



MOB RULES!

May/June 2018



Bring on the cooler temperatures!

Nights are cooling down, mountains are sporting a bit of snow and it is nearly time to replace the sunhat with a beanie. While this cold snap might sadly signal the end of summer BBQs, it should also help slow down some of the bugs that have been giving us a bit of a hard time this Summer/Autumn—not a bad thing.

Barbers Pole worm, Fly Strike and Facial Eczema have all featured heavily over the last 2-3 months, and have proved pretty testing for some clients. As we get ready to put the rams out and start thinking ahead to winter rotations and set stock policies we find ourselves moving on mentally to the next thing and forgetting about the issues of the last season. However, now is a great time to get some information on the impact Facial Eczema (FE) might have had on your farm, enabling you to make better reasoned decisions next year.

Facial Eczema testing in Ewes

Blood testing ewes pre mating and checking levels of GGT is a great way to determine what impact FE might have on your scanning percent - a clear measure and driver of performance on most farms. GGT is a liver enzyme that increases with FE damage. While we might see the odd ewe here and there showing signs of FE, we know that 95% of animals affected never show outward clinical signs—pretty scary! We know from trials done where there is significant damage to the liver, scanning can drop by 20%.

Give us a bell if you want to have a chat about getting some testing done. Generally we like to bleed 20 ewes in the mob (multiple mobs on some farms) to give us a good representation of what is going on. Making decisions around FE management in subsequent seasons is easier when you have good information to work on.



Trace Element Testing - Sheep and Cattle

Autumn is a great time of year to check the trace element levels in animals as they head into winter. Some clients love the convenience of sampling livers from animals sent to the works. Unfortunately these may not be truly representative of the animals back on farm. Culled animals are often poor doers, or animals sold prime/finished. Empties sent after scanning / preg testing don't have the same demands that pregnant stock do so this can also be an issue.

Best information is gained from on farm sampling of animals that are a true reflection of your mob/herd. A combination of liver testing and serum (blood) testing gives the best information, ring out if you would like to know more.

Quick Reminder: Crops and Clostridial Disease

Every Autumn good animals die from Clostridial diseases on crops. Usually it is the fastest growing, best looking ones too! Remember, young stock require 2 vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart to be protected, and protection fully kicks in 10 days after the second vaccination. Remember also that the pulpy kidney component only lasts for 3 months so in some cases lambs require extra boosters.

There are some other vaccine options available beyond the standard 5 in 1 that offer protection against some of the other Clostridial diseases that can cause sudden death. If you would like to discuss options then get in touch.



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*WHILE STOCKS LAST. PROMOTION ENDS XXXX/18

It is that time of the year again where we will be in touch to discuss your capsule needs.

Roger's gone Walkabout!

After 30 years Roger has headed off on his big OE. Lets hope he doesn't come home with too many tattoos or piercings!



We would like to welcome Sarah-jane (Spud) to our team as our new Rural Sales Manager.

Sarah comes to us from Canvastown where she lives on a lifestyle block with her husband Matt and 2 sons Josh 7 & Ben 4.

