

The Blizzard range of coats are warm, padded, well made and range from only \$21 through to \$35 (incl GST) for a fairly large one. These can be seen at the clinic. Try these - you'll be pleasantly surprised at the results and on cold winter nights your dogs will thank you. Last year the more popular mid-size coats suitable for heading and huntaway dogs did, due to demand, go onto backorder so don't leave it too late!

Retail Ramblings

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

- **Merial Ancare Sheep Drenches** - Receive an Icebreaker Merino T-shirt with each qualifying purchase from their wide range of sheep drenches.
- **Merial Ancare Cattle Drenches** - These include Eclipse, Eprinex, Exodus, Genesis, Ivomec, Matrix C & Switch C. Depending on pack size and in some cases the number of packs you receive either a Casio Tough Solar watch or a Casio G Shock watch. Enquire at retail for more details.
- **Eclipse Injection & Pour-on** - On the large pack sizes (6lt & 12.5lt respectively) you receive your choice of one of several Stihl power garden tools - a hedge trimmer, line trimmer or blower.
- **Boss Combination Pour-on** - With each 5lt get an oilskin vest; with 7.5lt get a free Oleo Mac chainsaw. Limited time and numbers.
- **Flexidine Long Acting Iodine** - go in the draw for 1 of 2 Pizza Ovens from Clutha Vets and/or 1 of 5 Weber BBQ's nationally.
- **Depodine Long Acting Iodine** - Great bulk buying options for larger amounts.
- **Dectomax Starter Packs** - Still a great price with a FREE 200ml.
- **NeXepin Microjet** - Buy 1 x 500ml and get a \$75 Prezzy Card.
- **Combat Topline** - Not that we recommend single action mectin pour-ons but if you are using one this one is under \$1/500kg dose.
- **Cydetin Pour-on** - Ditto comment about pour-on mectins but again if you must the 17lt bonus pack is back.
- **Zee Tags** - Receive a free metal tool box (while stocks last) when you order qualifying quantities of their various ear tags.
- **Startect Knockout Pack 20lt** - This pack size represents the best per dose cost of the Startect packs.

Lawrence Farmarama Competition Winners

Winners of the various competitions/prizes were:

The Vet Quiz Bionic pack - Bronny Bugden, Waitahuna.

Royal Canin 4800 Dog Biscuits - Murray Hellewell, Lawrence.

The large dog bed - Gavin Nichol, Deep Stream.

The scratchy ticket board (with proceeds going to the cat rehome fund), Hugh Robertson.

John A. Smart BVSc

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Milton Clinic

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Clydevale Store

Beside the bridge
Clydevale
03 415 9121
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Promotion Winner

Eukanuba Dog Biscuits Chainsaw Promotion. The winner of the Husqvarna 440E chainsaw through his purchase of Eukanuba Dog biscuits was Lee Anderson of Clydevale.



Lee receiving his chainsaw from Jane

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
Elspeth Dunne	BVSc, BAgSc
Bevan Topham	BVSc
Ruth Andrews	BVSc
Bridget McCauley	BVSc
Anna Burrell	BVSc
Martha O'Connor	MVB

Milton Clinic

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



CLUTHA
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CLUTHA VETS SHEEP & BEEF FARMER NEWSLETTER



April 2017



Clinic News

After a coolish dull January and early February the weather did improve through February and March. More sun and the odd dollop of rain kept the grass growing such that most, if not all, farms have made heaps of hay/baleage/silage and have plenty of feed for the ewes heading into mating. Lamb growth improved once the sun started to shine, and looking ahead, with all the feed about there should hopefully be a good scanning to look forward to.

The **official opening** of the Balclutha clinic redevelopment will take place on April 20th at 2pm. Bruce Bissett (ex CEO) is going to do the official opening honours. The afternoon will start off with a few speeches and the official opening, followed by the opportunity to tour through the building which will enable you to "see behind the scenes" areas that you wouldn't normally get the opportunity to see. The afternoon will conclude with afternoon tea. All members and their partners are cordially invited to attend.

Staff wise we have employed Martha O'Connor, a 2006 Irish graduate who most recently was working in a Mosgiel practice. She started here mid March and initially anyway will be based in Balclutha. As I mentioned in the last newsletter Izzy Topham has resigned to do post graduate study.

Recent Animal Health Issues

1. **Internal Parasites** - The summer/autumn has been, if you're a worm, rather nice thank you. In other words conducive to good larval development and survival on pasture. This has resulted in some high worm burdens and there have been a few cases of lamb deaths from internal parasitism. So keep a close eye on your drench intervals and how the lambs are looking. As far as two-tooths and mixed age ewes go the fact that there is plenty of feed about should help keep worm burdens under control but some FEC's especially in the two-tooths, just to see what's going on could be a good idea.
2. **Fly Strike** - This season seems to have been worse than usual for fly strike - mainly due to the Aussie green blowfly striking even quite clean ewes - along the back for example. The windy and cooler January didn't even seem to slow it down although maybe it would have been worse if the weather had been more favourable. If you only get occasional cases spot treatment with the likes of Maggo or Cyrex is probably all you need, but if you are gradually experiencing more and more cases then a specific

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fly prevention dip is going to be your best approach. Contact the clinic for the options here.

3. **Salmonella Hindmarsh in Ewes** - Most unusual given the good feed and weather conditions, but for the first time in many years we have had no cases - so far anyway!

Reminders

1. Salmonella Brandenburg Vaccination – The vaccination programme is two doses to the two-tooths (or previously unvaccinated stock) 4 - 6 weeks apart. In previously vaccinated stock one booster dose is required. This booster dose and the second booster dose in two-tooths is best given around the end of June or mid July at the latest. In the two-tooths the first dose can be given prior to mating or post mating as suits, taking into account timing of mating and the vaccine programme timing. In many instances I suspect giving the first dose post mating will work best for most people.

Unfortunately vaccination against *S. Brandenburg* is not even close to 100% effective like most/all other animal health vaccines. However trial work has shown it does reduce the impact of the disease by around two thirds.

Those of you who had cases in the mixed age ewes last year should consider vaccinating this year's two-tooths as we know those are more at risk of contracting the disease in the year following an outbreak. My advice would be to not bother vaccinating in-lamb hoggets - while they can get the disease it does seem to be pretty uncommon for that to happen.

2. Ultravac Vaccination of Hoggets – Shortly the hoggets (if they haven't already) should have received their two doses of Ultravac 3 – 6 weeks apart so that they will be fully protected against blackleg etc. prior to going onto winter crop, as well as being correctly set up for their lifetime programme of annual boosters pre-lamb. Note that depending on your incidence of Pulpy Kidney these doses can be given much earlier if needed – right back to before weaning if necessary. If going onto fodder beet Ultravac vaccination is even more critical than usual.

Remember there is a 6-in-1 version of Ultravac available which is an option where you have had sudden deaths in stock that have had the **correct** 5-in-1 vaccination programme but the deaths still look like Clostridial/blood poisoning type deaths. Ultravac 6-in-1 covers a sixth Clostridial organism, *C. sordellii* which is a cause of sudden death we see occasionally in sheep and cattle, often when they are on "high octane rocket fuel". Ask at the clinic if you suspect this. Unfortunately, proving it can be a bit problematic as any autopsy has to be done very quickly after death.

3. Ultravac Vaccination of Calves – It is not uncommon to have the odd sudden death in young

cattle, especially through the winter period, due to Clostridial disease – Pulpy Kidney, Blackleg etc. Most of these can be prevented by Ultravac 5 in 1 vaccination. In a few instances these deaths are due to a strain of Clostridia not in the 5 in 1 vaccine and in those cases we prescribe the 10 strain Covexin10 vaccine. This is the classic example of "prevention is better than cure". One death prevented will pay for many, many years of vaccinating.

4. Brassica & Fodder Beet Grazing – I won't repeat the brassica grazing "rules" here. These have been written on several occasions – see April 2011 newsletter for the list of these rules. Suffice it to say I have noticed a reduction in the number of deaths we used to see 5 – 10 days after the start of grazing brassicas since I started publishing these rules. Previously we would have had hoggets brought in for autopsy and these deaths invariably seemed to be due to an assortment of vague causes.

The basic underlying problem causing these deaths though, is the sudden change in diet from grass to brassicas causing a resultant acidosis which damages the rumen wall and allows a vague assortment of various "bugs" to enter the bloodstream which can then result in the death of affected animals. Allowing an acclimatisation period and feeding extra fibre (baleage, hay, straw) helps reduce the likelihood of this occurring.

Fodder beet is not a brassica however the same rules apply, only an acclimatisation period is even more important. Fodder beet is much more prone to causing an acidosis when it is first grazed. Stock, especially cattle need to be transitioned onto it **very, very** carefully over at least a 10 - 14 day period. More information is available at the clinics.

5. Weigh Ewes Pre-tup – Weigh a sample of around 100 two-tooths and 100 mixed age ewes just prior to the start of mating. If you do this each season then:

- You will know exactly where the ewes are at compared to other years and it will help you appreciate the influence of bodyweight at mating.
- You will be able to, once you know your scanning or fertility index (which is scanning % ÷ average pre-tup weight), reasonably accurately predict your likely scanning % from each year's pre-tup weight (av. pre-tup weight × fertility index = scanning %). If there is a significant departure from the predicted % then this is an indication that something else isn't quite right and maybe you should be giving us a call.

Knockout Drenching

As mentioned in previous newsletters throwing in one drench of one of the new actives (Zolvix Plus or Startect) later in the season has been proven to prolong the life of the existing cheaper drench actives. Okay, these are a bit more expensive but look on it as insurance. Spend a bit more once a year now to enable you to continue to use the

existing cheaper anthelmintics for longer. The alternative will be having to use these expensive drenches all the time sooner than you otherwise would have had to. The term knockout drench has been coined for this and the reason I have mentioned it now is that early - mid April (now in other words) is the time to be doing this.

Dog Dosing & Sheep Measles Prevention

We have operated for many years now a scheme whereby we mail out Droncit or Drontal pills so that you can dose your dogs to kill tapeworms, and so break the sheep measles life cycle. The Clutha District Council also had a mail-out scheme but it has come to our attention that they have ceased doing this. Ovis Management are a little concerned that some farmers may not have realised the CDC stopped this and therefore their flocks are at greater risk of having downgrades due to sheep measles. If this is you contact the Balclutha Clinic with details of your dogs (number and approximate weight) and we can transfer you on to our dog dosing mail-out programme.

Pregnancy Testing - Last Call

It is not too late to get your herd pregnancy tested. Getting dries off to the works earlier while the schedule is good, and saving on winter feed makes testing a very worthwhile exercise. For pregnancy ageing and detecting twins scanning is best done 42 days following bull removal. Remember while you have us on farm there is also the opportunity to monitor BVD and/or trace elements, specifically Copper & Selenium.

Trace Element Testing in Beef Cattle

Now is the time to ensure both growing and breeding cattle have sufficient reserves to get them through winter and into spring. Copper and selenium are vital for the performance of all stock and copper in particular is most likely to be deficient in growing and pregnant animals through the winter and early spring. While there are multiple supplement options available the only way to determine whether it's worth doing or not is to test stock. Animal tests are far more useful than pasture or soil tests as they are the ultimate "end user" test - pasture and worse still soil levels, don't necessarily mean much as there are various factors that can interfere with availability and make apparently 'normal' soil or pasture trace element levels deficient.

Testing Copper:

Liver biopsy on farm - gives a good idea of whether stock have enough Cu reserves for winter/spring. Test 5 animals/mob.

- i. Works liver biopsy (Optigrow) - as above but if for example empty cows are checked they may not

necessarily be representative of the pregnant ones back home.

- ii. *Blood Test* - this will detect animals that are currently deficient but doesn't give any idea of the reserves in animals with normal blood levels.

Testing Selenium:

- i. *Blood sample* - this is a good way of determining whether or not to supplement the group. Test 5 - 6 animals/mob.
- ii. *Works Optigrow* - ditto.

There are numerous supplement options for both:

- i. *Copper*: Boluses, injection & pasture topdressing.
- ii. *Selenium*: Short & long-acting (up to 12mths) injections, pasture prills, pour-on, oral drenches & multi-mineral boluses e.g. All-Trace boluses. These latter seem to give particularly good results - see April 2016 newsletter for more details on them.

Unwanted Pregnancies

Mis-mated heifers are a common feature this time of year. Bulls often do more damage than expected and underage pregnancies can be a very costly mistake rendering some animals worthless. If you have any reason to suspect this might have happened then the simplest and most reliable option is to get us to inject them with prostaglandin 1 week to 5 months after the bull has been with them. If you leave it longer than 5 months there are other options but they involve more work and are less reliable. If you are buying calves remember unless the vendor has had them injected with prostaglandins a guarantee of not in calf is invariably not worth the paper it's written on.

K9 Corner

More and more of you are recognising the benefits of feeding your hard working dogs premium dog biscuits like Eukanuba and Royal Canin. Farmers invariably report back improvements in dog condition and also endurance when doing a hard day's work. Because of the amounts now being purchased we have removed the discounted price for purchasing 2 (or 4) bags as the case may be. The standard price now for 1 bag purchases is the previously discounted 2/4 bag price.

Allied to this and with winter approaching I will remind you about the benefit of putting padded coats on your dogs each evening. This practice has really taken off in the last couple of winters and farmers report that:

- After they get used to them their dogs line up at the end of each day to get their coats put on.
- Dogs that had a coat on each night kept condition on better and/or were able to be fed less to maintain their condition. In fact the likely savings in feed costs would, by the end of winter, probably more than pay for the coat.