

'New' protocols for Deer Drenching: Some Reminders

Recent trials highlighted serious concerns about parasite resistance to moxidectin in deer. They also emphasised the need for management changes to protect drenches and control parasites.



- Ostertagia- type worms are the concern, they reduce the profitability of deer farming, so resistance will worsen the problem.
- Use of pour on drench is not advisable.
- Sustained drench effectiveness requires a triple combination of injectable moxidectin (at the sheep and cattle dose) used *simultaneously* with oral white (oxfendazole) and clear (levamisole) combinations.

These recommendations have featured in the farming press recently. They raise some safety and with holding period concerns.

In short; drenches and dose rates *not registered for use* in deer are needed. The proportions required in the ideal mix do not occur in any one drench preparation.

Risks of these recommendations

- Standard cattle/sheep label doses for oxfendazole are NOT adequate for deer. High doses of levamisole ARE toxic to livestock especially young animals, those in poorer body condition, dehydrated animals and those held off food.
- The *Dose rates* are off- label and therefore **THE DEFAULT WITHHOLDING PERIOD OF 91 days applies**. Veterinarians do have limited ability to alter withholding periods in certain circumstances but given the extra-label use of such products, farmers will need to fully accept the risks and responsibilities associated with their use.
- Drench to the heaviest in the mob UNLESS there is a large variation in liveweight. If so, tailor accordingly – not to do so is to increase risks of toxicity.

The Drench Cocktail

1. Moxidectin Injection (Cydectin Injection or Exodus Injection) at **1ml/50** kg liveweight. Give this by subcutaneous injection!
2. Oral drench of *Oxfen C Plus* and an oral drench of *Oxfen C*. Use the above trade names (rather than analogues) because they have the most *compatible* mixing properties. Mix the *Oxfen C Plus* and *Oxfen C* **IN EQUAL PARTS** and give the mixture orally at a dose rate of **1ml/5kg**.

DO THIS ON A MIX AND USE BASIS, don't leave the cocktail between episodes of drenching and

DO THIS ON A MIX AND USE BASIS, don't leave the cocktail between episodes of drenching and always mix really well before use.

The closing note: Ultimately, the long term sustainability of deer farming will require implementation of the principles that we apply in other species: above all, maintaining refugia and giving deer the nutritional leverage they need to develop and maintain immunity of their own. After all, there are no new drench actives out there on the horizon.

Nigel Dougherty BVSc

Sheep Reminders

- Tailing
- Feeding Prioritisation
- Pulpy kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet dries
- Blood test rams B Ovis

Certified Develvetters

If you are a certified develvetter there are three things you have to do each season.

1. Pay your annual fee of \$105.50 to the National Standards Velveting body on invoice.
2. Get your supervisory visit arranged and completed by the 12th December.
3. Return your develvetting book, signed with drugs used totalled, by the 31st March. Any left-over drugs must be returned at this time as well.



The last requirement reached a high profile this year when it was a question in the Young Farmer of the Year competition. Unfortunately Dean Rabidge, our Southland contestant, did not get it right either. Also develvetters using Naturo Ring application on spikers need to have their velvet record books completed and returned by the 31st March each year.

Paul Langford BVSc

1. Situation Comment, Dental Month Review
2. Mating management and Orphan Ducklings
3. Monensin use in beef cattle and photosensitivity in cows
4. Certified Develvetters Reminder and deer drenching

Situation Comment

Spring has brought the best and worst of the Southland weather, August was terrible and most of September lovely. Lambing and calving are both well under way and with the good weather grass is growing.

We have had a few animal health problems. We have seen and had reports of several cases of Salmonella Brandenburg abortion and calf scours. Grass staggers has been seen in sheep, dairy and beef cows. To go along with this, as reported in the media; HT Swedes have raised a good few unfortunate questions.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Shelly Hann, who is off on her OE. We have welcomed Danielle in Te Anau to our team.

My Pets

My wife, Natalie, and I have several unproductive animals on the 10 acres we mismanage. We have sheep, half of whom are wethers, all of whom are pets. The eldest, Hamish, is at least 9 and still as stropky as always. Penelope Pig and Miss Piggey exist purely to save me from having to use machinery to plough the paddocks, OK on my side of the fence but on the neighbour's...

Jasper, the horse, is OK at rounding up sheep, usually without us wanting him to. Lulu and Mimi, the miniature Schnauzers get through life on their looks. S.Puss, the cat, is quite happy with his staff of humans, as long as we keep him fed.

They are a pretty motley crew but it wouldn't be the same without them and I suspect we will accumulate more...
 Michael Baer BVSc

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy-pre-mating check of 'at risk' cows
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Tailpaint—4 weeks before PSM
- Organise mating programme, cows and heifers
- Treat non-cyclers one week before

Dental Month Review

As this is being written our small animal dental month is coming to a close. Many cats and dogs came in for their free dental checks throughout September. Dental disease is the most common disease we see in cats and dogs, so keep up the good work in looking after your pet's mouth!

Also, keep an eye out in our monthly mailer or facebook for the winners of the prize draws.

The warmer months are approaching so it is time to think about flea products for your pets. No-one likes being bitten by fleas – including cats and dogs. We stock a wide range of products which includes a new product for dogs called **Bravecto**. This is a chewable tablet, which many dogs will eat as a treat. It kills fleas and ticks and lasts for **12 weeks**, making it very convenient. Call in today and talk to one of our friendly staff for advice on what would best suit your animal.

Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

He brought the fleas in the house!!!



2015 NSVets Calendar

In 2015 it will be the 50th anniversary of the Northern Southland Vet Club. We would appreciate any photos you have involving any of the staff from the past 50 years to include in our calendar.

Email fiona@nsvs.co.nz



Mating management: This year's effort driving next year's income

Good mating management is critical if you're seeking to maximise your herd's 6 week in-calf rate.

The mating period is crunch time, the quicker the mating the quicker next year's calving, the more recovery time you'll give your cows before they start mating again.

Rewards of a better 6 week in-calf rate include more days in milk, fewer empties, and more AB replacement calves. These factors combine to provide more income and more choice.

Here are 6 tips to help with successful mating this season:

1. Know your submission rate targets - A 90% 3-week submission rate is non-negotiable should you wish to hit the industry target 6 week in-calf rate of 78%. Monitor the daily and weekly submission rate, and know how to react if targets are not being met: *If you are not meeting target after one week seek expert advice immediately.*

2. Don't miss a heat - The cost of a missed heat is about \$200 (DairyNZ). Missing or 'inventing' heats is believed to be the most significant limiting factor for 25% of New Zealand dairy herds. Use regular observation, including paddock checks, and heat detection aids (tail paint, Kamars, for example).

3. Heat detection aid maintenance - Used correctly, heat detection aids will reduce the number of missed and 'invented' heats. Follow manufacturer's instructions and enforce a clear policy on maintenance.

4. Keep all ear tags clean - Correct identification is crucial; keep all cows' ear tags clean throughout mating to ensure the right cows are being put up for mating.

5. Avoid second round slump - A slump in cumulative pregnancy rates in the second round of mating is common. With the aged pregnancy testing information you should check if this is a problem on your farm (MINDA Reproduction graphs). Possible causes include heat detection fatigue and nutritional stress.

6. Service Bulls - Check the following well ahead of putting the bull in: Bull health/ BVD status; bull power; a proactive bull management plan, which all staff know. If you are short of good, healthy service bulls consider extending AB - but ensure accurate heat detection is maintained.

The above tips are part of LIC's 6 Week Challenge, a free programme providing farmers with a year-round guide to improved herd reproductive performance. Visit www.6weeks.co.nz to register and receive a range of information and tools to get more cows in-calf quicker at mating time. NSVets is registered on the website, so you can nominate us as your rural advisor when you register, and we'll provide you with

additional support and advice to help you get your desired results.

Natasha Leamy BVSc

Orphan Ducklings

Aren't they cute! But don't be fooled, rearing ducklings can be a challenge. They are very prone to hypothermia and shock. Here are some tips for success.

Housing: the first job is to ensure they are warm. Use a warm towel to dry and warm wet or cold ducklings. Choose accommodation wisely, they can escape through small gaps and need to be warm and draft free but still have ventilation. The hot water cupboard may work. Have food at one end and a sleeping area at the other, with a place to hide. If a heat lamp is used they should not be trapped under it. Hot water bottles work but lose their heat overnight. Bedding needs to be dry. Towels or newspaper will need changing often - ducklings soil a lot and get very cold when wet. Ducklings fret easily and are fragile, keeping them in a quiet place with minimal handling in the early stages is best.

Water is essential for drinking and must always be available and fresh; but not for swimming. Ducklings can drown! Young ducklings lack waterproofing until they have all their adult feathers. Use a low shallow bowl or a jar lid with a rock in it to stop it tipping.

Food: Chick food provides a mix of protein, vitamins and minerals for growth and development. It can be mixed with water in the first few days. In the short term cat food (jellymeat, or biscuits soaked in water until soggy) is okay. Bread is not recommended. Food should be changed daily (not just topped up) and water twice a day.

Hand feeding should not be necessary, if they will not eat/drink they can be held to the food so that their bills are immersed in it, this teaches them what

and where the food is. Be careful not to immerse the nostrils in food/water otherwise the birds may drown!

As they get older the light can be turned off during the day - ensure their enclosure gets bigger. Once fully feathered they can have time out in the open - but watch for predators. Don't forget to wash your hands well after dealing with the ducklings.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Horse Reminders

- Brush out last of winter coat
- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in foals
- Work horses ready for show season

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment

Monensin use in beef cattle

Monenesin use can make an impact on beef cattle production. In dairy cattle its use is wide spread, with proven benefits in feed conversion efficiency, milk production as well as prevention of bloat, ketosis and acidosis.

In beef cattle its use is not as common and the amount of information is a bit sparse. Some studies have been done and the main benefits seen were increased efficiency in feed use (i.e. cattle eat less but have the same production), fewer deaths due to bloat in spring and better body condition at key times such as mating. Many of the benefits are hard to quantify as they have flow on effects which are difficult to track. One study estimated that the increased growth due to capsule use (9kg) covered the cost of the capsule and no more, but this outcome was dependant on schedule prices.

Increased weight gains are seen when animals are on a high energy (ME) diet. On unimproved hill country pastures, benefits are likely to be due to increased efficiency of feed use (around 6% greater) and not out and out weight gain. For those environmentally conscious farmers out there, monensin also reduces methane production.

There are different methods for supplementation available, with in- water, in- feed and long acting rumen capsule the most common. The only one practical for most beef growers is the long acting capsule which provides 100 days of action.

The best time to supplement is debateable, but any time that feed is short on supply and energy demands are rising, monensin supplementation is likely to be of benefit.

Whether it is better to use it in capital or finishing stock is a question that cannot currently be answered adequately, but use in either will have its positives and depends on the main focus of the farming operation. The cost of capsule use equates to around 20c per day of action.

Justin Hogg BVSc



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Photosensitivity-Why cows get sunburn

Every year we see cows that look like a plane load of English tourists on their way home from Spain.

They have peeling, reddened skin, peeling noses, udders and teats, swollen feet. They are uncomfortable and kick at their udders. Here the similarity to the tourists stops, but the cause is the same - sunburn!!

Photosensitivity, to give it its proper name, has numerous underlying causes but failure of the liver to deal with light sensitive pigments in plants causes a severe case of sunburn. Below are some of the more common reasons we see cows like this.

1. Spring Eczema:- seen on lush pasture, usually in the second or third round of grazing. This is usually transient and animals recover. Often confused for its more serious cousin facial eczema.

2. Facial Eczema:- the spores which cause this are not present in Southland but it is seen occasionally in cows brought down from the North Island.

3. Toxic Causes:- a range of plant toxins cause liver damage and this in turn shows up as photosensitivity. Some cases recover, others do not depending on the extent of the damage.

Recently we have seen some cases of photosensitivity in dairy cows wintered on Swedes. The details of these cases are still emerging and will be followed up in subsequent articles.

If you have any animals with the "English Suntan" give us a call to discuss your options.

Michael Baer BVSc



Deer Reminders

- Hinds -pre-fawning clostridial vaccination
- Pre-calving worming & copper
- De-velvetting
- Check copper & selenium in pregnant hinds