the mating period, but the 6 week in-calf rate measures performance during the all-important first two rounds of mating – getting cows in calf quickly so that they calve down quickly is a foundational principle of seasonal dairy farming.

Your 6 week in-calf rate is the number one measure of herd reproductive performance.

A high 6 week in-calf rate will deliver more days in milk, more AB replacement calves and reduced empty rates. Early calving cows also perform better reproductively, enhancing sustainability.

When it comes to reproductive performance and the 6 week in-calf rate we are often asked the same questions by farmers. Below are some of the common questions, and our responses.

1. What if I am too far below the target?

Don't worry, the lower performing herds can make the largest and most rapid gains. Of course, employing a good advisor to help you prioritise your focus and effort would be very helpful, as there are often several areas requiring attention.

2. What if I am already at or above target?

That's great, but now you need to maintain it. The Challenge will help you keep tabs on all the important areas throughout the year, to ensure you remain a top performer. We know that farming is a busy and complex business. Things can easily slip any time, so it is good to have tools to help you focus on the important things at the right time.

3. Are the targets realistic?

Yes, the industry targets in the Fertility Focus report are based on the average performance of the top 25% of farmers, so they are achievable, although achieving them is no mean feat!

4. What if I can't cope with a fast calving?

To manage this busy time it is important that your whole farm system is sustainable and that is why engaging an advisor to ensure that your stocking rate and calving start date are optimised for your farm system is a good idea. The reality is, however, that spread-out calvings are costly and inefficient. Whereas compact calving with the right stocking rate and calving date is both efficient and sustainable.

5. Can I do the Challenge alone?

Yes, the Challenge can be taken alone, but just like an elite athlete, a good coach can really help you focus on the most important areas. Identifying areas to get quick wins, as well as the long-term needs, is often easier when an independent professional is engaged.

6. Why do the figures on my Fertility Focus report (FFR) seem wrong?

The Fertility Focus Report depends 100% on the completeness and accuracy of your herd records in the database, this is where the data is drawn from. Basically 'The report doesn't know what the report doesn't know', so you may need to check your records.

The FFR operates under a particular set of rules that allows the fairest benchmarking across a wide range of farm and systems types. Once you understand how the calculations are made, you will understand how they can also be impacted by your specific recording and management practices it becomes much clearer.



Death Notice

Out in the wilds of Scotland, in the town of Peterhead, (pronounced to rhyme with deed) a woman calls the Peterhead Examiner to place a death notice for her husband of 40 years.

"What would you like to write?" asks the editor.

"Put this: Robert Reed, Peterheed, Deed."

"Surely after 40 years you want some sentiment as well?" the editor queries.

"Noo, noo, that's eet," she replies.

The editor twigs and says: "If it's money that's the problem, you should know that you get three lines for the same price as one."

"Oh, let me have a think." A few hours later she calls back stating she has taken the editor's advice and wants to change her husbands death notice to read, "Robert Reed, Peterheed, Deed. Volvo for sale."

1. Situation Comment, staff comment, is your dog or cat slowing down.
2. Case report—a stick in the side, interesting facts about donkeys.
3. Foaling—what to look for and when to call the vet, BVD—the latest update.
4. A tale of two cats, October is dental month.
5. Pneumonia in lambs.
6. Heifer mating, Mineral max, Sciatic palsy—an emerging disease.
7. Uterine infections, prevent halts in production when de-horning dairy calves.
8. The six week in-calf challenge, death notice

Situation Comment

What a remarkable end to winter! You can be sure things are in a great place when a Waikato farmer can get on the news because he has too much grass.

The stunning late winter weather has feed levels looking good for spring. Outbreaks of Salmonella Brandenburg, although widespread and numerous, appear not to have been as serious in general this year. The rapid grass growth may however have contributed to a higher number of metabolic problems for dairy farmers.

Worm burdens in all classes of stock have been higher than typical for winter. Give one of our vets a call if you want to discuss options for pre-lambing or pre-mating drenches.

Staff Comment

Morgan and Lizzie sent their two eldest girls off to school at the end of August.

Hannah and Mike had a wee baby girl, Ariel, in June and the whole family are well. Congratulations too to Elaine and Syd on their new grandchildren, Campbell and Jimmy. Paul and Marie also welcome another grandson to their family, Thomas. Fiona has adopted two cats and Becky hasn't.

A year on and our new Riversdale clinic is still a fantastic facility, we have all really enjoyed working here. It has now served us through all seasons and there have been next to no teething problems.

Paul is enjoying his newly acquired spare time spending it between children, grandchildren and Trackside. He has also taken special note of the depths of despair experienced by the Wallabies in 1989 and 1997 and noted the World Cup results two years later. As a dedicated student of both history and the game he realises the team is perfectly positioned to repeat history.



Is your dog or cat slowing down?

Have they become reluctant to jump, run or get up in the morning? This is not just a part of getting older, they could have arthritis. Arthritis is very common in both cats and dogs and whilst it cannot be cured completely, there are many options to manage the pain it causes and halt its progress.

1. Weight loss

The first line of attack is weight loss. The more weight your pet is carrying, the more strain is placed on its joints. Talk to us about our pet slimmers program.

2. Exercise

Arthritic animals should not be over exercised to the point of worsening their pain, but regular light exercise is beneficial as it strengthens muscles and keeps joints moving.

3. Nutrition

There are many additives which may benefit your arthritic pet. Chondroitin, glucosamine and fish oils are the main ones. "Joint diets" are available which have these included.

4. Anti-inflammatory drugs

Your cat or dogs' pain can be managed with anti-inflammatory drugs. These are prescribed by a vet and both daily and monthly tablets are available.

5. Beneficial injections

We have a product which increases the joints own defences against arthritis and inflammation. This is given as a series of injections.

Whether you want to see your family pet more comfortable, or you want your older farm dog to perform better, there are always options available to reduce the effects of arthritis. Call one of our vets to discuss which option best suits your pet.

Natasha Leamy BVSc



Case Report-A Stick in the Side

It was 7.30pm on a cold, wet and windy Saturday night. The phone rang and the voice on the other end explained calmly that a horse had a stick in its side. The mental image this raised bore no relation to the sight which greeted me 25 minutes later. The horse really did have a stick in its side!



After sedating the horse, which behaved brilliantly, I assessed the path the stick had taken. For the first 6 inches or so it tunnelled under the skin before disappearing deeper into the horse. The owner and neighbour had wisely not attempted to remove the stick, so the ridge it made under the skin was easy to follow. This initial examination allayed my fear that the stick had gone between the ribs and towards the lungs. I hoped the end of the ridge under the skin was near the end of the stick.

I made a cut in the skin over the ridge. This freed the stick and allowed me to gently remove it; and a splinter about 4 inches long which slid out with it.



The stick had penetrated into the abdomen but had not damaged any organs. I examined the track the stick had left and cleaned the wound. The muscles were then sewn back together and

Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate pregnant mares for Salmonellosis, Tetanus and Strangles
- Watch ponies' condition for founder
- Clip horses

the skin wound was left open to heal, which it did well. The horse was lucky to have avoided more serious injury. Had the owner or neighbour attempted to remove the stick it is possible the splinter would have been left behind.

Michael Baer BVSc



Deer Reminders

- Stags- drench and copper pre-velvetting
- Hinds-copper pre-calving
- Supplementary feed stags
- Sort stags into velvetting mobs (at button drop)

Interesting facts about Donkeys

- Female donkeys are called Jennies and males are called Jacks.
- They live to 30-50 years in captivity and 10-25 years in the wild. This could explain the term "donkeys years", or it could be a play on words "donkey ears", they are very long too.
- Donkeys are related to horses and zebras.
- A male donkey and a female horse may give birth to a mule, a male horse and a female donkey make a hinny.
- They have tough hooves so don't require shoes like horses.
- They are usually 1 to 1.4 meters tall at the shoulder, but miniatures are under 90cm and American mammoths are 1.7m.
- A miniature donkey is a true breed and is not bred down.
- In the desert environment a donkey is able to hear the call of another donkey 60 miles away.
- China has the largest number on donkeys with about 11 million of the world's 41 million.
- Since 2005, donkeys in Britain have required a passport.
- Donkeys are often turned out with horses or cattle due to the perceived calming effect the have.



Uterine Infections

Bacterial contamination of the uterus occurs in up to 90% of dairy cows during the first week after calving. The outcome of this infection depends on a number of factors. A uterine infection is more likely to develop with the following risk factors:

- Dystocia (difficulty calving)
- Damage to the birth canal during calving
- Gross contamination of the reproductive tract during calving
- Recumbency after calving (especially cows that become downer cows)
- Retained foetal membranes
- Twins
- Late-term abortions

Infections of the uterus can be divided into two categories: metritis and endometritis.

Metritis is an infection that extends into the deeper layers of the uterus, resulting in the cow becoming sick. Illness may vary from mild to life-threatening. Often cows become ill, have a uterine discharge, an enlarged uterus, fever, dullness and stop eating. A severe form of the disease, puerperal metritis, may be seen. This condition occurs within a few days of calving. Cows become seriously ill and can quickly die. Veterinary attention should be sought immediately and immediate euthanasia may be warranted. The prognosis for cases of metritis depends upon how early treatment is initiated. For less severe cases that are treated early, the prognosis is much more favourable. Treatment consists of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories along with supportive nursing care. Fertility of cows recovering from metritis is likely to be impaired.

In contrast, **endometritis** is an infection of the uterus that extends only into the first layer of the uterus. Cows do not become sick. Endometritis is much more common than metritis. There is a high spontaneous cure rate for endometritis, between 30-45% of cows will self-cure when they begin cycling after calving. A pus-like vaginal discharge may be seen although a subclinical form occurs without any vaginal discharge. The condition is diagnosed by metrichecking the herd 4 weeks after the start of calving. This allows time for some cows to self-cure while ensuring treatment is given sufficiently early before mating. Unfortunately, many cases of endometritis have a closed cervix so no discharge is visible, even when using a Metricheck device. For this reason, treating only cows that have been identified by metrichecking will miss some cows. The other option is to treat all at-risk cows. However, this approach probably over-treats as it ignores the self-cure rate. Routine pre-mating examination and treatment of

Uterine Infections cont.

cows identified (using risk factors and/or a metricheck device) improves the fertility of affected cows. Trials have shown a 15% improvement in 6-week in-calf rate when compared with untreated, Metricheck-positive cows. Treatment consists of an infusion of antibiotics into the uterus.

Shelly Hann BVSc



Prevent Halts in Production when De-budding Dairy Calves

Dehorning is considered one of the most painful animal husbandry procedures, yet calves often fail to get pain relief to cover the duration of pain (up to 60 hours). Our vets offer a dehorning service where the calves are sedated and local anaesthetic is used, massively reducing the amount of pain involved. We also offer Metacam, a long lasting anti-inflammatory, as an extra- which will provide more long lasting pain relief.

Dehorning calves without local, sedation or pain relief induces severe pain and stress and a proven reduction in weight gain. Research has shown that alongside improved wellbeing, extended duration pain relief (in the form of long-acting anti-inflammatory, combined with local anaesthetic and sedation) promoted significant weight gain after dehorning. The 2012 published study reported the calves who received Metacam@20 as part of their pain management had an average **extra** weight gain of 6.5kg ten days after dehorning compared to the placebo group.

Many farmers comment that their calves appear happier and recover faster from dehorning done this way and that it is easily worth the extra cost of the drugs involved. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us at the clinic.

Natasha Leamy BVSc



Heifer Mating

One of the biggest areas of lost opportunity comes from poor heifer weights. Heifers that do not reach target weights by mating will have reduced reproductive performance and are at risk of being late or empty the following year. Heifers should reach 50% of their mature body weight at 12 months of age (60% by mating).

This is an incredibly busy time for most farmers, calving cows, (lambing for graziers) and preparing for herd mating but one group of animals must not go un-noticed, the R1 heifers.

Ideally replacements are all of a similar age but if not the young must grow faster to reach the same weight as the oldest in the group in the shorter time. Puberty in cows is related to body weight not age. Aim to mate heifers 1-2 weeks earlier than the main herd as they will need more time to resume cycling next year after their first calf.

You should have decided by now if you are going to use AB or natural mating, and if you are going to use any synchrony programmes (Co-synch with CIDR's, PG 'why wait' programmes). Often this will depend on the facilities and time management available to you. No synchrony programme will work on 'non-cycling' heifers as these probably haven't reached sufficient weights to reach puberty.

If you are not sure, discuss this with your vet now, there are pros and cons for each option but most can be managed with planning.

Bulls (natural or AI) must be considered on calving ease i.e. a **low** 'Calving difficulty Breeding value' (BV). Many Jerseys are less than zero (-5%), crossbreds in the middle (-1%) and Holstein -friesian sires often are high (+6%) and should not be used.

Also don't forget to check their trace element status. Many replacements are reared off farm without access to a dosatron so their reserves (particularly selenium) can be low. Ask about our new Mineral Max programme.

If you find you are behind the eight ball with this year's heifers, talk to your vet to set up policies now to ensure this year's crop of replacement calves don't fall into the same trap.

Rochelle Smith BVSc

I bought my grandmother a Seeing Eye dog. But he's a little sadistic. He does impressions of cars screeching to a halt.

I never married because there was no need.

I have three pets at home who answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog that growls every morning, a parrot that swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late every night.



Mineral Max

Mineral Max is our new trace element monitoring programme. It aims to take the hassle out of trace element monitoring by testing at strategic times of the year – before drying off, pre-calving and pre-mating. Proactive testing allows deficiencies to be corrected before there is a significant impact on production. Anticipating the needs of the animals and testing before the animals are likely to be under stress (and supplementing as required) is crucial to maintaining the optimal health and production of your herd.

The programme is tailored to the individual farm and involves cows and/or heifers and/or calves. A yearly calendar is developed, in consultation with each individual farmer, to arrange testing dates for the year.

If you would like more information or to sign up to Mineral Max, please contact one of the vets at our Riversdale clinic.



Sciatic Palsy: An Emerging Disease

In the last two years a new disease of unknown cause has been seen throughout Dairy farms in New Zealand. Recently this disease has been seen in two of our dairy farms. We have been aiding MPI (MAF) in the investigation to determine a cause, as it is still currently a mystery.

The cows are either found down straight away or have an unusual stance and gradually progress to being down. The cows affected are all three year old dairy cows. No abnormalities are detected in their attitude or forelimbs. Whilst up the cows walk around with their hocks dropped toward the ground. Once down the cows walk around on their hocks, and are apparently "hamstrung". In other words, they have ruptured their equivalent of the Achilles tendon.

The more cases of this that MPI investigates, the faster they are likely to determine a cause. For this reason, if you think you see a cow with these signs, please contact us. Investigation costs for sciatic palsy cases are covered by MPI.

Natasha Leamy BVSc



Cattle Reminders

- Disbud dairy calves
- Plan bloat control
- Mastitis-review control programme
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Metrichick and treat cows
- Blood test bulls for BVD
- BVD vaccination booster
- Plan non-cycler protocol

Foaling-What to look for and when to call the Vet

BEFORE

- Nutrition – ensure the mare is on a balanced diet, particularly in the last 3 months of gestation. NRM Mare Balancer is recommended to feed your mare and is available from the clinic.
- Vaccinations up to date – tetanus, herpes virus, Salmonella.
- Parasite control – mares should be on a drench programme which monitors faecal egg count levels.
- Gestation length varies from 320 days to 360 days but is usually between 335 and 342 days. Start to monitor your mare more closely during this time.
- Mare will begin to 'bag up', start to produce milk and the vulva will become loose.
- When labour is nearing a waxy residue builds up on the teats.
- Some mares will drip milk before foaling.

DURING

FIRST STAGE LABOUR

- Mare becomes restless.
- May get up and down, this is thought to help position the foal in the pelvic canal.

SECOND STAGE LABOUR

- Most mares will lie down to foal.
- The chorioallantoic membrane will appear at the vulva, this should be white, if it is red CALL THE VET.
- The membrane will rupture and fluid will come out (waters breaking)
- Forceful contractions will push the foal out within 20 minutes of the membrane rupturing
- If there is no progress within this time, CALL THE VET
- One forefoot will appear first, followed by a second forefoot approximately 15 cm behind the first, then the muzzle will appear.

- If these don't appear in this order the foal may be mal-positioned CALL THE VET

THIRD STAGE LABOUR

- Mares should pass their membranes within 3 hours after foaling. If they have still not passed within 6 hours CALL THE VET

AFTER

- The mare will often rest immediately after the foal is born. Ensure the sac is not over the foal's nose.
- The mare will break the umbilical attachment naturally when she stands up but the umbilical stump in the foal should be observed for bleeding, urine leakage or swelling before disinfecting with 0.5% chlorhexidine or 7% iodine. If any of these signs are noted CALL THE VET
- The foal should stand within an hour and should have suckled within two hours. If these events do not proceed normally CALL THE VET
- Foals need some medications directly after birth
 - A tetanus antitoxin is essential if the mare is not vaccinated
 - An enema to ensure passage of the first faeces, or meconium

Foaling cont.

- A selenium injection to help with the immune system and protect against any white muscle disease.
- An antibiotic injection to help prevent any infections picked up in the first 24 hours

Please phone the clinic to talk to one of our vets about preparing for your mare to foal.

Megan Reidie BVSc



BVD - the Latest Update

Right now 80% of herds and 60% of cattle in these herds nationwide have had exposure to BVD. This leaves 20% of herds and 40% of cattle that haven't been exposed and are therefore susceptible to BVD. Now let's look at active infection within herds – 15% of dairy and 65% of beef herds have active BVD virus circulating on farm in one or more age groups. It is this active infection that can cause so many problems within your herd.

Effects on young stock

BVD virus makes calves much more susceptible to other diseases. We often see scouring, poor growth, rough coats, coughing, lameness, confusion with worms and occasional ulcers in the mouth. These can all be signs of common disease syndromes in calves, but often we will look for concurrent BVD infection.

Effects on fertility and pregnancy

This is where exposure to BVD virus causes most harm.

Early pregnancy - disrupt ovulation; increased returns & long returns to service; early embryonic loss; low conception rates; poor 6wk in calf rate; creation of a persistently infected (PI) calf (in first 4 months of pregnancy)

Mid pregnancy - developmental defects (big head/cleft palate/cataracts/dummy calves); Abortions; immune suppression may trigger other causes of abortion eg neospora/fungal causes.

Late pregnancy - birth of smaller weak calves, which subsequently have reduced fertility due to the virus affecting the calf's ovarian tissue.

PI animals are the main source of virus on the farm. They constantly shed millions of virus particles from every body secretion. A PI animal can only be produced by infection in the womb in the first 4 months of pregnancy. Many PI animals are aborted and if they are born alive many are stunted and are dead by 12 months of age. Surviving PI's, fortunately make up less than 1% of the cattle population. Individual herds may have a higher incidence. PI's shedding virus can be responsible for reduced weight gains in other calves and yearlings (up to 20% less). This creates a greater spread of weights within the mob and lower averages.

We have many tools available to help evaluate your herd's exposure to and risk BVD. Don't just bury your head in the sand and accept ongoing losses in an infected herd or run the risk of an outbreak if your herd isn't currently infected. We can help define the status of your herd and provide options to develop a plan that will mitigate your risk of BVD.

Jill MacGibbon BVMS MRCVS



A Tale of Two Cats

Cats are 'symmetry' that simply can't be framed by us lowly human beings. Their powers of mind over us, their enigmatic and individual ways, their strength of character and their speed of reflex are but just a few of those awesome feline attributes. If you are one such person who, like me, shares that kind of 'Ancient Egyptian' reverence for cats, then our two family 'moggies' are most exemplary. Like me, they were born in Kenya and as part of our family, they also indulged in some trans-global travel to get here from Africa. Thousands of dollars in costs later, they've settled in to Aotearoa.

High time, then, for some regal introductions. Wasi is the eldest of our two cats - 'Wasi' appropriately meaning 'trouble' in her native African tongue. She's the aunty of the other cat - so named 'Moshi' - which is kiSwahili for 'smoke' (somewhat suggestive of his jet-black colour). He was born in our hot-water cupboard and once upon a time, we also owned Moshi's mother - until one fateful day when she decided to wander into a residence guarded by a Doberman.

The characters of aunty and nephew are polar opposites but just as with the Ying and Yang principle, the two seem to balance out and complement. 'Trouble', herself, is one of the most astoundingly beautiful cats that I have ever seen, being gifted with big green-brown eyes (and a fixed stare that can burn), whiskers that never seem to end and a bushy mane that is most fitting for a creature so 'aristocat'. Particularly fiery attitude, of course, is standard issue with her tortoiseshell colour and she carries that air of total superiority with every bound and step. 'Because she's worth it' is her motto - if I may be so bold as to borrow from the L'Oreal advert. Wasi, like any good model, retired from real work at six weeks of age.

If I were to single out the one domineering feature of this unpredictable little tigress, it would have to be her unwillingness to ever lift a helpful finger and number one is all that she ever seems to think about. She would truly make Garfield® himself look like an athlete. Yet - as I have learnt (and as I bear all the scars to prove) - never be fooled by such an idle, sprawled out look, for Wasi has a lightning-quick left 'hook' and a particular inclination to suddenly use it.

Moshi, on the other hand, is a really busy little cat (by cat standards, anyhow) and I'd like to believe that not only is he helpful, but multi-tasking, too. He's the kind of fellow who helps to supervise just about everything all at once. But his most endearing feature is his particularly placid nature and he truly has a character as soft as wild honey dripping from a tree - to borrow a description from the Jungle Books. Accentuated by his deep black melanic colour, his gentle green eyes can really melt the heart.

A tale of two cats cont.

Moshi simply can't put a foot out of place. Indeed, he has only ever done one thing wrong in his entire life and that was to allow himself, back in Nairobi, to get run over by a vehicle one fateful evening. It called for a particularly involved effort to save his life and Moshi has since become an inseparable companion of mine - he's the best cat friend I've ever had.

Nigel Dougherty BVSc MRCVS

October is Dental Month!!!

What is the most common disease seen in cats and dogs?

Dental disease is seen in 60-80% of cats and dogs over the age of two, which is up to four out of five of our small animal patients.

Signs of dental disease include tartar build up, a painful mouth, bad breath (halitosis), difficulty eating, fractured teeth, teeth falling out and tooth root abscesses. These things can all lead to a decreased quality of life and also increase the risk of heart disease (from bacteria circulating in the blood).

Cleaning your pet's teeth at home with a toothbrush and animal toothpaste is the best way to prevent plaque and tartar building up. Having your pet on biscuits rather than soft food helps remove plaque as they chew. There are also specialised dental diets, such as Hills T/d that are designed to help stop plaque build up. Chew bones and large raw cannon bones (that cannot be swallowed) can also be beneficial.

As vets we do a number of things to help keep your pets mouth healthy. These include performing a scale and polish (cleaning the teeth with an ultrasonic scaler and then polishing them to make the surface smooth), x-raying the mouth to assess tooth roots, and tooth extractions for retained or fractured teeth.

Please talk to one of the vets if you want further information on the services we offer. October is dental month, so call into the clinic to get your pet's mouth checked for free!

Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc



It's dental month in October!



Book your cats and dogs in for a free dental check during October & go in the draw to win a dental prize pack!

Pneumonia in Lambs and Hoggets

Pneumonia and pleurisy is a leading cause of reduced growth rates and death in lambs, hoggets and even 2 tooth. It costs thousands of dollars of lost production to farm and industry. Pneumonia can be acute or chronic and may be seen from October right through to autumn/winter. Many cases were seen this season from late summer. Prevention is your best chance.

There are several bugs in NZ that can cause pneumonia, on their own or together. Some in these are present in the normal lung and throat and only cause problems during times of stress or injury.

Different forms of pneumonia include

1. Acute cases in October-December in Southland Ewes.
2. Acute, pus forms in late summer and autumn, and
3. Chronic form appearing later summer through autumn and winter. Some of these late cases are a follow on effect of an earlier outbreak of the acute form.

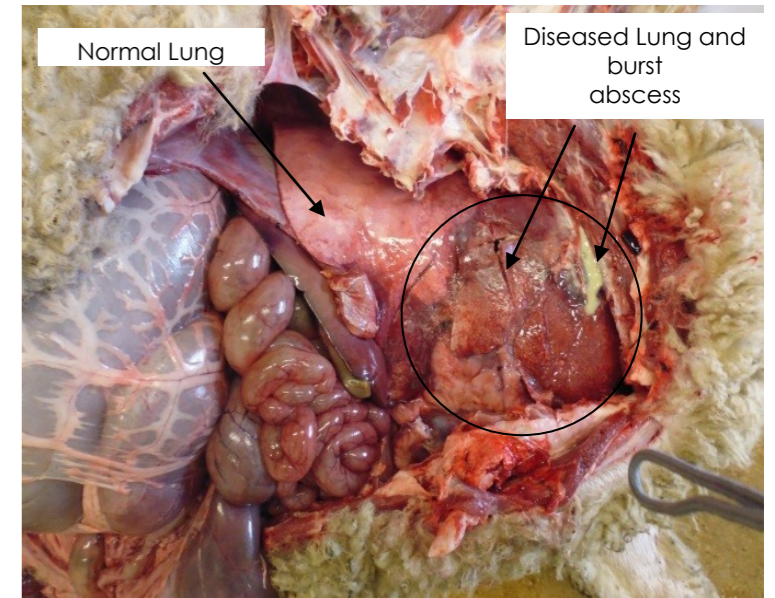
Cases we saw in autumn e.g. lambs going on crop, probably started months prior but were worse when the animal came under nutritional stress.

General signs include ill thrift, coughing, panting, noisy breathing, or sudden death. Post mortem confirms the diagnosis. Some cases can be treated with antibiotics but usually by the time the disease is noticed the damage is too great.

Most prevention strategies are around reducing stress on the stock.

- Ensure ewes are well fed to produce adequate colostrum for lamb protection
- Reduce heat stress - Don't work stock in the heat of the day
- Avoid dusty lanes and don't drive stock hard enough to cause open mouth breathing
- Reduce yardings and wet down yards prior to use
- Ensure yards are well ventilated
- Reduce mixing of stock
- Avoid sudden feed changes and nutritional stress
- Reduce transporting stock if possible, especially long distances
- Reduce other health issues (gut parasites, lung worm, nutritional stress, trace element deficiencies)

Rochelle Smith BVSc



Sheep Reminders

- Lambing
- Check B12 levels in lambs
- Monitor and record lamb deaths
- Get hoggets onto pasture
- Order tailing requirements
- Order scabby mouth vaccine

Pet Reminders

- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Flea prevention
- October is Dental month, get a free dental check
- Worm cats and dogs