



our quality-focused veterinary care for your farm

THE meat pack

Dargaville Vets

Drench Checks:

FEBRUARY
2020

Make them an annual thing

You should consider a drench check as part of a review of your overall farm health. Without knowing the resistance status on your farm, we are only guessing at what you should be using.



Many people are convinced that they don't have drench resistance on their farm because their stock look good and are growing well. Unfortunately, by the time you have ill thrift stock due to worm resistance, the horse has well and truly bolted. The sooner you find out that there is drench resistance on your farm, the sooner you can take steps to mitigate the problem and prevent it getting worse.

Managing drench resistance requires a long-term plan.

Drench checks are easy to complete – ten fresh samples taken ten days after their last drench. Samples should be warm when collected and if you can't bring them in on the same day, keep them in the fridge to stop the eggs from hatching. If you can't collect the samples at exactly day ten, it is better to sample a few days early than a few days late.

Worms in cattle are just as likely to develop drench resistance and a drench check is just the same, although if you are using a pour-on drench for your cattle, collect the samples 13-14 days after drenching.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2020

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020. Hopefully you managed some time away from the farm to recharge. We are excited to introduce our new vet, Annie, from Murdoch University in Perth. Please make her feel welcome when you see her.

You will see we have a new format for this newsletter, so if you have any feedback or suggestions please let me know. If the text is too small, or you like the new layout tell us! Also if you have a topic that you would really like covered we are always open to suggestions.

If you haven't done a drench check on your sheep or cattle plan to do one following your next drench. If you have any questions about how to go about a drench check please ask.



LUNGWORM

It's not uncommon for us to get phone calls about young animals coughing, struggling to breathe and dying and discover the culprit is lungworm. Often calves are reared in the same paddock year after year leading to a worm buildup in the environment. Calves pick up larvae from grazing pasture, which travel from the gut, through the body to the lungs.

Presence of the lungworm in the airways, along with inflammation and increases in mucous production causes coughing. The lifecycle is completed when the eggs laid by the adult lungworm are coughed up and swallowed, with the first stage larvae passing out in the faeces.

Fortunately treatment of lungworm is easy – use of an effective drench at 28 day intervals is adequate. Pour-on products do typically have a persistent activity against lungworm and can be particularly useful in animals showing signs of lungworm.

What do poor growth rates and ticks have in common? – It could be... **THEILERIA**



You may have recently brought calves onto your farm or are about to – Theileria could have a big impact on these calves in the next few months. Before you buy those cheaper South Island calves, consider how much their decreased growth rates and any deaths will cost you.

Theileria is caused by a parasite of the red blood cells which is carried by ticks. The parasite causes destruction of the red blood cells leading to affected animals becoming lethargic and severely affected animals may die. Growth rates may be significantly decreased for a prolonged period associated with theileria. Studies have shown a decrease in growth rates of 0.2kg per day over several weeks in

calves that are not showing signs of theileria. Local data suggests you will lose 0.4kg per day of growth when animals are showing signs of theileria.

As the majority of Northland-born cattle have immunity to theileria and are rarely affected, we recommend not buying calves from outside of Northland, particularly from the South Island due to the effects of Theileria on these

cattle. If you do choose to buy calves from other parts of the country, it is a good idea to treat them for ticks when they arrive. This will mean that their exposure to significant numbers of theileria parasites will not coincide with the stress of trucking and mob changes and hopefully reduce the severity of disease in affected animals. Aim to minimise stress as much as possible to reduce effects of theileria in your stock.

Animal Welfare Update: Animals with horns

Animals with horns can cause serious injury to other animals or to people, especially around the time of transport.

Usually when animals have the tips of the horns within the ear margins, they have been accepted for transport. As there are no guarantees on this, we recommend getting any animals with horns dehorned well before transportation.

If you are buying in weaner calves, we recommend that you only buy calves that have already been disbudded or are naturally polled.

When buying in calves at four days old, make sure that you get them disbudded before six weeks of age. We are able to train you to use local anaesthetic for this but calves must be under six weeks of age. There may be some calves last season that slipped through the gaps so we will be offering dehorning of 2019 born animals at a discounted rate during the months of February and March only. Contact us at the clinic for more information



Don't forget Campyvax®

Campylobacter is present on 88% of sheep farms but not every ewe has a protective level of antibodies so abortions may still occur, typically in the last six weeks of pregnancy.



Following vaccination of your flock there will be on average a 9% increase in lambing percentage but for mixed age ewes this may be closer to 15%. When vaccinating sheep for the first time for campylobacter, two vaccinations should be given four weeks apart. Like most vaccinations, Campyvax® requires an annual booster vaccination and it's best to make sure your ewes are fully vaccinated before tugging.

Remember, for a flock of 1000 ewes, you only need an extra 11 lambs to cover the cost of vaccination for the entire flock.

Sheep & Cattle

Watch out for Pinkeye

Unfortunately, summer is the most common time to see pinkeye in both cattle and sheep. Dusty conditions, pollen in the grass and flies all make spread of the disease more likely.

Affected animals have tear staining on their face and the eye may be reddened and the surface cloudy. In some cases, the animal may become blind and severe ulceration may result in rupture of the eyeball.

It is recommended to treat animals that have pinkeye as this will reduce the likelihood of lasting eye damage. Because the bacteria that cause pinkeye in cattle are different to those causing pinkeye in sheep, it is important to pick the

correct antibiotics; talk to us about what is the best option.

Generally, **Orbenin Eye Ointment®** is used for cases of pinkeye in cattle. There is a vaccine available for cattle to protect against pinkeye. It is best used before any period of challenge but can be useful in the face of an outbreak, especially in extensive situations where you may not be seeing your cattle every day.



Check out the podcast on Facial Eczema; while this podcast is focused on dairy cattle, all of the same principles apply.

"The cost of Facial Eczema"

<https://www.animalhealth.org.nz/>



5 Key Points for Facial Eczema

Facial Eczema Spores

Toxic facial eczema spores grow in warm, humid conditions in dead matter of ryegrass. This means severity of facial eczema can vary year to year depending on weather conditions as well as farm to farm.

Liver Damage and Sunburn

Facial eczema spores cause damage to the bile ducts and secondary photosensitization (sunburn). For every animal with signs of sunburn, many more will have liver damage that will effect milk production and growth.

Count Spores Now

Spore counting is a great way to know what is happening on your farm. All we need is a bread bag full of grass. Spore counts over 40,000 are considered dangerous but lower levels for prolonged periods also cause problems.

Prevent Damage with Zinc

Treating with zinc prevents spores causing damage in the liver and may be put in water troughs but animals must have no other source of water. Zinc boluses such as **FaceGuard** are an excellent option for sheep & cattle

Use Genetics to your Advantage

Genetic tolerance to facial eczema has made huge steps in sheep breeding. Consider it a must when selecting your rams for replacement stock. Breeding for facial eczema tolerance is just beginning in cattle – watch this space.

Pre Tup Ewe Drenching

We know that most of our ewes will be carrying a few worms coming up to tugging and, you might have a tail end mob that need a helping hand – part of this might be a pre tup drench. Drenching pre-tup removes the worm burden, helping ewes to put on condition as they approach tugging. Clostantel (in Genesis Ultra) has very good efficacy against barbers pole making it a good option for mixed age ewes pre tup as well as killing any liver fluke that are present, and could be contributing factor to poor condition in your tail end ewes.

Readers Pic

In each newsletter we aim to print a readers photo - it doesn't need to be farming related so if you would like to see your photo here, please email it to sarah@dargavillevets.co.nz with a quick blurb about the photo.



Photo: Taken by Sarah Bird at Harris Saddle, Routeburn track, Aorangi/ Fiordland National Parks (Harris Saddle is the divide between the two national parks).

Fly Season is Here: PREVENT FLYSTRIKE

There have already been a lot of flies hanging around and it's looking like it is shaping up to be a damaging fly season.



Remember many ewe hoggets that get struck will not get in lamb as their appetites are decreased at a time when they need to be gaining weight for tugging. Even if you aren't planning on hogget mating, you want them to be growing at their best.

There are a huge number of fly products available but the length of action of any fly product will depend on fly pressure. Fly resistance to some of the actives does occur so give us a call if you aren't getting the protection you expect.

Staff Spotlight:

Introducing Annie

Annie is a new graduate from Murdoch University, who has just started working with us at Dargaville Vets.

I have recently moved to Dargaville from Perth, to work as a mixed animal vet. I am looking forward to meeting with you, either on your farm or in the clinic. I have really enjoyed my first week, becoming familiar with the area and learning from my lovely new work colleagues.

Outside of work, I enjoy playing the guitar and ukulele, surfing and playing social sports. I am looking forward to exploring some of your beautiful beaches and forests.



Dargaville Veterinary Centre

