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SPRING IS HERE!

With the dry winter it has been nice to get a decent top up of rain in the last few weeks which will help pasture growth into spring to meet the high demands. From an animal health perspective we have seen worm issues in trade lambs and ewes post lambing along with lice in both sheep and cattle. We have put some relevant articles together to highlight the importance of preventative animal health along with new products and a mini health calendar. If you have any queries or need to ask any advice on animal health please don't hesitate to call.

CASE STUDY: TWO TOOTH EWE ABORTIONS

The clinic recently had a property with a mob of 420 pregnant two-tooth ewes which had no history of vaccination. Twenty-four ewes had aborted over the last few weeks with late fully formed lambs. There was no history of crops or toxin exposure, the weather was calm and settled.

A full autopsy of two lambs was conducted including the placenta. The microbiology results showed a growth of *Campylobacter*. Abortions with *Campylobacter* usually occur during the last six weeks of pregnancy but can also be seen as early neonatal losses. The infection is transmitted by ingestion of contaminated feed or water or by direct contact with aborted fetuses. Birds have also been implicated as possible mechanical vectors to spread infection.

Control at the time of abortion outbreak is based on preventing access of animals to infection (areas with aborted fetuses and areas with contamination). Prevention is very effective with vaccination with Campyvax 4 prior to mating and is recommended to be given annually in higher risk areas. Studies have shown a 5-10% increase in scanning results in two tooth's vaccinated for *Campylobacter* verses unvaccinated.

This case highlights the importance of routine vaccination of ewes especially maiden ewes for *Campylobacter* infection but if there is a high risk then mixed age ewes should also be done annually.



"I wouldn't get lost all the time if the shepherd would let me use his GPS navigator."

Spring Promotions

- Christmas hams - Boehringer qualifying products from Nov 1 until Christmas
- Boss and Turbo Cattle drench - Wet weather Jacket and Over trouser Bibs
- Cyrazin KO 5L - \$30 grocery voucher every purchase
- Cyrex Liquid 20L - Leatherman Wingman Multi-tool

NEW DROUGHT INDICATOR WEB APP

There has been a recently developed web app for Hawkes Bay farmers to access via the HB Regional Council. This app is to help build drought awareness and resilience in the community, by providing farmers with a pulse check on the key climatic conditions on their farm and the wider area, and support their planning for dry conditions.

"For farmers in this area, we would be recommending that they put together a feed budget and a plan for drought, and access the support of primary sector organisations if required"

To access the tool, go to hbrc.govt.nz and search #drought app.





DO WE NEED TO TEST, WHY NOT JUST SUPPLEMENT?

An important part of your animal health requirements is providing the optimum level of trace minerals to ensure good animal health and production. Correct supplementation requires a sound diagnosis of both mineral sufficiency and deficiency. If the balance is not correct (either too much or too little) there could be sub optimal performance and ill thrift or on the other hand ineffective or unnecessary use of minerals, both of which affect overall income.

Spring is a good time to be testing both cattle and sheep herds mineral status. Usually we would recommend testing copper, selenium and cobalt status, and sometimes zinc and iodine in dairy herds. Copper storage levels in particular deplete over the winter, due to reduced pasture copper levels and/or increased copper antagonists, reduced intakes and increased copper demand.

Blood testing

This is quick and easy and is generally done from 4 to 15 animals. It is an excellent indicator of both cobalt and selenium status in the animals tested which in turn is a close reflection of farm status. Blood testing for copper has some limitations around predicting future requirements. Blood copper levels only fall after the liver reserves have become exhausted so "normal" blood levels don't tell you how much copper is "left in the tank". Therefore, liver copper analysis is a more accurate way to predict future needs.

Liver testing at the works

Liver samples can be collected from animals being slaughtered including cull cows and ewes. A liver sample submission form must accompany the stock truck driver along with Animal Status Declaration forms. The forms can be collected from the clinic prior to animals being sent and a copy returned to us to email off to the slaughter premise prior to the stock leaving the property. Typically, we recommend five samples of each mineral for testing from the line being killed.

Liver testing on farm

This sounds invasive but with adequate facilities is relatively straight forward and only requires a very small incision made in the left flank. This type of testing can be performed if either of the above forms is not going to be indicated due to either testing limitations or stock not being killed.



Upcoming health reminders

Drenching:

- Lambs/ewes and calves use effective combination drenches and strategic drenches when required while maintaining "refugia" within the overall system. Monitor faecal egg counts and seek advice from your vet around appropriate drench choices.

Dipping:

- Lice (May –Sept) shearing removes 90%
- Ticks (August-Dec)
- Fly (Oct - onwards)

Vaccinations:

- Clostridial 5 in 1 (docking, weaning)
- Scabigard (Lambs)
- BVD (cattle pre-mating)
- Pinkeye (young cattle Sept-Nov)
- Lepto (calves 4-10wks of age)
- Salmonella (calves, ewes)
- Toxo & Campy (sheep prior to 1st mating)

Minerals:

- Copper/Selenium (pre-mating & growth)
- B12/Cobalt (lambs - docking/weaning)

Testing:

- Faecal egg counts (pre/post drench)
- Mineral checks (bloods and livers)
- Bull service test/ram palpation

Special Offers on Flea Products for Working Dogs

Seresto Collars \$10 off until end of November

Simparica - 10 to 20kg & 20 to 40kg, 5 week chew 15% off

Bravecto - 20 to 40kg, 3 month chew 15% off



HOT NEW PRODUCT: Marks-Min® ZMSC with B12

Marks-Min Injectable Trace Mineral With Vitamin B12 for Cattle is a trace mineral injection for cattle that contains the trace minerals copper, manganese, zinc and selenium along with vitamin B12, which are required for **optimal** health, production and fertility.

When animals dip into their reserves, as they commonly do in NZ's mineral deficient pasture, we start to see reduced growth & milk production, more disease, and decreased reproductive performance. The periods of most stress include mating, calving and early lactation, drying off, weaning, and transport. Supplementing with trace minerals attempts to mitigate the effects of physiological stress and its consequences.

We all know that there are baseline levels of trace elements where if animals drop under them it has negative impacts. We also know the upper levels where if we overdo it you see toxicities. Recently, people have started researching the other level in between the upper and lower limits, where if you exceed that; production peaks. This is the level we wish to achieve. Your animals may not show any clinical disease, but may still benefit greatly from supplementation.

The optimal times for supplementation are in calves in first 24 hours, this halves the chance of contracting diarrhoea, navel infections and pneumonia. In cows pre-calving we see reduced stillbirths, less endometritis which in turn increased in-calf rates by 3.3%. Sub optimal trace mineral and vitamin B12 status at calving, mating and drying off has been shown to negatively impact production, reproduction and health. Optimizing trace element status relying solely on oral supplements may fail as a result of variation in individual intake and reduced absorption because of antagonism of other ration components and minerals to these essential trace elements.

Whether you want the most resilient calves possible, or just **optimised** peak production across the board; get in touch now with one of our production animal vets to discuss your farms needs and create an animal health plan that matches the products that will be best suited to help you get the most out of your animals.



MORE COVERAGE. LESS EFFORT.

It's about time someone started thinking like a farmer.

World first combination for:



Worm Parasites



Coccidiosis



TURBO® CATTLE DRENCH PROGRAMME



STAGE 1
TURBO® Initial
Oral Drench



STAGE 2
TURBO® Advance
Oral Drench



STAGE 3
TURBO® Pour On
or Injection

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