

combination Matrix but contains ivermectin instead of abamectin. Despite its name it can also be used in lambs. Dose rate is 1ml/10kg and the withholding time is 14 days.

- 2) **Iver Switch Tape** - This product fills a hole in that the Switch range of products did not have a tapeworm version available for the first 1 - 2 lamb drenches. It also contains ivermectin instead of abamectin so there is less danger of toxicity in quite small lambs. Dose rate is 1ml/5kg & the withholding time is 14 days.

Holiday Hours

This season the clinic will be closed for the usual statutory holidays which this year are Mon and Tues 26th & 27th Dec and Mon and Tues 2nd & 3rd Jan. Also we will not be open on the Sat mornings (24th and 31st Dec) over the holiday period. Apart from that it is normal business hours over the holiday period. Obviously a vet is available 24/7 for emergency calls – Phone (03)-418-1280 and this will divert to the after hours vet's mobile.

Clutha Vets Calendar

Following on the heels of this newsletter our annual calendar featuring local scenes and a diary of animal health events will be sent out to a large number of our clients based on their turnover with us. Unfortunately this can disadvantage those smaller farm units whose turnover is relative to their size and therefore don't quite reach our trigger point. We have no easy way around this other than to say if this is you pop in and ask for one. We have spares kept aside just for this purpose.

- **Take a Mate Fishing to Stewart Island** - The weekly draws for a place on this for farmers who have purchased Merial Ancare drench products have started. Winner of the first draw is Richard Kerr of Tarara.
- **Also with the purchase of Merial Ancare drenches** -
 - You go in the draw to win a Stihl Power Tool Package for Christmas.
 - You get a now famous high quality Merial Ancare Ham.
 - Plus as mentioned above you go in the draw for Take a Mate Fishing to Stewart island.
- **MSD (Coopers) Drench or Lice Pour-ons** - With the purchase of these go in the draw to win a \$500 Hunting and Fishing voucher.
- **Boss Pour-On** - Get a Christmas Ham on selected drenches.
- **NeXeptrin Microject** - Buy 1 x 500ml and get a \$75.00 Prezzy card.
- **Meaty Bites Working Dog** - All purchases go in the draw to win a Weber BBQ - drawn at Christmas time.
- **Eukanuba Premium Dog and Puppy Biscuits** - Purchases of the 18 - 20kg bags go in the draw for a \$10,000.00 I.T. package.

Since this is the last newsletter for the year I will take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff here at Clutha Vets to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017 - & may all your lambs be big ones!

John A. Smart BVSc

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Retail Ramblings

The list of specials, promotions etc this month from Pihl & the team are as follows:

- **Win \$5000 worth of travel** - exclusive to Clutha Vets. Purchase a Zoetis product ranging from drench to vaccine, mastitis treatments etc to go in the draw. Things like Ultravac 5 in 1, Dectomax, Cydectin, Startect for sheep farmers and other products (that wont interest you) for dairy farmers. Last chance - it will be drawn just prior to Christmas.

Your Vets

Balclutha Clinic

John Smart	BVSc
Jason Darwen	BVSc
Rob Mills	BVSc
Hamish Moore	BVSc
Catherine Copland	BVM&S
Peter Heslip	BVSc, MVM
Annie Jackson	BVSc
Steven Butler	BVSc
Elsbeth Dunne	BVSc, BAAGSc
Isobel Topham	BVSc
Bevan Topham	BVSc
Ruth Andrews	BVSc
Bridget McCauley	BVSc

Milton Clinic

Peter Kalb	BVSc
Jillian Clark	BVSc
Sid Taylor	BVSc, MACVSc
Barbara Christensen	BVSc, MACVSc
Marek Misiewicz	BVSc
Tom Wallbank	BVM&S



CLUTHA VETS SHEEP & BEEF FARMER NEWSLETTER



December 2016



Clinic News

As I recall, last newsletter things were getting a bit on the dry side and some rain would be appreciated. Now it's the other way around. It doesn't seem to want to stop raining and we could use some sunny days. To use a highly technical scientific expression - there's no guts in the grass and as a result lamb growth rates on many farms are just a bit average. Lambs do best when conditions are sunny and warm and bordering on being a bit dry. You still need to ensure that the common culprits of less than optimum growth rates are under control though, namely internal parasitism and the trace elements Se and Co/B12 (especially Co/B12). Co levels in pasture are often lower in a growthy season like this so keep a close eye on these - more on this later. Hopefully the weather will improve soon.

The big news though is that at long last the building redevelopment at Balclutha is completed. The builders finished up around 3 weeks ago and apart from 1 or 2 minor things to tidy up or commission it is all go. Those that attended the AGM mid Nov had the opportunity for a tour round the building and were all, I think, suitably impressed by the facilities now on offer – top of the line treatment/surgical rooms for your animals, meeting rooms, seminar room, better laid out retail and reception areas for you etc. While there are still a few bills to arrive in I expect the project to come in at or even just under budget. We intend to have an official opening sometime in the New Year. The date is not decided as yet but is likely to be late January/early February. There will be the opportunity for a tour of the building at this.

Staff wise Tom Wallbank who hails from the UK & graduated from Edinburgh in 2011 has started with us recently. He will be based mainly at the Milton clinic.

Recent Animal Health Issues

1. **Navel Ill in Lambs** - As explained in the last newsletter we have had more than the usual number of lamb deaths emanating from a navel infection back at birth or from a wound caused at tailing e.g. ear marking or cutting the tail off. These can show up a few days – weeks later as a dead lamb, paralysed etc depending on the exact location of the resultant abscesses.
2. **Pulpy Kidney** - There have already been a few cases of this entirely preventable disease. I think with a trend to more improved pastures especially the high sugar grasses, cases of pulpy kidney are occurring earlier than they used to. So in turn you might have to consider shifting your Ultravac vaccination

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of the lambs earlier. Say if you didn't used to have to vaccinate until February you might need to do it at weaning or if you used to do it at weaning you might need to vaccinate pre-weaning.

Reminders

1. Teaser rams - Many farmers have found the use of teaser rams an inexpensive tool to achieve better performance, especially over two-tooths and also in inducing more hoggets to come on heat. Work has shown that hoggets that show heat in their first autumn/winter have a higher lifetime performance, irrespective of whether they are actually mated at that age or not. Used over two-tooths they can advance what would be ewes being mated later in the cycle, thus advancing the mean lambing date which should result in more lambs away early, plus each cycle a ewe has before being put with the ram increases the likelihood of twinning. Teasers need to be operated on by 9 weeks prior to the start of mating so they need done over the next couple of months. They should be put out with the ewes 17 days before the "real" rams are put out at a ratio of 1:300 - 1:500. The timing is important – a 20 – 21 day period with the teasers would mean many ewes will have cycled just before the flock rams are put out meaning the actual mating date could be delayed. By the time the various drugs and materials are included these generally work out around \$85 each so not a huge investment for the benefits obtained.

2. Ram runs - Regular examination of rams is important to ensure your rams are going to be fit for the job ahead and that the many causes of infertility are detected. Cases of scrotal mange epididymitis (lumps), poor testicular tone, small testicles, hernias, abscesses and even the odd unidentified teaser ram are regularly identified, all of which render the affected animals temporarily or permanently unsound for breeding. An infertile dominant ram can have quite an impact on your flock scanning and it could be costing your business thousands of dollars a year for the sake of a short inexpensive (\$67.50 + \$1.20/ram) visit each year to check the rams. Brucella ovis, while well under control is, because of a small number of farmers who never check their rams, unlikely to ever be totally eradicated and it is only continual vigilance that will keep this contagious cause of infertility under control.

Fill out the enclosed form and return it promptly in order to enable us to organise the runs efficiently.

3. ToxoVax & CampyVax Order Form - This is also included with this newsletter on the back of the ram run form. Testing of wet and dry ewes for Toxo and Campy serology over the last few years has yet to reveal a farm where Toxo has not been present at some point. In the case of Campy, 88% of farms tested have had some exposure to it.

The single lifetime dose of ToxoVax should be given at least six weeks prior to the first mating. It has about a 10 day shelf life from the time of arrival in the clinic so, **pre-ordering is essential** and this should be done at least **4 weeks** ahead of when you require it. Capacity at the plant is being stretched so adequate time with pre-ordering is essential.

Most farmers do vaccinate for both Toxo and Campy as whether it's the small, unrecognised losses that continually undermine lambing performance, or sudden abortion storms, these diseases significantly affect productivity. For those of you who don't vaccinate, have a look at the following figures from Vet Services Hawkes Bay's (who scan hundreds of thousands of ewes every year) database. Their figures show:

- A 4.3 - 11% increase in scanning in mature ewes where ToxoVax is used (as a two-tooth).
- A 3.1 - 12.5% increase in scanning in two-tooth ewes where ToxoVax is used.
- A 6.8 - 11.4% increase in scanning in mature ewes where CampyVax is used (as a two-tooth).
- A 6.9 - 14% increase in scanning in two-tooths where CampyVax is used.

Can you really afford not to use these vaccines? Fill out the enclosed form & return it now – right now!

Please remember to write your name on both sides of the form as these are separated and sent to different areas of the clinic for ordering ToxoVax and sorting ram runs.

4. Optigrow Checks - Telephone either clinic to arrange this prior to dispatch of the stock to any works. In lambs, selenium and cobalt should be checked and in cattle and deer, selenium and copper. Prior to the first draft blood tests in lambs can provide useful information on the cobalt and selenium status. As indicated at the start of this newsletter, because of the weather and grass conditions, this season is shaping up to possibly be one of the more deficient ones as far as Co/B12 levels go. So some extra or earlier checking could be prudent to avoid getting caught out by ill thrift due to Co deficiency as once stock are Co deficient you never really seem to catch up the growth lost.

5. Drench Checks - Irrespective of which drench is being used you should check on its effectiveness at least once but preferably twice, early and late in the season. The reason for this is that the worm species present can vary through the course of the season so one check either early or late could miss a particular species and if this happened to be resistant then you would miss it and effectively get the wrong answer. Take samples off 10 lambs, 10 - 14 (no more than 14) days post drenching. Keep samples separate – packs of plastic bags are available at the clinic for this purpose. Counts should all be zero. If not there is a problem that may or may not be a resistance issue. Further testing will

likely be needed to sort this out.

6. Check the Bulls - Watch the bulls when they are first put out with the cows. Things to watch for are mounting but not obviously serving, or a number of frustrated cows hanging around an inactive bull

They're Guaranteed Not In Calf!!

Yeah right! How often have you heard a stock agent/vendor say this and the truth turns out to be far different. Unwanted pregnancies are actually pretty common and depending on breed, calves can get in calf from as little as 4 months of age. So what can you do to prevent or fix this problem? Solutions could include:

- The vendor gets all female calves injected with prostaglandins.
- The buyer (you) does this. Any animals in calf for between 1 week and 5 months will abort the pregnancy.
- Once the pregnancy is over 5 months the above wont work and the situation becomes a little trickier. The only option then is to induce them to calve earlier like dairy farmers used to do. While the routine use of inductions in the dairy industry is banned we can still use the procedure in cases where an animals welfare is compromised which is certainly the case in these situations. Usually this involves 2 injections 7 - 10 days apart. Aborting with prostaglandin is far preferable & more reliable than inductions so if you suspect you may have some unwanted pregnancies don't delay in acting.

Internal Parasite Update

Not a lot of new developments in this area over the last 12 months to update you on really.

a) Sheep: The best option for routine lamb drenching as it is the best at slowing/delaying the development of drench resistance is to use a triple combination like Matrix. Second best option is to alternate yearly between the 2 types of dual combination, Arrest and Switch.

Throwing in 1 drench of one of the new actives (Zolvix Plus or Startect) later in the season (round early April) has been shown to prolong the life of the existing cheaper actives and is advice well worth following. The term knockout drench has been coined for this concept. Note Zolvix Plus (a combination of monepantel and abamectin) is now used, not Zolvix (monepantel alone) which is now off the market. For those that really want to know the drench resistance status of their property you need to carry out a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT). Contact the clinic to get more details on this but basically the initial setting up involves identifying around 100 ewe lambs at weaning, not drenching them and waiting until they get to an average

of 500 - 1000 epg before starting the test.

b) Cattle: Oral drench especially younger stock where you can with dual or preferably triple combinations. Matrix (a triple) is available in 3 different dose rates (1ml/5kg) (1ml/10kg) 1ml/20kg). When stock get a little bigger and oral drenching holds less appeal use combination injections such as Eclipse E or Boss. If you must use a pour-on then use a combination pour-on such as Eclipse or Boss. Just a reminder that not all "similar looking" pour-ons are equal. See the Oct 2013 newsletter which demonstrates the relatively poor performance of one so-called "lookalike".

c) Deer: Pour-ons are a definite no-no. The drench we advise is an injection of Dectomax or Cydectin combined with an oral drench of a mixture of 2 different products. Details of this are in the Oct 14 newsletter, copies of which are on our website, or alternatively handouts detailing this are available at the clinic.

Note: You need to be careful with abamectin containing products in young lambs and calves <120kg, especially the latter as it can be toxic. There are 2 new products for young lambs and calves which contain ivermectin (as opposed to abamectin) to get around this issue - see below under new products.

Condition Scoring Ewes

This is a great tool for improving overall flock performance. Some of you are doing it but the majority aren't. It's quick once you are competent and is a better predictor of performance than body weight. Clutha Vets has staff who can condition score for you. We are happy to come out and teach you so why not, after you have weaning out of the way, call us and learn the skill. Beef and Lamb also have some great tools for learning this (have a look at their website) but there is nothing like having a hands on demonstration. Condition scoring gives you knowledge which allows you to make better and/or earlier decisions. Condition scoring is a tool to:

1. Let you know what condition the flock is in and also the range in their condition.
2. It allows you to manage groups of ewes in relation to their condition score. Lifting the bottom CS ewes by targeted feeding will give a greater gain compared with a slight lift of the flock overall.

It is a tool to monitor change and allow you to make management adjustments.

This summer will be a good time to make change to effect change. Please give us a ring ... we love to help.

New Products

1. Iver Matrix Calf - As mentioned above, young calves under 120kg can be susceptible to abamectin toxicity. Iver Matrix Calf is basically the triple