

September 2019

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Dargaville  
Veterinary Centre



## Wormwise Series #8— Breeding sheep that need less drench

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

*When breeding for a characteristic, increased selection pressure will result in more rapid change being made (applies both to livestock and parasites)*

*Breeding for a single trait leads to more rapid change than breeding for a combination of traits*

Yes – you did see the same wormwise principles in the last newsletter, but they applied to worms. This month it's time to think about our livestock animals. Sheep probably get the most attention in this area, but exactly the same principles will

apply for cattle.

When we consider sheep that require less drench there are two schools of thought:

- Resilient sheep – the sheep immune system does not attempt to remove worms from the gut; mounting an immune response leads to a production cost

- Resistant sheep – the sheep immune system is better at removing worms so there are less worms in the gut

Practically most of the genetic progress in your flock will be coming from your rams. When

buying rams consider:

- Drench use policy on the stud for ALL sheep
- What do the rams look like? - do they tick all the right boxes
- Has the breeder been aiming for resistant sheep or resilient sheep?
- What measures does the breeder base selection on?



Wormwise is a national worm management strategy

## Editorial

Spring is officially here – hopefully that means the challenges with feed quantity and quality we have been seeing are behind us. Thank you to the eager crossword fans out there, it appears that you might be a minority; enjoy your prizes. Congratulations also to Bob Steed, Mark

Southee & Nigel Gravatt who won a super mini booster for buying Bionic capsules.

If you have an older working dog, make sure you read our article on arthritis in working dogs – and make the most of our offer on Trocoxil. Also for anyone who is giving vaccina-

tions or other injections to cattle (or sheep) make sure you read up on correct injection technique – it's not uncommon for us to see the results of poor injection technique.

Sarah Bird

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### Special points of interest:

- Get your free chilly bag with Ultravac 5 + 1 while stocks last
- Kids: enter the colouring competition and win some great prizes!
- Look after your farm dogs, get them checked out for arthritis

## Transport Of Pregnant Cattle: A Timely Reminder

By: Don Thomas, BVSc BSc

The rule of thumb for transporting pregnant animals, is it must **not** be transported within 24 hours of calving, and only a Fitness for Transport Veterinary Certificate can prevent a prosecution in this instance. It is very unlikely a veterinary certificate will be issued in this instance any way.

We must also be aware that there are potential obligations of transporting of pregnant animals within a month of calving, This issue has been raised as significant animals are being culled due to Mycoplasma bovis. The transport stress and welfare of animals going to freezing works or traveling long distances (from run offs) etc must be considered prior to trucking. There is potential for transport companies and farmers still to be prosecuted if the animal is transported within a month of her calving

date, especially if things go wrong.

Always ask yourself the question "is the welfare of the animal at risk?". If yes or un-sure talk to your vet.



Transporting heavily pregnant cows can be a welfare issue

## Drenching Guidelines For Calves And Lambs

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

There are a lot of similarities in drenching young animals be it lambs or calves. Some guidelines are as follows:

- Animals that haven't started eating much grass will have very few worms – wait until stock are eating reasonable quantities of grass before you start drenching them. Drenching calves as they leave calf sheds is a waste of time

- Use a triple combination product wherever possible – drench resistance means that using a single active or even a double combination product may not kill all the worms present. To drench with a triple combination product means using an oral drench
- Make sure that you use a triple combination containing Ivermectin NOT abamectin in your youngest stock – they are very susceptible to abamectin

poisoning. This means that no pour-on product should be used in calves under 120kg. - Young lambs are most likely to be infected by tapeworm. To kill tapeworm you need a product containing praziquantel – check the drench actives.

We recommend IverMatrix Tape® for drenching young lambs and IverMatrix Calf for any calves under 120kg in weight.

Use a triple combination product whenever possible on calves and lambs

## Calling All Artists and Their Ag Day Lambs Or Goats

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

This year we are running an Ag Day themed colouring competition for primary school age children. There are some good prizes on offer including movie tickets for a child and adult so make sure you call in and pick up your entry from the clinic.

If you have Ag day lambs or goats this year, we are again offering free docking and vaccinations. All animals will get a pain relief injection for free– we understand that docking is

painful. Make sure you come and see us with your pets – we always enjoy seeing them.



Pick up an entry form for the colouring completion today!

## Bionic Monitoring

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

If you used Bionic® capsules in some of your ewes pre lambing, it will be time soon to take some samples for Bionic® monitoring. We will need to identify which ewes were treated and take samples from these ewes approximately 70 days after the capsules went in.

Remember as part of Boehringer Ingelheim's product stewardship, they are offering free monitoring of bionic capsules – this comprises egg counts from 10 faecal samples from treated ewes and if we identify any eggs present, a larval culture will also be performed to identify which worm species are present.

The results of monitoring will give you valuable information about anthelmintic resistance on your farm as well as help guide decisions for future drench use.

If you have used Bionic® on your farm this year, we will be in contact regarding sampling of ewes. Alternatively please phone us at the clinic to arrange a time.



Your sheep may not be that happy about it but doing Bionic Monitoring is an important step in worm control

## Rearing Calves– Part 2

By: Suzannah Taylor, BVSc

During calf rearing some important animal health procedures should be done, these include disbudding, castration and Coccidia prevention. Disbudding regulations change October 1<sup>st</sup> from this point on it will be illegal to disbud or dehorn cattle of all ages without using pain relief. Regardless of the legislation it has been shown that the increased growth rates achieved by disbudding early using pain relief outweighs the small extra cost. Calves should be disbudded between 2-6wks of age,

as vets we sedate all calves, give a local anaesthetic block, use a hot iron to remove the horn bud and provide a topical antibiotic. The cost is \$9.90/calf, a small investment to both benefit the calves and save you problems later on.

Calves can be castrated with a rubber ring at the same time as disbudding, remember castration must be done before three months of age. Protection against Coccidia, a parasite

Increased growth rates are achieved  
by disbudding early

that damages the intestines causing decreased growth rates and scouring, should also be given. Many calf meals contain a coccidiostat however calves need to be eating 1-2kg meal/head/day for this to be effective. An alternative is to give them a

one off drench of Baycox C which gives 6 weeks protection.



## Ultravac 5+1 - Exclusively For Sheep

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

You may have seen the Ultravac 5+1 range advertised – it's here at Dargaville Vets. Remember it covers your five most common clostridial diseases, CLA and also contains B12 or B12 and selenium making it a good option for vaccinating lambs. If you purchase two or more packs (1000 doses), you will get a free chilly bag to take you vaccine home in but be quick because we have limited numbers.



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## Importance Of Correct Injection Technique

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Many injectable products will state the product should be given into the anterior half of the neck in food producing animals. While it is often more convenient to not give the product into the neck there are good reasons for following the instructions. Injection into the rump muscle can result in:

- Damage to the sciatic nerve leading to lameness and paralysis. Studies have shown that 69% of injections in this area are placed to within 5cm of the sciatic nerve with greater risk in smaller or poorer conditioned animals. Higher injection volumes also carry more risk of inadvertent nerve damage.
- Injection site lesion in your prime rump steak. A UK study found injection site lesions in 4.1% of beef cattle, with 47% of these occurring in the rump. However, the majority of these were old lesions – injection at any time point can have the potential to cause an injection site lesion that could be present at slaughter.

Large volumes injected into the tail fold region (subcutaneous administration) have been reported to cause deaths of animals over a prolonged period due to compression of the urethra and subsequent bladder rupture occurring. Killing your stock by drenching them is never a goal.

While we recommend reading the instructions carefully and injecting appropriately we know that health and safety of the injector is important. Try and follow the recommendations but ALWAYS make sure you are safe.

Neck can be trimmed off more easily AND cuts are of lower value.

## The Silent Enemy Slowly Crippling Your Working Dog...

By: Andy David, BVSc

Degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis or just plain arthritis, its impact is the same on your working dog. It is a disease of inflamed joints and is brought on by many different factors, not least of which is lifestyle- active working dogs are more prone to the disease than less active dogs.

Arthritis has a huge impact on both working ability and on the quality of life of the affected dog. It is a progressive condition- initial signs are subtle but over time insidiously worsen to become obvious. It is common for the signs of arthritis to be simply attributed to 'old age' – in part this may be true but in doing so, a valuable opportunity to treat the disease is lost.

Typical symptoms include difficulty in rising after rest, lack of endurance when working or limping after exercise. When advanced joints may become thickened and stiff.

Treatment of the condition has im-

proved hugely in terms of efficacy, safety, impact on the arthritic joint itself and treatment convenience. This can all contribute to keeping a dog in work which would have had to otherwise retire to a life of uncomfortable inactivity.

If your working dog seems to be slowing up a bit and reluctant to work, come and see as at

Dargaville Vets- we have the knowledge and experience to get those older legs up and running again!

**For the month of September only we have a special deal for any dogs newly prescribed Trocoxil – buy the first treatment and get the second treatment for free.**



Trocoxil could keep your working dog going for longer