

Reduce Cost versus Maximising Income

We don't need to state the obvious when it comes to the current dairy climate. However some decisions still need to be made this season that will impact the "depth" you are in next year and those to come.

Metrichecking

- Most have done this by now but if not best to book it in, success comes from getting cows in calf earlier = more milk next year.

Heat Detection

- Start staff training
- Get heat detection aids on to the cows and heifers
- Practise it early in groups in the shed and the paddock
- Record heats—to help identify non cycling cows early

Non cycling cows

- Treating non cycling cows makes sense financially BUT how much 'cents' depends greatly on timing
- Treating before PSM can return around \$90 per cow at \$3.85 pay out. However, treating late can have no financial benefit. So if you are going to do it, act soon or don't bother! This can be demonstrated when you see us for your reproduction consult this year.

Heifers

Don't forget the heifers. Early calving heifers have more chance to get back in calf under the pressures of herd life. Key points are:

- Ensure good BCS and live weight
- Consider synchrony programmes - there are several options for intervention which again have most value when they are used to achieve early calving
- Use bulls with good calving ease—there is no better way to destroy a good heifer than birthing a giant.



Bulls

As a minimum Bulls must be:

- BVD tested negative
- Vaccinated for BVD and Lepto
- Be physically sound (good condition, no lameness, disease or injury including reproductively)
- Have enough bull power to cover the group and double it to allow for rotation.

Talk to us for advice on changes to your system this season.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

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 PSM
- BVD booster bulls & cows 4 weeks before PSM
- Metricheck late calvers

Bowed Legs in Stags

A condition occurring sporadically in rising 2 year old stags, anecdotally with high velvet production, where abnormal development of the growth plates in the forelimbs leave the bones fragile and prone to fracture.

What causes it? The current hypothesis is that a disease occurs as a result of transient copper deficiency at a stage of rapid skeletal growth and rapid velvet production. This theory has been supported by a supplementation trial on a property that had a relatively high incidence of the condition. Once extra supplementation was implemented the incidence decreased, although the odd case still presented-leading pathologists to question if other factors are also involved (parasitism???)

How it presents- It presents as an acute onset lameness with "varus" deformity of the front legs. A single study has been undertaken in NZ. It appears as though the condition is more commonly seen in red or hybrid animals and not wapiti /elk bulls.

What can be done to reduce risk?

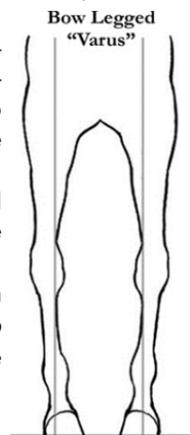
As the likely cause is copper deficiency the logical progression is that targeted supplementation of copper over the period of risk i.e. early spring to early summer when velvet growth is at its peak. The property that the supplementation trial occurred on was already supplementing with copper bullets but added Multimin (a lower dose injectable copper) prior to the risk period.

Copper supplementation is not without risk and prior testing of animal levels is always advisable. As for sheep and cattle, copper liver levels are the best test of sufficiency.

Affected animals may become sound on the limbs but the bowing of the limbs will remain for life.

As it is an emerging issue we are keen to hear of any cases that you have to increase our understanding of the condition.

Justin Hogg BVSc



1. Staff comment, EweFirst, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.
2. Pre weaning decisions - no size fits all, Is your pet insured?
3. Horse wounds.
4. Reduce cost versus maximising income, Bowed legs in stags.

Staff Comment

Our inaugural "Spud in a Bucket" competition is about to commence. Jill, Morgan and Michael are taking it very seriously as they have more chance of success in it than one of their teams winning the World Cup. Reports on the progress of the competition will follow. Morgan is favourite at the moment—on the basis of nationality (also he has just been over to Ireland to get the latest tips. Told you he is taking it seriously). The competition may become an annual event.

Megan returns from maternity leave in October when she begins part time. We are looking forward to having her back and she is keen to get stuck in again.

EweFirst

In August we introduced our new sheep consultancy package EweFirst at our 'Serious about Sheep' winter seminars. For those of you that couldn't make it, this is a tailor-made package designed to add value for our sheep farmers through one-on-one advice and services at key times of the year. Targeted towards lifetime ewe productivity, EweFirst is for the sheep farmer wanting more out of their flock. Several tiers are available for every requirement / budget and these are tailored to ensure your needs are met. Talk to either Rochelle or myself in the clinic to find out more. For those of you that confirmed interest at our seminars, we will be in touch soon to confirm enrolment.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc



Andrew speaking at the EweFirst seminar that was held in Mossburn in August

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

FIV is often called "CAT AIDS" as it suppresses an infected cat's immune system. Infected cats often remain healthy for several years after acquiring the infection before becoming very sick from relatively minor conditions. The disease can affect cats of any age and sex but it is typically entire male cats that will become infected from bite wounds when fighting.



Diagnosing FIV

A test is available for FIV and can be done on cats which are chronically ill, have lots of fights or roam. FIV is not necessarily a death sentence and infected cats in the early stage of the disease can be helped by promptly treating infections as they arise. FIV positive cats should always be kept indoors to prevent the spread of the virus to other cats.

Preventing Infection

If your cat tests negative to the disease, there are many simple ways to ensure they don't become infected in future. These include:

- Neutering male cats
 - Lowers the potential for roaming and fighting
- Keeping cats inside
 - Reduces exposure to FIV positive cats
- Vaccination
 - Required annually
- Prevent contact with FIV positive cats
 - If one cat in the household tests positive, it should be housed separately from the other cats

If you have any questions regarding testing or management of FIV, please feel free to call us at the clinic.

Kate Taylor DVM



Pre weaning Decisions - No size fits all

We all have different farms, situations and management strategies so there is no 'one size fits all' for pre-weaning recommendations. But here are some things to consider.

Giving B12 to lambs at tailing is too soon, but weaning can be too late. Hence the use of long acting supplements. B12 is used to digest grass into energy.

Adult animals with developed rumens can usually make their own B12 without supplementing. Young, milk fed animals don't need energy from grass so don't need extra B12. For the middle ground - no longer fully milk



fed but not yet a fully functioning ruminant - B12 is beneficial.

Drenching at tailing is not necessary and can be fatal, however weaning can be too late in Southland.

Parasite larvae live on pasture. A 4 week old lamb nibbling the tips of a blade of grass is probably not getting a worm burden. After 6 weeks however, more of their feed will start coming from grass and larvae will be ingested. Things become worse if pastures are short - mum makes less milk so the lamb needs to eat **more** grass, and so, more larvae. Nematodirus filicolis which can crop up pre-weaning and **may** warrant drenching. FEC will help determine when to start drenching then follow the 21-28 day plan with a FEC again to decide when you can stop.

You should do a drench test every 3-5 years. Call us to make a plan if this is a goal this year.

Selenium

Selenium is often low and will require supplementing. Be a little cautious with lambs before weaning. You can kill a lamb with a ewe dose of selenium.

5 in 1

Ewes pre-lamb vaccinated with 5 in 1 should pass protection via colostrum to the lamb lasting 8-14 weeks. Farms have different periods of risk. If you have sudden deaths occurring before weaning consider vaccinating lambs at tailing. If losses are usually later, then a weaning shot can be given, boosted 6 weeks later. In general, every shot given under 1 year of age will provide 100% protection for 4 months, dropping to 80% by 6 months. Protection will last over a year when given to those over 1 year of age.

Mothers

If feed is short consider earlier weaning to avoid the ewe and lamb competing for feed. This way light

ewes can also be drafted out in order to reach BCS 3 on 'cheap' summer feed rather than relying on flushing in autumn when feed is more costly. **Remember** uddering at weaning can be too soon to pick up lumps and bumps and should ideally be done a few weeks later when udders are less full and post weaning issues can also be detected. Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Sheep Reminders

- Tailing
- Feeding prioritisation
- Pulpary kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs (make sure to check scabby vaccine takes this year)
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet dries
- Blood test rams B Ovis

Is your pet insured?

New Zealanders love their pets, we have one of the highest levels of pet ownership in the world. However, only 5% of cat owners and 8% of dog owners have pet insurance. Pet insurance may mean that if your animal needs treatment then they can get the best medical and surgical care available. Owners without pet insurance often have to make difficult choices on whether they can afford treatment.



The 3 main pet insurance plans in NZ are Pet-n-sure, Petplan and Southern Cross Pet Insurance. FMG offers a policy for working farm dogs. All have websites where more information is available.

As with any insurance plans, it is important to read the fine print. Ensure that plans cover both medical and surgical treatment. Some policies may exclude certain conditions in breeds that are predisposed so ensure you know what you are signing up to. Insuring your pet should be carefully considered whenever you get a new kitten or puppy, it may mean you do not have to make difficult financial decisions later on.

Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment

Horse Reminders

- Brush out last of winter coat
- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in ponies

Horse Wounds

One of our more common call outs to our equine friends is lacerations or wounds. These can be very distressing for you and your horse. However with prompt intervention even some of the largest wounds can have a good result.

Rules

- Don't panic
- Call the vet
- Keep the horse as calm and still as possible
- Avoid extra contamination (sawdust etc.)
- Control bleeding /apply bandage but
- Don't apply anything to the wound unless the vet has said to

Most of the time the vet is not too far away, so you are better to leave any intervention to them. Hosing is the best way to remove debris but it can stimulate bleeding and actually damage tissues and delay healing. Clipping hair can sometimes be more of a nuisance as the hair sticks to the wound. Some lotions and potions can delay healing or cause contamination. While large body wounds can be very dramatic, smaller leg wounds are often more troublesome. They have less skin, poorer blood supply, can involve joints, are more likely to develop proud flesh (excess granulation) or tumours, are harder to keep clean, and are generally harder to deal with day to day, take for example a laceration to the back of the pastern of a hind leg! Often horses will need sedation to allow a full exam of the injury. The vet will decide if the wound can be stitched. Sometimes it is best to remove flaps of skin rather than stitch them or partially stitch a wound if tension is too great. Initially it is not always obvious if the skin has adequate blood supply to heal. As a result many wounds will 'break



Wound in mid-April



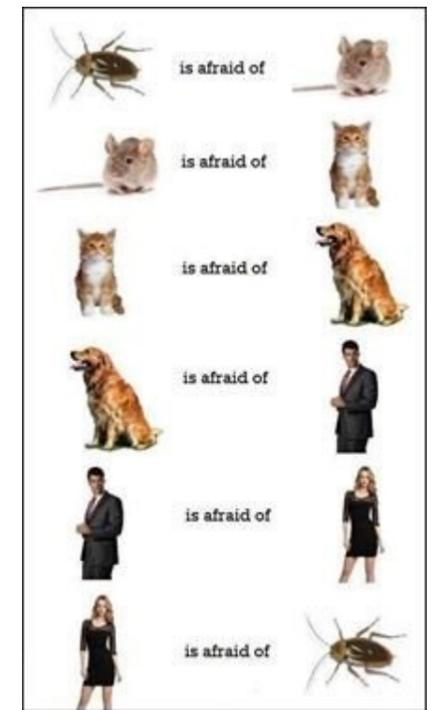
Wound only partially closed due to tension

down' but the resulting wound is usually smaller. The dead tissue is removed at a later visit so as not to delay secondary healing. The vet will also decide if bandaging is required (in some cases it can delay healing) which antibiotics to use, provide a tetanus shot if required, and give anti-inflammatories.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



The result mid-August: Fully sound



A reminder about intramammary treatments for mastitic cows - be hygienic!

Clean the teat orifice with teatwipes prior to inserting intramammary treatments. Research shows that failure to cure using intramammary antibiotics may be due to mastitis from a new bacteria that was introduced when inserting the intramammary tubes during treatment. A little extra time with hygiene may save you time and money, as well as a better outcome for the cow.

Deer Reminders

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