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CLINIC HOURS

Monday-Friday:
8:00am– 5:30pm

Saturday:
9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday:
9:00am - 3:00pm



24 HOUR
Emergency
SERVICES



(03) 544 1200

What's Coming Up

The recent frosty mornings and white mountain peaks have definitely reminded us that winter is not over yet!

Almost across the board our early ewe scanning rates have been down—not surprising given the 'dry patch' last summer, and April ram date scanning has been pretty close to average. A kind winter so far with impressive growth rates in June has enabled many to play a bit of catch up and get things set for the next round of lambing.

Now is the time to review your lamb growth performance, and ensure you have a program in place to maximize growth rates to weaning and beyond. With lamb prices approaching record highs it is worth doing what you can to tweak lamb growth rates and maximize your farm returns. Also, no harm having bigger lambs to finish/sell earlier if the dry hits again.

The number of potential lambs you have for this season is now set. There are a few things you can do in the coming weeks to minimize wastage, however many drivers are already set in place or out of your control. The focus therefore should be firmly on maximizing the lamb growth rates. I think there are four key factors that influence and drive your lamb growth rate;

- Ewe milk production
- Pasture Quality
- Trace elements
- Larval Challenge and worm burden



Ewe milk production will be dictated by body condition, feeding level and larval challenge (plus genetics of course). Most have already made decisions around pre lamb treatments to reduce impact of larval challenge on the ewe, so will skip on from that one for now.

Pasture quality (apart from the quantity!) is not usually an issue until closer to, or most likely after, weaning in the summer months. Thinking ahead now to setting the farm up for lambs post weaning will pay dividends. We will talk more about pasture quality and the effect on lamb growth rates post weaning in the next newsletter.

B12 deficiency is something that can massively impact on growth rates in the young lamb. There is an increasing requirement for vitamin B12 as the lambs metabolism changes from being solely supported by mums milk through to a fully functional ruminant.

Whats Coming Up

Vitamin B12 is actually used in the ruminant to convert some of the fermentation by products into usable energy for the animal. What is more complicated is that the ruminant has to build its own vitamin B12 from cobalt in the rumen—something that young, developing animals are not very good at.

This means that even with decent soil/pasture levels of cobalt, it is not uncommon to see the negative effects of B12 deficiency (energy deficiency, poor growth rates) in lambs around the time of weaning (and remember that 'weaning' can occur 4-6 weeks prior to physical separation of lambs from ewes). On farms with low cobalt levels this can be more pronounced and extend well past the weaning phase.

Long story short: supplementing lambs around the weaning phase with vitamin B12 is a smart move. Many farms will benefit from supplementing them well past weaning too. If you are not going to see your lambs between tailing and weaning (for a pre wean drench etc), consider the use of a longer acting product like Smartshot Prime Lamb to see 'em through.

Lastly we have larval challenge as one of the key inhibitors of lamb growth. Like pasture quality, this is more often an issue post weaning when the lambs pasture intake jumps up. However, they will be picking up larvae well before weaning, and their undeveloped immune system means they are great hosts for the worms to multiply in—resulting in many more eggs being shed out onto the pasture for later on.

Nipping things in the bud through preventative drenching (ideally with a triple combo) is a smart move in most cases. On some properties this is best started 1 month pre weaning, others are fine to wait until weaning. Feel free to give us a call and discuss the best policy for your farm.

Scabby Mouth

What is Scabby Mouth? Scabby Mouth is a highly infectious viral disease of sheep that primarily causes distinctive scabs around the lips, mouth and surrounding skin of lambs—but can also affect the face, feet, and the udder of nursing ewes. While the disease generally doesn't result in death, the scabs around the mouth can make feeding difficult and painful therefore the reduction in growth rates can be dramatic. It is possible for the scabs to get bad enough that the mouth gets stuck together so badly that the lamb can starve to death.

-Scabby Mouth is zoonosis; which means it is transmissible to humans so take care when handling live vaccine or infected sheep.

-The primary mode of transmission is thought to be through contact with a virus that survives in scabs that have fallen off previously infected sheep. The virus can survive from one season to the next in woolsheds and in carrier animals, meaning once Scabby Mouth is present on a farm it is likely to reoccur each lambing season.

Vaccination: Generally you should vaccinate your lambs only if your property has a history of disease or if a vaccine has been used on the farm before. If the farm has no history of the virus the vaccine **MUST NOT** be used.

Effective control is achieved through vaccination of all lambs at docking. This involves applying the vaccine to the inner thigh or foreleg which leads to the development of a thin line of scabs to boost the immune system and protect against scabs around the mouth. If the scratch is too deep and bleeds, the blood can flush out the virus so the vaccination is ineffective. If the scratch is too shallow, the infection may not "take". Vaccinated lambs should always be checked in 1 to 2 weeks (a sample of about 10 lambs) to see that the vaccination has been effective.

UNSUCCESSFUL TAKE



SUCCESSFUL TAKE



We will have two different Scabby Mouth vaccines available for you to order: **Phenax Classic:** available a pack of 150 doses and **Scabiguard:** available in 250 dose pack.

Give us a call at the clinic to place an order.

Vaccinations

At this time of year with lambs running around — just a quick reminder about providing your ewes and lambs with the best protection against clostridial diseases.

Best practice is to vaccinate your ewes 2-4 weeks pre-lambing. The pre-lamb booster will trigger production of antibodies in the ewes' colostrum which the new born lambs are able to absorb when they begin suckling. These antibodies give passive protection for up to 12 weeks.

Unvaccinated ewes will not pass this protection on to their lambs, meaning the lambs are at a greater risk of Tetanus and pulpy kidney. If this is the case; lambs will need to be vaccinated using Lamb Vaccine to give immediate short term passive protection against Tetanus. This protection will last for 2—3 weeks and is recommended to be given at tailing.

Lambs should begin their vaccination programme well before the colostrum protection ends. The administration of Ultravac® 5in1 or Ultravac 5+1 B12 vaccine at 4-6 weeks, with a booster at 8-10 weeks will minimise the risk of losing lambs once the antibodies run out. Completing the initial vaccination course of two injections before or around weaning is essential as most lambs become susceptible to pulpy kidney at this time.



SMARTShot® B12 + Se is an innovative and easy to use long-acting vitamin B12 and selenium injection commonly used at docking to boost growth and maintain adequate Selenium and Vitamin B12 levels in your young, growing stock.

- Flexible treatment options (Lambs to be fattened—0.5ml for 3-4 months activity, Lambs as ewe replacements—1ml for 180 days activity)
- Long acting Selenium and B12 injection
- New Zealand made



Promotions

CYRAZIN SPRAY ON

An insect growth regulator that kills maggots by stopping their development. Cyromazine is a stable chemical that persists in the fleece to give residual protection for up to 6 weeks. It diffuses down the wool staple to provide continuous protection.

**SPECIAL PRICE & FREE APPLICATOR
WITH PURCHASE OF 10L CYRAZIN SPRAY ON
WHILE STOCK LASTS**



Eukanuba™ PREMIUM PERFORMANCE

Recommended for performance / working dogs; as dogs who have high levels of exercise through working and field trials need more than everyday nutrition to maintain peak health and stay at peak performance.

**Get \$10 off
Eukanuba Performance 20kg bags
until the end of August.**

Promotions

HELP YOUR LAMBS FLY WITH ULTRAVAC.



NOW WITH FUEL INJECTION.



Kick start your lambs by vaccinating with new Ultravac® 5+1 B12 or Ultravac 5+1 Se B12, and earn a chance to kick back on some fantastic outdoor furniture*



Outdoor furniture prize includes a large cantilever shade umbrella, fire pit, two folding chairs, a chilly bin and sun lounger. Total prize value approximately \$1000.

*Terms and conditions: Receive one entry into the prize draw with every 500 dose pack of Ultravac 5+1 (+- Selenium) in a single purchase.

Promotional period 1st August—10th November. Winners will be notified no later than 5pm, Friday 15th November 2019. The winners will be drawn at random; a winner cannot transfer or exchange the prize. See in clinic for details.



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