

Sheep Farmers Newsletter June 2007

Clutha Vets Animal Health Centre

Balclutha Clinic

Phone (03) 418-1280

Fax (03) 418-1282

Merchandise Direct (03) 418-1281

Clydevale Store

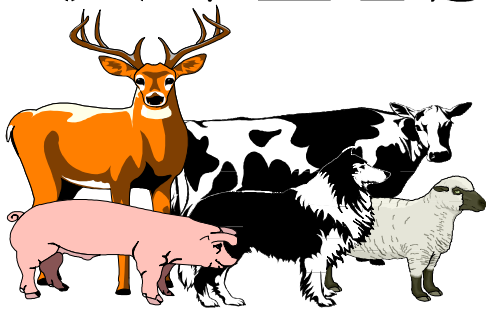
(03) 415-9121

Milton Clinic

Phone (03) 417-8032

Fax (03) 417-8031

clutha
M.V.E.T.S



Animal Health Centre

Balclutha

Bruce Bissett	B.Ag. B.V.Sc.
John Smart	B.V.Sc.
Andrew Robinson	B.V.Sc.
Jason Darwen	B.V.Sc.
Suzanne Craig	B.V.Sc.
Rob Mills	B.V.Sc.
Teresa O'Riordan	B.V.M&S.
Natasha Dawes	B.V.Sc.
Alisa Harrison	B.V.Sc.
Megan Bradly	B.V.Sc.

Milton

Peter Kalb	B.V.Sc.
Jillian Wilson	B.V.Sc.
Bernie Vaatstra	B.V.Sc.

Locum

Ali Maw	B.V.Sc.
---------	---------

CONTENTS

- Practice News
- Recent Animal Health Problems
 1. Internal Parasites in Lambs
 2. Pneumonia in Lambs
- Reminders
 1. Salmonella Brandenburg Vaccination
 2. Ultravac Vaccination of Hoggets
 3. Clostridial Vaccination of Cattle
- Winter Feed Crops and Nutritional Supplements
- NZVA Sheep and Beef Conference Snippets
- 5 in 1 Vaccine Supply
- Drench Capsule Issues
- Anthelmintic Resistance Risk Factors
- Annual Clutha Vets Golf Tournament
- New Product
- Merchandise Matters

Practice News

On the staff front things are just messy enough at the moment. We have two of the dairy vets with medium term injuries who are covering the small animal vacancy between them at the moment plus doing some of the paperwork load that seems to be so prevalent

these days. Fortunately we have managed to secure the services of Megan Bradly who comes to us from Winton and while she was really employed to cover the small animal vacancy, in the meantime because of the above she is helping to cover the dairy side. The search continues for further veterinary staff.

It's congratulations to Andrew and Rosie Robinson and Bernie and Vanessa Vaatstra on their new arrivals (pretty fertile lot CVA these days!) however the two weeks maternity leave that new dads are entitled to these days has added to the difficulties outlined above.

I think on the whole, most farms had good feed supplies this autumn although it was bordering on dry enough at times - hopefully a good scanning (and better lamb prices) lies ahead.

Recent Animal Health Problems

1. Internal Parasites in Lambs: - This was also noted as a problem in the April newsletter but we have been seeing sporadic outbreaks of clinical parasitism in lambs with ill thrift and deaths since then. Weather conditions on the whole have been quite conducive to parasite larval survival and development on pasture through autumn. At the time of writing (31st May) we have not really had any decent frosts to slow larval development down a bit. Assuming the last drench was 100% effective (do you know that for sure?), once you get to 3 - 4 weeks from this drench you need to keep a close eye on your lambs/hogget's for any signs of parasitism, looking hollow, sometimes a bit scoury etc and be prepared to act quickly if necessary.

2. Pneumonia in Lambs: - This has also continued to be a problem; in fact it is most years. If any of you have had some pleurisy cases noted on your killing sheets then you have a significant pneumonia problem. If you bring your killing sheets in I have access to a pneumonia calculator programme which, based on the pleurisy incidence can estimate the cost of pneumonia to your operation. It only takes a minute or two to work out so feel free to take advantage of this.

Reminders

1. Salmonella Brandenburg Vaccination: - Case numbers last year were similar to the year before (see graph in April 2007 newsletter) which was quite an upsurge on the previous 2 - 3 years. Two-tooth's are likely to be more at risk because of the fact there will be more environmental contamination with the organism around. While the vaccine is not fully effective it does reduce the impact of the disease by two thirds to three quarters. Two-tooth's require 2 doses 3 - 6 weeks apart - the booster dose should be given by the end of June if possible.

2. Ultravac Vaccination of Hoggets: - By now the hoggets should have received their 2 doses of Ultravac 3 - 6 weeks apart prior to going onto winter crop. They will then be protected against blackleg etc, often picked up while brassica grazing as well as being correctly set up for their lifetime programme of

annual boosters pre-lamb. See later in the newsletter comments re 5 in 1 supply issues this season.

3. Clostridial Vaccination of Cattle: - Although less common than in sheep, cattle can still die from clostridial diseases - pulpy kidney, blackleg etc. The odd sudden death in cattle through the winter period is not uncommon and they can look a bit like a bloat death. Most of these can be prevented by Ultravac vaccination. In a few instances the deaths can be caused by a strain of Clostridia not in the 5 in 1 vaccine and in those cases we prescribe a 10-strain vaccine called Covexin 10. Clostridial deaths are the classic instance of prevention being better than cure (as there is no cure by the time you find them) and saving one death will pay for many years of vaccinating.

Winter Feed Crops and Nutritional Supplementation

Brassicas can produce high yields of very digestible feed with good ME Levels (12 - 13 MJME/KgDM), however they are invariably lacking in fibre, vitamins and some trace elements. Lack of fibre leads to less efficient digestion in ruminants so always ensure straw, hay silage etc is available to stock on brassicas - they will self select to balance their diet.

The vitamin mineral imbalance is best corrected by supplementation with VetLSD. For up to 3 - 4 weeks brassica grazing, 1 dose at the end of grazing should suffice. Where stock are on brassicas for 6 - 8 weeks, 2 doses - one in the middle & one at the end of grazing will be required.

I know I have mentioned this in the past but the attempted cons/rip-offs continue. There are several products that claim to be "the same as LSD" however we have yet to analyse a copycat LSD product that contains all the various nutrients in adequate amounts. I know imitation is the sincerest form of flattery but I hate seeing you guys bullshitted and ripped off.

Firstly, storage and packaging are very important, as several of the nutrients are not stable in plastic and furthermore are not compatible with each other. If any copycat powder product is supplied with all ingredients in one plastic pottle or bag, some of the nutrients will not be stable and levels will be rapidly declining. The sole exception to this is LSD liquid, which, because of its unique production process is actually more stable even than LSD powder, which as you know is packaged in 2 parts and sealed air-tight in aluminium foil.

Secondly, many of the copycats invariably have low initial levels of some of the important nutrients which

when combined with the “unstable” packaging means you might as well not bother going to the effort of administering these products for all the good you would be achieving – our independent analysis has shown that often levels get down to 2 - 25% of that actually required. Anyone who wants more exact details on particular products please feel free to contact me but in the meantime if anyone says their product is the same as LSD – rest assured with the current crop that’s impossible - you’re being conned and you will get what you pay for.

NZVA Sheep and Beef Conference Snippets

I have just come back from the annual Sheep and Beef conference and one rumour floating around is that Britain is looking at requiring anaesthesia for docking &/or castrating lambs – you can probably see trade wise where that might well lead! Other snippets were:

- When feeding leaf turnip summer crops (Hunter, Pasja) maximum LWG was achieved with allowances of 2 - 2.5kg DM/lamb/day and when 60 - 70% of the feed on offer was utilised (eat all the leaf and about half the leaf stem) leaving a residual of 1400 - 1750kg DM/ha.
- Twin and triplet bearing ewes should be grazed on pastures of 4cm sward height or better during pregnancy to achieve optimal birth weights. If feed is limited ewes can be fed a 2cm pasture sward height for the first two thirds of pregnancy providing a 4cm sward is fed in the last third.
- There were minor positive effects on twin and triplet lamb’s birth weight and colostrum intake when ewes on a 6cm sward were fed concentrates.
- Using teasers over ram hogget’s results in increased numbers of hoggets in lamb **earlier**. A ratio of 1:200 is suitable.
- Unused two-tooth and mature rams over hoggets are a better option than ram hoggets for mating even when the latter are as high as 1:50.
- Cryptorchid ram lambs are not effective as teasers.
- Avoid applying heavy rates of N within 2 weeks either side of lambing (heavy = >50 units N) although having enough feed available is still more important than avoiding the use of N.

5 in 1 Vaccine Supply

There are two main suppliers of 5 in 1 vaccine in the NZ market – Schering Plough (Multine) and Pfizer

(Ultravac). Due to a shortage of Multine this coming pre-lamb season pressure is going to come on remaining supplies and could also possibly flow through to affect associated products such as Nilvax, Prolavac and Eweguard. For many years the only straight 5 in 1 vaccine we have really stocked is Ultravac. For our loyalty we have been assured of supply of more than 100% of the vaccine we ordered last year. In turn, from our records will be doing our utmost to ensure that our regular clients get first option on supplies. It would assist this process if you could indicate to the merchandise dept (418-1281) your requirements for this season and we will allocate it to you. That way with any remaining stock we can then perhaps supply others and help them out of a tight spot. I have seen the consequences of not vaccinating in the past and it wasn’t pretty.

Drench Capsule Issues

There are a number of recently expired Extender Max capsules available for sale at a saving of only 15 - 20c off the normal price of around \$3.36. While we have been assured by Merial that these are okay the ACVM regulators in Wellington have not seen fit to extend the expiry date. Personally I am rather lukewarm about this situation – we (and other vet clinics) set pretty high standards in our merchandise practices, especially as far as matters pertaining to product selection and fitness for end use goes – look at the LSD story above for example. We could stock these “me too” products but they fail by a huge margin to meet our standards and we choose not to.

Another example would be our choice of abamectin injection and pour-on products. There is the odd abamectin (Genesis) copy appearing and they are not necessarily the same – the abamectin in Genesis is in a different (oily) base. This is quite significant as this formulation gives it advantages over some of the so-called copies. I found out at the recent conference that there are cases appearing in Hawkes Bay of some of these copies not working as well as they should.

But I digress - to get back to the expired capsule issue, while it might be OK for our farm supply competitors down the road to flog off expired stock, I personally don’t think it is a particularly good look for veterinary clinics to be involved in such matters. However I am well aware that times are tight and every avenue of reducing costs needs to be looked at. So if using expired capsules does not concern you and you wish to save 15 - 20c give the merchandise department a ring.

Note that a chat with one of the large animal vets on the use (and abuse) of these products may well save you much more. Also be aware it is likely that supplies of Bionic, the only true combination (white +

abamectin) capsule and hence superior as far as the rate of resistance development goes, should commence this season.

Anthelmintic Resistance Risk Factors

Also from the recent sheep and beef conference the following list of risk factors (highlighted in bold), while not new, provides a short sharp reminder of some of the issues involved. In most cases the mitigating actions to reduce this risk are clear but I will list them after each risk factor.

1. **No quarantine drench** – Use the best quarantine drench (Matrix) and put on contaminated pasture or buy in sheep of a known status superior to your own.
2. **Drench and move to clean pasture** – Drench 7-10 days before or after the move, put undrenched ewes on after the lambs or leave a small % undrenched.
3. **Long acting (capsules and injection) ewe treatments pre-lamb** – Selective targeted use of these products.
4. **Preventative drenching of lambs** - Rotationally graze with undrenched adult sheep, carefully extend drenching intervals where possible, leave a % undrenched.
5. **Having the same lamb-only block year after year** – Avoid this - put some ewes over the area at some stage or change the area from one year to the next.
6. **Using single active drenches** - Don't - use combination drenches instead.
7. **Ewe treatments other than pre-lambing** – Good feeding should reduce the need for this.
8. **Any action that results in cleaner pasture** - It could be argued that these actions e.g. the presence of cattle, selection for resistant sheep etc would be risk factors however I think that is taking theory a bit to the extreme and being impractical.

Note - space constraints preclude detailed elaboration of the above points. There is a conflict between maximum productivity and minimum resistance development and I am not advocating that you all need to rush out and leave some lambs undrenched for example – I am just trying to make you aware of the sorts of issues involved. Feel free to enquire at the clinic for more information.

While on the subject of internal parasites and anthelmintic resistance apparently only 700 - 800 farmers nationwide have registered to receive the free Wormwise information. Phone **0800-696-328** or email wormwise@meatandwoolnz.com and provide your contact details including levy payer number to enable you to receive this information for **free**. Why

not register **now** and gain access to accurate information agreed upon by the experts in the field. Perhaps then you will be better able to tell when the next salesman up the drive is talking commercially biased piffle and you will get independent confirmation of the advice we have been giving - if you have any doubts about it that is – hopefully not!!

Annual Clutha Vets Golf Tournament

The 15th annual Clutha Vets Golf Day is to be held at the Clinton Golf Course on Thursday 21st June – usual format, food and drinks supplied, everyone gets a prize and the ability to actually play golf is largely irrelevant. As the accompanying leaflet says, phone 418-1280 to register your interest. A ballot will be held if numbers exceed places.

New Product

Oxfen C Plus 5 & 20lt: There has always been a steady demand for low volume drenches for cattle and adult sheep. This product is a combination of oxfendazole (white drench), levamisole (clear) and selenium in a low volume 1ml/20kg formulation. It is a little more cost effective than it's close cousin Arrest C, which has a 1ml/10kg dose rate and is only registered for cattle.

Merchandise Matters

The list this month is as follows:

- **Genesis Pour-on** – Purchase a 6lt promo pack and only pay for 5lt plus get the classic Ancare oilskin vest.
- **Eclipse Combination Pour-on** – Also purchase 6lt and receive 1lt free plus the oilskin vest. Remember Eclipse is **the** product of choice for drenching cattle especially those <12 months of age.
- **Cydectin Pour-on** – Pay for 15lt and get 17lt i.e. 2lt free.
- **Merial drenches** – Get \$40 - 50 Prezzy cards with Triton & Alpha.
- **Sheep Lice Pour-ons** – Magnum and Exit pour-ons available at great prices.
- **Tempor Lice Pour-on** – Buy 5lt and get a bonus 1lt plus a polar-fleece top.
- **Dectomax Injection and Pour-on** – Buy 2 x 500ml injection or 5lt of pour-on and go in the draw for a fishing trip out of Hokitika.
- **Arrest C Cattle** – Buy 20lt and get 5lt free
- **Meaty Bites Working Dog Formula** – Special price available at the moment (while stocks last).

John A. Smart B.V.Sc.