

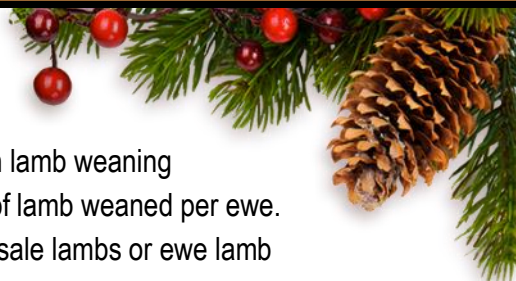


# MOB RULES!

Nov/DEC 18

## Christmas is coming, time to pack on the pounds...

No we are not talking about the inevitable condition gain over the Holiday season, rather the key focus on livestock weight gains, particularly in the young stock. With lamb weaning rapidly approaching, the Ewe Flock System is pretty close to its final output of kg of lamb weaned per ewe. Post weaning, it is all down to **how well we manage the lambs**, whether they be sale lambs or ewe lamb replacements, to maximize their growth rates.



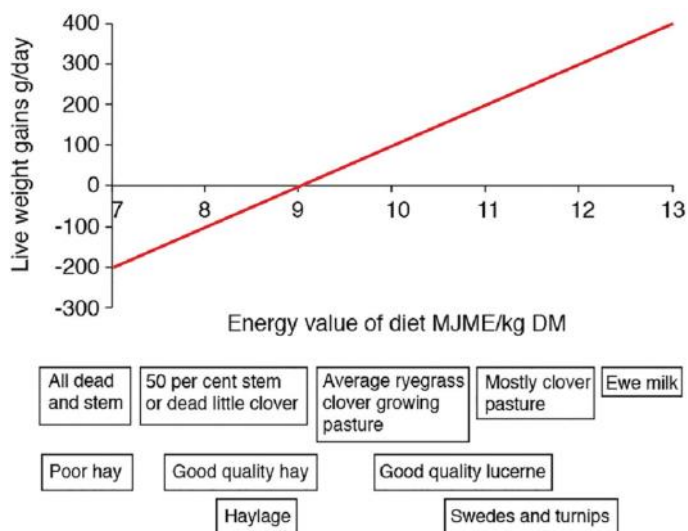
Maximising growth rates is clearly important for getting lambs away quickly to slaughter and hitting replacement weight targets. Getting lambs finished and off the property quickly is a key focus of mine in relation to managing the development of worm parasite resistance. The faster you get the little buggers off to the works, the less drenches they need and the less lambs carried through the Barbers Pole risk period. Less drenching = slower onset of drench resistance.

In this newsletter we will focus on a couple of key issues that impact lamb growth post weaning, and highlight a few other upcoming activities.

Three key issues we will look at are: **Pasture Quality, Parasite Challenge, and Trace Elements**

## Pasture Quality

The single most important thing you can do to influence lamb growth rates is to have lambs grazing on quality pasture. Sounds simple, however it is so easy to miss the mark. At this time of year pasture quality can change in a matter of days. Lambs can go from growing at 100g per day down to 0g per day as the pasture matures. Get out there and check your lamb pastures now. Pick a handful of grass at random and tease out the leaf from stem and dead leaf—do you have less than 20% dead/stem?



### Larval Challenge

Worms can have a massive impact on the growth and health status of our livestock. Adult worms that are laying eggs have a significant impact—the damage they do by feeding on the mucosa (lining) of the gut means protein has to be spent by the host repairing the damage, rather than putting it into growth. We can measure adult worm burden reasonably accurately with a faecal egg count which is useful, particularly in adult animals. Our preventative drenching program does a great job (assuming you are using an effective drench) at taking out the worms present on drenching day, and preventing breeding of adults (and therefore shedding of more eggs).

The incoming infective larvae also cause a lot of damage, but unlike the adults we can not easily measure larval challenge. Even when drenching every 28 days you can have huge drops in production due to the damage of incoming larvae. In one study done they showed a 4kg liveweight gain for the lambs that had low larval challenge versus those who had high larval challenge **and** a 21 day oral drench of Fenbendazole (which was the ducks nuts back in 1982!).

Key message is, keep up with your preventative drenching program and make sure you manage the feed levels of the lambs. Grazing below 2-3cm will increase the larval challenge and reduce your growth rates.



### Thinking Ahead: Barbers Pole / *Haemonchus contortus*

Just a heads up—Barbers Pole season is just around the corner. Don't get caught out: have a look at conditions early in the new year and have a chat with us about the right kind of drench to use and when.

### Trace Elements

Key considerations here for lambs are Selenium and Vitamin B12. Deficiencies in either can cause production loss, illness and death in severe cases. The majority of the Nelson/Tasman region is deficient in Selenium, however property history and local variation in soil type needs to be taken into consideration. Most oral drenches are 'Hi-Min' drenches and the level of Selenium in the drench is actually a useful amount to provide supplementation for a month.

Vitamin B12 really becomes an issue for lambs immediately around weaning and in some cases right through the Autumn. A small amount of the Cobalt that the lamb ingests is converted to Vitamin B12 by the rumen bacteria. In the young lamb the rumen is still developing so this is an unefficient system. Couple this with low soil cobalt and the odds can be stacked against the little guys. Unlike Selenium, the supplementation provided by the oral 'Hi-Min' drench only lasts a week or so.

Best options for supplementation include short acting B12 (ie: Prolaject 1000/2000) and the longer acting Smartshot injection. In most cases I recommend starting supplementation (if using the short acting product) 1 month pre weaning, and continuing monthly through till April.



# Watch out for Flystrike

1.3-2.3 million sheep are affected by flystrike each year

At least 250,000 lambs die from flystrike each year

Following treatment recovery of lost live weight may take up to 6 weeks

If you would like some advice on how to prevent flystrike on your farm or which products are best to use, give Joe a call at the clinic - 03 544 1200

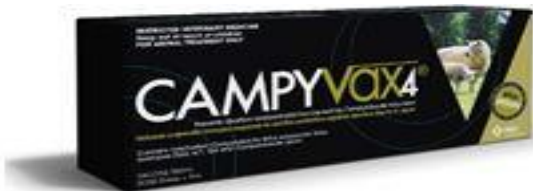


**TOXOVAX AND CAMPYVAX**

**Toxovax’ should be ordered for first time lambers (whether hoggets or two teeths) this month, if lambing before the middle of August.** There is considerable delay in the ordering to delivery period and there is no manufacture at all over the Christmas period. As the vaccine has an extremely short shelf life of about 10 days (by the time it reaches the farm this may be as little as 7 days), and once made up with diluents lasts only 2 hours. As vaccination needs to be completed one month before introduction of the rams, forward planning is necessary. Vaccination with a single shot of this product is very successful in preventing Toxoplasma abortions for life.

**Campyvacx Campylobacter’ is the second most common cause of infectious abortion in New Zealand and is now the number one diagnosis at laboratory.** Vaccination requires two doses, four weeks apart. The second needs to be given ideally four weeks before the ram is introduced and can be given with ‘Toxovax’. There is no issue with manufacture and this vaccine is available all year round.

**Call the clinic now to place your Toxovax and Campyvacx order for this up coming season**

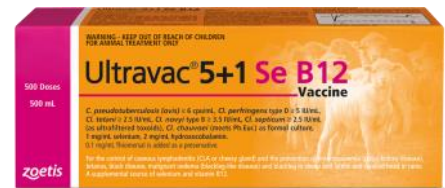
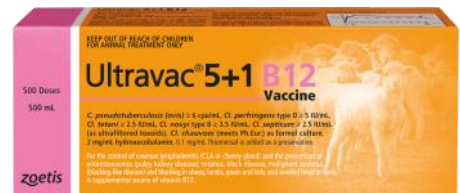


**NEW PRODUCT—DUE DECEMBER 2018**

Our lambs can turn into pin cushions in the months around weaning. Being able to give B12, 5 in 1 vaccine and even a selenium at the same time will be gold for some farmers. Ultravac has proven itself well as a popular and effective 5 in 1 vaccine. We are pleased that as of December 2018 we will be able to offer this to clients in combination with vitamin B12 and also Selenium if required.

This product also includes protection for cheesy gland which is a nice touch above and beyond regular 5 in 1.

The value of time saving and convenience is high with this product. Give us a call to discuss or place your order for weaning.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

To all our valued clients, Town and Country Vet wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.