

November 2019

Open 8am-5pm Weekdays

9am-12pm Saturdays

After Hours: 021 403 301



Dargaville Veterinary Centre



Getting Calf Weaning Right

By: Suzannah Taylor, BVSc

Weaning can seem like a relief, one less job to do, no more calves to feed! But don't be deceived, if you would like well grown calves they still need lots of tender love and care:

- **Sufficient meal to aid transition onto grass:** at minimum 1 -2kg/calf/day for at least three weeks then slowly reduce over three weeks, longer if there isn't good quantity and quality of grass available.

- **Appropriate drenching:** Once eating grass young stock should be drenched every 28 days with a multi-action drench such as Ivermatrix calf

or Eclipse.

- **Protection against Coccidia:** coccidiostats are contained in some meals; this can vary greatly so Baycox C is a good preventative and only one dose is needed.

- **Clostridial vaccinations:** a 7in1 or Covexin depending on farm history; don't forget the booster vaccination 4 weeks later.

The best way to ensure your calves are growing well and notice any problems early is to weigh animals at weaning and then monthly. At Dargaville Vets we know this is key to

ensure good stock but also understand it is easier said than done when there is the demands of running a farm. We do offer a weighing service, please give us a call if you are interested in this.



Well weaned calves won't suffer a growth check

Dargaville Veterinary Centre Ltd

The Meat Pack

Editorial

Christmas is just around the corner and so is our Christmas party – save the date for December 5! The Christmas Ham promotion is running again but sadly this may be the last year for hams so make sure you don't miss out. Our annual dog vaccination run is also coming up; if you want to be

added to the dog vaccination run please call us at the clinic.

This month also sees the end of our regular Wormwise series; we hope you are a bit more familiar with some important principles and have some more tools to help you manage worms on your farm.

Sometimes it's a struggle to think of newsletter topics so please let me know if you have any ideas.

Sarah Bird

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Special points of interest:

- Anthelmintics used in combination can delay the onset of resistance
- Start thinking about Toxovax and Campyvax now
- Get your rams tested now to be set for tupping

Vaccinations For Working Dogs

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Annual health checks and vaccinations for your working dog are a vital way of helping ensure their health; remember many of the diseases that we vaccinate dogs for can be fatal even with treatment. Every dog vaccinated by us will be protected against leptospirosis as well as parvovirus, infectious hepatitis, distemper and parainfluenza. Your dog's annual health check is also an important time to make sure there are no health issues requiring treatment and to discuss any concerns you may have. Treating problems early helps ensure your dog can be back to normal sooner and we can expect a better result. Expect a call from us soon to arrange a time. If we missed you last year please let us know so we can include your dog this year.

As we are fast approaching summer we can expect to see more fleas and ticks around so it's time to make sure you're treating your dogs to prevent a huge flea problem in a few months. Be in to win an awesome Swannndri pack with any Bravecto purchase for your farm dog in November.



Bzzzz Bzzzz Bzzzz– It's The Sound Of Approaching Flies

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Fly season hasn't started yet but given our very mild winter, it might not be very far away. Right now you should be planning how you are going to get a head start on the flies. Unfortunately the Aussie Green Blowfly is quite happy to lay eggs in clean wool. New Zealand studies have shown that most ewe hoggets that get struck will fail to get in lamb due to a decrease in appetite when they should be gaining

weight before tupping. The reproductive performance of adult ewes will also be affected, making fly strike an expensive problem.

Ewe hoggets that get struck will fail to get in lamb

There are a huge number of fly products available but the length of action of any fly product will depend on fly pressure. Remember, if you are not getting the results you expect give us a call – fly resistance to some of the actives does occur or your application method might need some revision.



Correct Dose? Or An Underdose/Overdose?

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Have you checked your drench gun recently? If you haven't you could be wasting drench or aiding the development of drench resistance on your farm by underdosing. We have had situations where the drench gun was only delivering half the dose, there were huge numbers of eggs present on a drench check and the lambs weren't growing well. If you are going to drench your stock, you want to do it right.

When you check your drench gun check:

- Correct volume (using the drench you plan to use). Put 10 doses into a measuring cylinder
- For rough edges that could damage mouths

For November and December all oral drench that we sell will come with a measuring cylinder – Please use it!



Getting the dose right is very important for drench efficacy and safety

Some Missing Lambs At Docking?

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

You have probably just finished docking lambs. But did your ewes perform as well as they should have? Vaccinating your ewes for toxoplasma and campylobacter is an important step in making sure that your flock is not missing opportunities to perform at their best.

Most ewe flocks in New Zealand have campylobacter and toxoplasma present, but this doesn't mean that every ewe has an adequate immunity to prevent abortions occurring. By assuming that your ewes will develop their own immunity you are leaving the timing of any exposure to chance and that chance could mean lost lambs.

While tupping seems like a long time away, it is time to start thinking about when you need your Toxovax® and Campyvax®.

Remember that Toxovax for your hoggets or two toothts must be given four weeks before tupping and it is preferable that your ewes have received their annual Campyvax booster before tupping also.

We are here to answer any questions you have so please give us a call.



What was your docking percentage this year?

Reminder Of New Animal Welfare Regulations

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Remember new regulations regarding disbudding and dehorning of cattle came into effect on 1 October 2019. This means:

- Calves less than six weeks of age will need local anaesthetic for disbudding. Anyone who is appropriately trained to administer local anaesthetic can do this
- After six weeks of age, the horn bud

Local anaesthetic is now required for any disbudding/dehorning at any age

has developed sufficiently where there is adherence to the skull and it is now considered dehorning. Removing this tissue is considered a surgical procedure.

Only veterinarians are able to carry out dehorning

Please contact us if you have any questions about disbudding or dehorning.



Rams– Vital But Often Neglected

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Ram sales are just about upon us so it's definitely time to think about your rams. Every year we see rams with problems that will reduce their fertility leading to emergency ram buying missions. Unfortunately Brucella ovis is still around and can spread rapidly in a ram flock. Skinny rams with testicular atrophy (hence reduced fertility) are also common but it is impossible to judge body condition under a few months of wool; if you find out that half

your rams are too thin a week before tupping starts, the chances are you won't have a very good start to tupping!

We recommend that all rams are palpated to check for abnormalities and blood tested for Brucella ovis; cryptorchid rams do get sold and other serious abnormalities can develop later in life. Ideally rams should be checked every year. Be organised and book your rams in now – save yourself a mad dash to buy rams leftover from the sales.



Protecting Your Herd: Make Sure That Service Bull Is BVD Negative

By: Don Thomas, BVSc BSc

Service bulls are introduced into cow or heifer mobs for the mating period. This coincides with the highest BVD risk period – early pregnancy.

Up to 1% of the adult bull population are persistently infected BVD carriers, although some groups of bulls have a much higher prevalence.

PI breeding bulls will disseminate BVD virus by direct contact, via secretions and excretions (including saliva, mucous, urine and faeces) and also by venereal transmission. If a PI bull joins a naïve mob of cows or heifers, adverse BVD impacts may occur in 'outbreak' proportions with large fertility losses, abortions and PI calf drops.

All new bulls before coming onto the farm should be BVD tested (blood or ear notch) and vaccinated -accept nothing less. A veterinary certificate should state:

- when BVD tested
- clearly identifies the bulls tested-via some form of tag or eid
- vaccination history and when the next vaccination is due
- copy of actual results

All service bulls should receive an annual BVD vaccination to prevent transient BVD infections.

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Wormwise– Delaying Drench Resistance

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Anthelmintics used in combination can delay the onset of resistance.

We know that anthelmintics when used in combination can delay the development of worm resistance – if three drench families are used in combination, the worms have to develop resistance to all three at the same time. Modelling studies have shown it takes the worms much longer if they have to develop resistance to multiple drenches at the same time than if they develop drench resistance to each individual product sequentially. However, we also know that if a switch to combination products is the only thing that changes on a farm regarding drench use, drench resistance will continue to develop.

To avoid this we need to think about the whole farm system; what can you do to minimise your requirement for drench on farm? One really simple way of using less drench on your

farm is by having less young stock – can you grow your lambs faster by using a crop? Can you sell some store (pick the smallest ones that you are going to struggle to finish)? How will you manage refugia (worms unexposed to drench) on your farm? The newest Wormwise handbook has lots of useful information so make sure you have a read.



Using triple drenches slows down anthelmintic resistance