

## IN THIS ISSUE

## AUGUST

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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**

## Worm Watch

It has been a tough year so far, and the ewe mob has really had to work through the first half of the year.

We have seen reduced scanning rates for the second year in a row, and ewes are generally lighter around the district.

Unsurprisingly, we have seen very high worm burdens in adult ewes over the last month. A prolonged green drought followed by a bit of rain, a mild first half of winter and lower feeding levels has led to increased larval intakes. This coupled with a bit of nutritional stress can set up a big worm problem in the flock.

This year it will be very important to check worm burden (a faecal egg count) in the ewes prior to your planned set stocking treatments as it may influence what you do.

For instance, if we had a high worm burden in a mob of ewes that were set to get a Bionic capsule, we would recommend a good primer drench to knock out the existing parasites at the time of capsule administration.



Recommended  
primer drench

If we put a long acting treatment into a ewe with a high worm burden, we are placing a lot of pressure on the long acting treatment and increasing the risk for the development of resistance from a larger worm population.



We have some FEC collection kits at the clinic- you are welcome to drop in and grab one.

It is wise to sample each ewe management mob, and you really want 10 fresh samples from each group to get a good overview.

# Magnesium for Cattle

This year we could see an increase in Magnesium staggers in beef cows. A lot of farms have low feed covers now, and are not carrying forward the same quantity of 'autumn saved' feed as usual. This means cows will likely eat more spring grown feed +/- supplements.

Spring grown feed is fresh and comparatively lower in magnesium than autumn saved feed. It also tends to be lower in dry matter, compounding the issue.

The standard lactating beef cow requires around 2g of magnesium per day. Pasture levels will vary from 1-2.5g per kg of dry matter, and rumen absorption rates vary from 10-20%. This means if we fed our beef cow 10kg of dry matter (so 10 x 20L buckets of grass) of spring pasture (1g magnesium per kg of dry matter) our cow would get somewhere between 1-2g of magnesium into the system. Higher levels of potassium and nitrogen in the pasture will reduce the rumen absorption rate.

There is a bit of time to plan ahead and mitigate the risks. Of course supplementary feeding with baleage or similar is a great way to offset the spring deficit—if you are lucky enough to have plenty on hand. If things are going to be a bit marginal on the feeding front, ensuring adequate Magnesium intake can still be done. Dusting hay or baleage with Magnesium Oxide (Causmag) is a cheap and very effective method. The downside is that it takes a bit of time and you have to do it every day. Magnesium is not stored and mobilized from the body quickly so intakes need to be consistent to keep levels in the happy zone.

There are a couple of magnesium boluses now available on the market now, some last 30 days and others around 90 days. They do not provide the same amount of magnesium that you can get from dusting, but clearly the advantage is you can pop them and then send the cows out. They are useful in bridging the gap often found at this time of year.

**Remember that we can see magnesium staggers anywhere from pre calving up to mid lactation.**

Typically issues arise when the cow hits peak milk production, and it is often preceded by a few days of mucky weather. Feel free to give us a call and have a chat around the risks for your herd.

## Rumetrace Magnesium Capsules

- Capsule form administered to individual cattle
- Longest lasting form of Magnesium supplementation available for NZ cattle
- Sustained Mg release for 9 - 12 weeks
- Releases Mg exponentially at 1.5% per day
- Research validates consistent release over time
- New research with two capsules per animal
- Rumetrace brand exclusive to vets



Magnesium Sulphate injectable for immediate relief

# Rearing Calves?

The old adage prevention is better than cure is certainly true when it comes to calf rearing. Get prepared now!

Calf diarrhoea is the primary cause of death in calves from 2 to 30 days of age. Preventative measures provide great economical and animal health benefits.

The pathogens causing diarrhoea (viruses, bacteria and microscopic parasites) cause damage to the lining of the intestinal tract. Calf diarrhoea is usually caused by two or more of these pathogens working together



**OptiGuard** is effective in absorbing some of these scour causing pathogens, such as Rotavirus and E.coli as well as absorbing excess moisture in the digesta, thereby reducing the effects of diarrhoea.

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## Calves with Diarrhoea?

### DEHYDRATION SYMPTOMS AND LEVELS

| SKIN TENT TIME  | EYEBALL SUNKENNESS                          | MUCOUS MEMBRANES | DEHYDRATION LEVEL         | FLUID REQUIRED*     |
|-----------------|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1-4 seconds     | None/slight                                 | Moist            | <b>MILD</b><br>0-4%       | 4.5-6.5 litres/day  |
| 5-10 seconds    | Slight separation between eyeball and orbit | Tacky            | <b>MODERATE</b><br>5-8%   | 6.5-8.0 litres/day  |
| 11-15 seconds   | Up to 0.5 cm between eyeball and orbit      | Tacky            | <b>SERIOUS</b><br>9-10%   | 8.0-9.0 litres/day  |
| Over 15 seconds | 0.5-1.0 cm gap between eyeball and orbit    | Dry              | <b>SEVERE</b><br>Over 11% | Over 9.0 litres/day |

Most scours are milk / feeding related—new type of milk, different mixing rate, temperature etc.

If the calf has a high temperature or blood in faeces—it is likely caused by a bug, bring in a faecal sample or give us a call to organize a vet visit.

Calves with head tilts, swollen joints or respiratory issues, conjunctivitis all require a visit by one of our vets.

Calves that are scouring are losing body water, body salts and energy.

Whether the cause of the scours is infectious or nutritional the treatment is the same - replace the lost fluids and assist with maintaining the energy of the calf.

This is best done by giving oral electrolytes during the period of diarrhoea and recovery period.

Oral electrolytes themselves are lower in energy than milk, so milk feeding during the scouring period should be continued as much as possible. Milk should not be withheld for more than 24 hours.

### RECOMMENDED ELECTROLYTE THERAPY PROTOCOLS FOR SCOURS

#### MILD SCOURS



#### MODERATE TO SEVERE SCOURS





# Supplementation with Long Acting B12 + Selenium

Cobalt and selenium are well recognised as essential trace elements for successful sheep farming in New Zealand. Vitamin B12 injections are commonly used to ensure optimal growth of lambs, and selenium is often incorporated in regions with soil deficiencies.

While the greatest requirement is in lambs, there are also niches for injectable B12 in hoggets and adult sheep, and to a lesser extent cattle, and a need for selenium in both species. There are many options for supplementation, including short and long-acting products as well as combinations with other treatments such as vaccines or drenches.

Young, growing lambs are most susceptible to deficiency as they have the highest B12 requirements of any stock class, at the same time of year that cobalt levels are lowest in their diet. This can mean that production limiting deficiency can be seen in lambs even where soils are not deficient.



New Zealand research has proven that in NZ conditions vitamin B12 injections can last as little as 4 weeks in deficient lambs.

**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.

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



## Calf Rearing Supplies



**Diarrest™** provides energy and replaces electrolytes to reverse dehydration and treat acidosis in calves, lambs and foals with severe scours. Can be mixed with milk or water without interfering with the clotting of milk proteins.

This season, \$1 from every box of **Revive™** and/or **Diarrest™** sold will be donated to Rural Women New Zealand. The donation will fund the Virbac & Rural Women New Zealand Animal Health Study Grant, available to women studying in the veterinary or vet nursing field with special consideration given to those who choose to live and work in small or rural communities.

**ScourSTOP** therapy should be commenced immediately loose faeces become apparent.

Where diarrhoea is endemic ScourSTOP therapy may begin where calves first lose appetite.

During the course of ScourSTOP no other food or oral medication should be given. Most calves will drink readily when offered prepared ScourSTOP from a bucket.

