

## Promotion Winners

1. **Clutha Vets Christmas Promo.** The winners of the outdoor setting of rocker chairs, settee and wine barrel BBQ cooker were *Richard & Sally Kerr* from Tarara, Owaka.
2. **Merial Ancare/Clutha Vets Take-a-Mate Fishing to Stewart Island.** All the draws for this have been made and the winners are: *Willy Begg*, Stirling; *John Cochrane*, Kuriwao; *Peter Benny*, Clydevale; *Ian Hogg*, Kuriwao; *Simon Grant*, Warepa; *Robin McKenzie*, Taumata; *Chris Maybee*, Glenledi and *Malcom Wilson*, Hillend. These lucky winners plus their mates are off to Stewart Island in early March for a weekend's fishing.
3. **Meaty Bites Portable Weber BBQ.** The winner of this was *Steven & Rhonda Bamford* of Warepa.

Congratulations to all our winners, enjoy your prizes. Keep an eye out on our monthly retail specials and promotions throughout the year.



## Merchandise Matters

The list of specials and promotions this month is as follows:

- **Merial Ancare Sheep Drenches** - Purchase a 20lt drum of Matrix or Switch; or 2 x 20lt Arrest and receive a Degree short sleeve shirt
- **Merial Ancare Cattle Drenches** - Purchase a 20lt of Matrix C; 2 x Eclipse E injection and Eclipse Pour-on 5 or 10lt and receive a Core vest.
- Purchase 4 x **Genesis injection**; 2 x **Genesis Injection + B12 & Selenium**; a 2.5lt of **Eclipse Pour-on**; or a 5lt of **Genesis Pour-on** and receive a Hi-Viz vest
- **Eprinex 5lt** - Buy 3 x 5lt and get the 4th FREE
- **Eclipse E Injection** - Buy 3 x 500ml and get the 4th FREE
- Purchase the **Eclipse E 6lt pack** (12 x 500ml); or the **Eclipse Pour-on 12.5lt** promo pack and receive a Stihl RE119 Water Blaster
- **Eukanuba Premium Dog Biscuits 20kg** - Buy 4 bags for a special price of \$123 incl / bag
- **Royal Canin Endurance 20kg** - Buy 2 bags for a special price of \$125 / bag
- **Royal Canin Puppy Large Breed** - Special price for a limited time of \$111.76 incl.
- **Meaty Bites 20kg** (not Working Dog — It's cheaper) - only \$59.99 incl for the month of February
- **Dectomax Injection** - Coming soon. Buy 4 x 500ml (2 Starter Packs) and receive a Victorinox Knife Set plus the bonus 2 x 200mls of Dectomax.
- **Cydectin Tape 10.5lt Packs** - Short dated special price - see in-store for details.

**Balclutha Clinic**  
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Balclutha  
03 418 1280  
admin@cluthavets.co.nz

**Milton Clinic**  
106 Union Street  
Milton  
03 417 8032  
milton@cluthavets.co.nz

**Clydevale Store**  
Clydevale Road  
Clydevale  
03 415 9121  
clydevale@cluthavets.co.nz

John A. Smart BVSc



[www.cluthavets.co.nz](http://www.cluthavets.co.nz)

## Your Vets

### Balclutha Clinic

John Smart	BVSc
Jason Darwen	BVSc
Rob Mills	BVSc
Hamish Moore	BVSc
Catherine Copland	BVM&S
Peter Heslip	BVSc, MACVSc
Annie Jackson	BVSc
Steven Butler	BVSc
Elspeth Dunne	BVSc, BAgSc
Isobel Topham	BVSc
Bevan Topham	BVSc
Ruth Andrews	BVSc
Bridget McCauley	BVSc
Marek Misiewicz	BVSc

### Milton Clinic

Peter Kalb	BVSc
Jillian Clark	BVSc
Sid Taylor	BVSc, MACVSc
Barbara Christensen	BVSc, MACVSc
Keara Brennan	BVSc, MRCVS

# CLUTHA VETS SHEEP & BEEF FARMER NEWSLETTER



CLUTHA  
VETS

February 2016



## Clinic News

Well I think for most in South Otago the rain came just in time (earlier would have been better). Lambs have been doing well and now there should be a fresh burst of feed to help keep them going. Probably need some more sun now!!

As far as the Balclutha clinic redevelopment goes Stage 1 (new surgical suite) is finished and now in use. All concerned are very happy with their flash new facility. So now it is on to Stage 2, new admin and services facilities downstairs and more offices upstairs. We have just endured 2 weeks of concrete cutting and jack hammering as 120 tonnes of what was a raised concrete floor slab in the old surgery/kennel area was removed. At various times this part of the redevelopment will be a bit more intrusive/disruptive to our clients (& ourselves!) in that certain areas could be temporarily blocked off etc. However we will do our best to minimise any disruption.

Staff wise there haven't been too many changes. Keara Brennan from the Milton end has taken a 7 — 8 month leave of absence to recover from shoulder surgery, get married back in the UK etc., and will be back round August.

## Recent Animal Health Issues

**1. Pulpy Kidney.** A few of you have been caught out and have been experiencing some deaths due to pulpy kidney. This is entirely preventable - get a dose of Ultravac into them ASAP. If you give your ewe lamb replacements a 2nd dose a month later then this means they are set up for their lifetime vaccination programme of pre-lamb boosters. It is more than likely you will get away with just the 1 dose in the works lambs. With the recent rain and a fresh burst of feed coming away more cases of PK are likely if lambs have not been vaccinated.

**2. Salmonella Hindmarsh in Ewes.** For the last few years the incidence of this cause of diarrhoea and death in ewes has been on the increase. Last year we saw the first case on Jan 8th. To date this year we haven't had any cases reported but I would be expecting some to pop up any time soon, hence the reason for mentioning this. Don't leave too big a time gap in going round the ewe mob(s) in case you receive an unpleasant surprise on arrival in the paddock. If you find dead two-tooth or older ewes, invariably in good condition, maybe with evidence (but not always) of a khaki coloured scour round the back end then get

## In This Issue

- Clinic News
- Recent Animal Health Issues
- Reminders
- Iodine Blood Tests
- Coming to a Woolshed near you...
- Promotion Winners
- Merchandise Matters

in contact with us straight away as S. hindmarsh is likely to be the cause. Vaccination is very effective in the face of an outbreak and the sooner this is started the better. Invariably if you adopt the “wait and see what happens” approach you still end up vaccinating but have lost more ewes in the meantime. Prompt antibiotic treatment of crook ewes (not with penicillin) can save a good percentage until the vaccine kicks in.

## Reminders

**1. Anti-Abortion Vaccines** (in other words ToxoVax & CampyVax4) - **Both** these vaccines should be used by all sheep farmers who are serious about maximising their returns from lamb production. They both give worthwhile and proven benefits, and their use well and truly makes economic sense.

Remember that obvious abortions from Toxo and Campy are just the proverbial tip of the iceberg. The bigger loss is the loss of weak lambs born alive, but that subsequently struggle to survive and succumb in the first few days of life. For example a set of twins is born, one of the lambs is, due to earlier placental damage (but not enough to cause abortion), smaller and weaker, and dies even in reasonable weather. This loss, because of all the weather/storm type issues round lambing, is much harder to quantify but work has shown it can be quite a significant cause of loss.

**a) ToxoVax:** Screening in South Otago (and throughout NZ) has shown 100% of sheep farms tested have had exposure to the Toxoplasma organism. As most of you know the cat is the main source of infection with Toxo for sheep. One cat can have enough Toxo “bugs” in its faeces to theoretically infect all the sheep in South Otago. Scanning results from Vet Services Hawkes Bay, who have scanned large numbers of ewes for many years and as a result have built up a robust database of information, have shown when ToxoVax vaccine is used an increase in scanning of:

- 4.3 – 11.4% in MA ewes (when they are vaccinated as a two tooth).
- 3.1 – 12.5% in two-tooths.
- 11.1 – 23.5% (average 16.8) in hoggets.

ToxoVax is given once to the first lambers at least 6 weeks pre-tup. This provides lifetime protection.

**Every year we send out an order form, remind you in newsletters, in the Clutha Vets calendar and people still forget to order! The factory is now at capacity for most of February meaning no more can be supplied for those weeks so don't necessarily expect to get your vaccine shortly after you place your order.**

**(b) CampyVax4:** Screening has shown 84% of sheep farms in South Otago have had exposure to Campylobacter, slightly higher than the national average of 80%. Campylobacter can be spread by the introduction of carrier sheep, ingestion of contaminated feed or water, or by direct contact with infected foetuses

or foetal membranes. Black backed gulls and hawks may act as mechanical vectors for the spread of Campylobacter. Scanning results from Hawkes Bay looking at the effect of Campy vaccination indicate an increase of:

- 6.8 – 11.4% in MA ewes (when they are vaccinated as a two tooth).
- 6.9 – 14% in two-tooths.
- 10.6 – 20.8% (average 16.9) in hoggets.

CampyVax4 is given to the first lambers 6 weeks and again 2 weeks pre-tup. Where the first lambers are hoggets a booster should be given as a two-tooth. Other than this particular instance annual boosters are **not** needed (even though the package insert with the vaccine says to give one) as natural challenge in the field effectively acts as a booster. Unless there are supply issues (remember vaccines are particularly prone to batch failures that can then result in supply issues) CampyVax4 is generally in stock here so pre-ordering is not necessary but giving us an idea of your requirements does assist us in ordering and stock control.

Many of you do vaccinate with these vaccines, however, when you look at the above figures (and I am quite sure that these figures will apply to all NZ, not just Hawkes Bay, as other work done on these diseases has shown pretty consistent trends across the whole country), I would suggest **every** sheep farmer should be vaccinating for **both** diseases. It just makes economic sense to do so.

**2. Injectable iodine** - There are now 2 more or less identical products available, Flexidine (250ml) and Depodine (500ml). I carried out a trial (reported on in detail in the June 2015 newsletter) and confirmed that the standard 1.5ml dose given pre-tup lasts through lambing. The best time to give this is round 4 weeks pre-tup although we found in the trial that blood levels were elevated within 2 weeks of administration. So you could probably go down to 2 weeks pre-tup, but I think round 4 weeks would be the better option.

Pre-tup use of Flexidine or Depodine should improve the scanning % by 4 - 6% on average, and also result in a variable but sometimes quite large improvement in lamb survival.

Those of you who supplement iodine by oral dosing with Pot Iodide should give the correct dose (280mg) 1 - 2 weeks pre-tup. Watch out for the usual procession at this time of the year of snake-oil salesmen peddling apparent wonder brews. These often contain different ingredients but bugger all of any particular one so you end up wasting your money. If you're not sure bring in the label, or list and level of the ingredients, and we can assess it for you.

**3. Uddering Ewes:** This should be done anytime from at least one month after weaning onwards. Doing it at, or soon after, weaning means you –

- Miss the significant number of cases (perhaps around 50%) that occur at or shortly after weaning.

- Are likely to cause more mastitis by yarding ewes with full engorged udders in grubby dusty yards
- Will have trouble feeling the udders anyway as they are distended with milk.

If you are not sure what is normal or abnormal mark the doubtful ones and we can check them for you and show you what is what, so in the future you won't be throwing out perfectly good ewes, or vice versa, keeping some old tart that should be down the road!

**4. Teaser Rams:** As indicated in the last newsletter, these can be a useful tool to tighten up the lambing (especially with two tooth), determine optimum mating dates, and if used with hoggets, increase their lifetime mating performance. We have already contacted the majority of those who indicated on their ram run form they wanted some done, but if you have neglected to return the form and want some done then time is running out to get it done as they need the ‘snip’ at least six weeks prior to use.

**5. Androvax/Ovastim Vaccination:** There are certain instances where the use of one or other of these products to increase the number of lambs born (by 20 – 25%) can be useful. However if you are already scanning more than 160 - 165% (which is the majority of people) then these products are definitely **not** for you.

The programme is:

**Previously unvaccinated stock:**

*Androvax* - 1<sup>st</sup> dose 9 - 10 weeks pre-tup. 2<sup>nd</sup> dose exactly 1 month later.

*Ovastim* - 1<sup>st</sup> dose 6 - 9 weeks pre-tup. 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 3 weeks later at 2 - 4 weeks pre-tup.

**Previously vaccinated stock:**

*Androvax* - 1 dose 5 - 6 weeks pre-tup.

*Ovastim* - 1 dose 2 - 4 weeks pre-tup.

**6. Yersiniosis in Deer:** Yersiniosis is a very severe and highly infectious disease related to age, stress and exposure to the bacteria Yersinia. These bacteria are widespread and survive well in soil, water and pasture. Carrier animals can also shed the bacteria in faeces. It is the leading cause of death amongst fawns in autumn and winter. Weaned deer are most at risk and become infected round 4 - 8 months by eating faecally contaminated material. Symptoms include smelly green watery diarrhoea often turning dark or bloody. Sudden death can also be a symptom without signs of diarrhoea - an autopsy will be needed for diagnosis if this is the case. Most fawns will be exposed to the disease but will only develop clinical disease if under stress. Important stressors include weaning; poor nutrition; sudden changes in feed; mixing of deer groups; cold, wet, windy weather; yarding; transport; and heavy parasite burdens (especially lungworm).

The idea is to reduce the effects of these stressors:

- Look at the option of weaning before the rut when it is warmer and more feed is available.
- Have an effective parasite control programme.
- Vaccinate with Yersiniavax before weaning to

prevent clinical disease.

- Vaccinate from 12 weeks of age and ideally complete the 2 shot programme before weaning.
- Avoid vaccinating at weaning - the stress of this can compromise the effectiveness of the vaccine.

The aim of vaccinating is to prevent a serious epidemic occurring by reducing the spread of disease. Vaccination in the face of an outbreak is ineffective - if you do have an outbreak the best thing is to try and identify the stressor and try to minimise the effect of it.

## Iodine Blood Tests

In the past these were notoriously unreliable, in fact they were basically a waste of time. Recently a new test (Serum Inorganic Iodine or SII) has been developed and after some “dipping my toe in the water” with it, and also using it for the previously referred to Flexidine trial, I now have sufficient confidence in the results to recommend its use.

If you want to check the iodine status of your ewe flock we can do this using this test. Best time to check would be shortly so if your levels are low/marginal you have time to administer Flexidine or Depodine round a month prior to mating. It is not the cheapest blood test in the world at around \$55/head, but the good news is there is not a lot of variation in flock levels and even just 3 bloods can give a good indication of the flocks iodine status. In the iodine trial we carried out in the Awamungu area the control ewes SII levels were low - marginal for the whole year of the trial. If you were getting us to blood test for iodine we could also check selenium levels (the other important pre-tup trace element) using the same bloods.

## Coming to a woolshed near you...

Clutha Vets is running a series of informative days in mid — late February for our sheep farming clients with the theme “Better feeding to capture the true genetic potential of your ewes”. See the enclosed flyer for more details. All parts of the day will have a hands on component and everyone should learn something to take home and apply on their farm. Dates and locations are:

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb - Craig & Emma Lister Moneymore, Milton.
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Hamish & Ralph Brown, Mt Stuart, Waitahuna.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Jim & Ainslie McDonald, Mt Gowrie, Clarks Junction.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Kuriwao TBA. At this stage, because Beef & Lamb are running a day with some similar themes in the area, this date is not yet confirmed. Any interested farmers from the Clinton/Owaka area please let us know immediately and one will be arranged - probably at Roger Landels, Kuriwao.