JULY 2019

VET NEWS

TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE

CALF REARING

PRE-LAMB DRENCH

Some photos by Richard Hilson

VET services
www.vshb.co.nz

COMMUNITY DAY

GREG TATTERSFIELD

Thursday, 8 Aug 2019 — 9:00am-12.00pm
Te Hau Woolshed, 1235 Waihau Road, Patoka, Hastings

Come along to the next community day at Te Hau. It is the middle of winter so we've kept it short so you've got time to get home and do a few shifts.

Patrick and Isabelle have considered the feedback provided by the community group and will provide feedback around decisions made.

- Farm policy and tactical moves taken to get through a tough looking winter
- Prioritised land management activities for the next 12 months
- Consultation on forestry considerations

We will also highlight an emerging issue that will affect us all at some point – internal parasite management in the face of triple drench resistance.

It will be a woolshed meeting, so no off road vehicles are required.

For further Information contact B+LNZ's Mark Harris; 027 577 9991 or Vet Services Hawke's Bay, Veterinarian Greg Tattersfield; 027 473 8860

Please Register for catering purposes with Penny Munro at penny.munro@beeflambnz.com

Morning tea provided and finger food to finish.

TRANSPORT CERTIFICATION VISITS

ANNE GELLING

Below are a few pointers to make these as painless as possible
Animals that are other than normal, either due to disease, injury or anatomical abnormalities cannot go on (any) transport without a veterinary certificate for transport.

Transport rules have tightened and multiplied over the past years making certification a much trickier process that can often come across as frustrating. We assure you that we are not particularly fond of them either! Though our weekly vet meetings would be rather boring if transport certs did not exist…

Anyway, below are a few pointers on how to make this process as painless as possible and possibly save you a few headaches along the way.

Before you ring us to make the booking for a vet to come out to assess an animal's fitness for transport and possibly issue a certificate, we need you to consider the following:

- The animal needs to already be booked into the NEAREST works (SFF Pacific for almost all of our Hawke's Bay clients) within **seven calendar days** of the proposed vet visit. This is about efficiency as, if this does not happen, the chance of getting a works booking within seven days of the vet visit is slight, and that will require a second vet visit as we can only certify for a seven day period from the date of clinical examination.
- The vet visit needs to be **at least one full working day prior** to time of transport to allow time to contact MPI if/when needed: many cases require our vet to contact the works vet and this can be difficult to do.
- The stock agent, the slaughter premises and the trucking company need to be advised that a veterinary certified animal, with specific transport requirements, may be in the mob.

A vet certification booking does not automatically mean the animal can go. There is an extensive, though not exhaustive, list of conditions that mean the animal may not be able to be transported. The most common are listed below:

- Non weight bearing lame: if the animal does not put their foot down properly at rest or when walking, it simply cannot go.

- Old healed fractures cannot go, unless records of appropriate veterinary care and treatments at time of fracture are available and recovery is sufficient

- Cancer eye bigger than a gold coin (2cm) cannot go on transport
- Any discharge (blood/pus) or risk of bleeding/ discharge from any part of the body (including horns/antlers/udders and abscesses) means the animal is considered unfit for transport
- Systemically ill animals (fever, dull, lethargic) are not fit for transport
- Ingrown horns are a no-no, and need to be removed at least 7 days prior to transport. Remember horn length needs to be shorter than ear length
- Animals must not be transported if they are likely to give birth during the journey or be affected by metabolic complications of late pregnancy as a result of the journey.
- Animals in the following body conditions scores should not be transported: BCS <3 (/10) in dairy cows, BCS <1 (/5) in beef/ sheep/goats or <2 (/5) for deer/pigs.

NOTE: this list above is not exhaustive; there are many other conditions that will prevent an animal from receiving a Fitness for Transport Certificate, hence the need for a veterinary visit.
If none of the above apply the vet can come out to the farm to examine the animal and decide if the animal is fit for transport. For this purpose the animal will need to be in a yard and ideally have a race (+ head bail if possible) available. We cannot certify animals out in the paddock and cannot do it from emailed pictures.
REMEMBER: our certificates are regarding fitness for transport ONLY, it does not mean that the animal is fit for slaughter or for human consumption as that decision rests with the works vet. Therefore, there is still a chance that the animal/carcass will be condemned at the slaughter premises.

A summary of your (the farmer's) responsibilities:

1. Ensure killing space is confirmed.
2. Ensure that the works know a certified animal is in the consignment.
3. Ensure the transporter will be informed that a certified animal is in the consignment (Note: it is the transporter's responsibility to follow certificate instructions).

You must seek veterinary re-examination if the animal's condition deteriorates from examination to loading date (per the agreement on the signed declaration).
We are here to help, give us a call to discuss your situation if you aren't sure.

ANOTHER CALF REARING SEASON IS ON THE HORIZON…

JOAO DIB

With the incoming calf rearing season it is prudent to review last season. Below are some issues to consider:

- Arrival of calves - How well did the calves look upon arrival? Bright and alert, clean and well hydrated? Did you check all umbilical cords? Use a good quality electrolyte and give all calves 2 litres of warm, 36-37 °C electrolyte on arrival. Umbilical cords should all look dry and clean. If any swelling or tenderness is found, contact us.
- The Calf Pens – were they nice and warm last year, free of cold drafts? Was there plenty of good dry bedding? Did you have partitions between pens to avoid nose-to-nose contact? Keep calves warm and the bedding always dry and clean and add a solid partition between pens to minimize disease transmission.
- Feeding – Ensure your colostrum management is the best! Collect the best colostrum from first milk, store well and make sure all calves get at least 2-3 litres in the first 6 hours of life. Use Potassium Sorbate to preserve colostrum if not freezing. Freeze excess if need be. Calf rearers, ensure a good quality milk substitute and have enough to last the season. Avoid changing formula if possible. Always feed at body temperature. In addition to milk feed use Optiguard (Zeolite Powder) and Ruminate (high quality feed) from the word go. We supply both products. You will not regret using these.
- Dealing with disease – How did last season go? Any scouring calves? Did you get a diagnosis? Ensure your sheds are well disinfected and very clean. Use a steam blaster and a powerful disinfectant.
- Know the immunity of your calf batches – If you are a calf rearer, do you think your calves were fed colostrum adequately and were immune competent? Vet Services can test young, newborn calves for immunoglobulin (colostrum-derived) status. This will give you an idea of immunity levels, hence vulnerability of your calves and the need for early preventative treatment.
- Electrolytes and Immunoglobulins – We offer a top range of electrolytes to deal with calf scours. Some are specific electrolytes to deal with known pathogens like crypto. Additionally we have purified immunoglobulins to be fed via milk to scouring calves or used in the prevention of disease. Talk to us about it.
- Finally, nothing substitutes a good eye, and lots of tender loving care and early intervention. Colostrum feeding is the key.

DISBUDDING AND DEHORNING OF CALVES AND CATTLE – IS YOUR SYSTEM COMPLIANT?

KATHRYN SIGVERTSE N

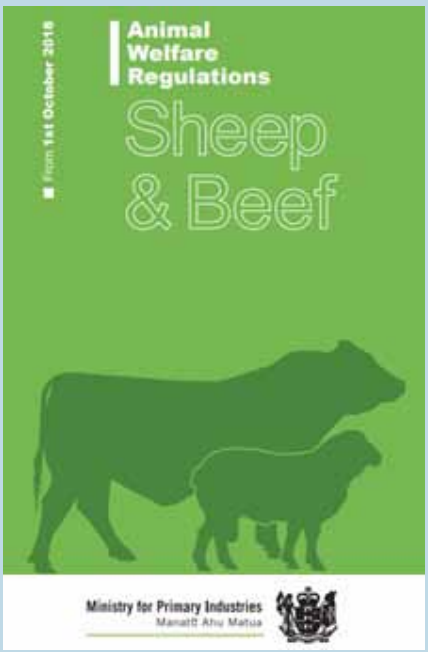
The Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 include a few changes to current animal welfare rules. One of these changes that may affect our farmers is the new disbudding and dehorning regulations. From 1st October 2019 it will be a requirement for all calves to have an "appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic that is authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure".

Disbudding of calves is best done up to 6 weeks of age, the earlier the better, before the horn bud becomes attached to the underlying bony skull. Doing them later than this increases the risk that the horn becomes too large to burn effectively, and they often require cutting before they are burned to get a satisfactory result. As the horn develops more, there is also greater nerve supply and the local anaesthetic requires more than the single injection site used for disbudding.

Calves need to be old enough so that they can withstand the procedure, ideally no younger than 2 weeks old. This also gives time for the horn bud to develop enough to be able to feel. To get them done at the right age, several batches may need to be done. Some cross bred dairy-beef calves can take a little longer to develop buds so if they have been checked early, it is important to recheck them in a few weeks to ensure no horn bud has begun to appear.

All cattle that need dehorning also require local anaesthetic – these rules have not changed.

Still, it is best to get them disbudded as calves rather than dehorned as adults! If you're not sure about the rules or you want to discuss disbudding and dehorning, get in touch with us.



PRE-LAMB PERFECTION OR DRENCHING DISASTER?

TIM HOGAN

Every year the choices around pre-lamb drench treatment become more and more complex. There is clear evidence that under parasite challenge there is a production advantage in using long-acting treatments over lambing. There is also clear evidence that using the same treatments increases the risk of developing drench resistance on farm.

We know from nationwide and local surveys that drench resistance problems are present, and in the majority of cases remain undiagnosed on many farms. This means that drench products are used that are not completely effective, and it may not be obvious to those managing the stock. This may continue for some time until "the wheels really fall off"

For example, local monitoring through VSD this summer showed 40% of farms using a triple combination drench had some form of leakage, which is worms surviving treatment and producing eggs (which means more resistant worms on pasture), despite no obvious drench failure.

So how does what we do pre-lamb impact on all this? It is inevitable that using long-acting products will increase the rate of drench resistance on any given farm. How they are used and what practices are used to mitigate their risk can dramatically slow down how quickly this happens.

Again, routine monitoring of long-acting treatments through Vet Services shows some reduction in effectiveness in a number of cases. Even though the product seemed to be performing well, monitoring showed some leakage. By having some meaningful information around how those products were working, further steps could be taken to reduce the risk this presented going forward.

This makes the use of good quality, effective products in a responsible manner the foundation of any pre-lamb drench program.

So how the heck do you achieve that? Well that's the easy bit…… Talk to us, get some advice and make a plan!

TREES, M. BOVIS AND PARASITES

CAMILLE FLACK

Trees, Mycoplasma bovis and parasites: all are a huge threat to our sheep and beef industry as we know it. This season resistant parasites have been more prevalent than any other. In Waipukurau we have seen nine drench checks done after triple drenches that have showed resistance. The drench checks are done on lamb faecal samples ten days after a drench and once upon a time we expected to see no worm eggs present. The main resistant parasite present was Trichostrongylus. We also completed 27 FECR tests, see summary graph for levels of parasite resistance for each drench used.

In Dannevirke, several drench checks were carried out this season. Four of the twelve farms showed a small amount of leakage after triple drenches.

In Wairarapa 13 FECR tests were carried out, three of which showed triple drench resistance (see figure 2).

In Hastings, drench checks from three farms have shown eggs 10 days after a triple drench and of the five FECR tests done so far, all had leakage to triple drench to some degree (see figure 3).

Remember a FECRT is a good baseline for your current drench resistance on farm. They should be carried out every 1-4 years depending on your current status. Drench checks are a good tool to carry out annually to ensure early problems are detected. All this information then enables you to develop a parasite management plan and continual monitoring allows you to assess how well that plan is being implemented.

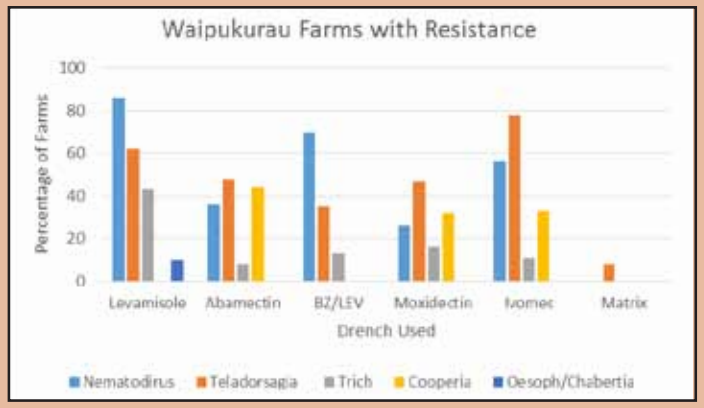


Figure 1: Waipukurau FECRTs summary

Anthelmintic resistance is a growing problem that farmers really do need to be aware of. Your parasite management plan is more than just a list of which drenches to use – it should include measures to reduce larval challenge on pasture, measures to safeguard your effective drenches and ongoing monitoring to make sure these drenches are still working.

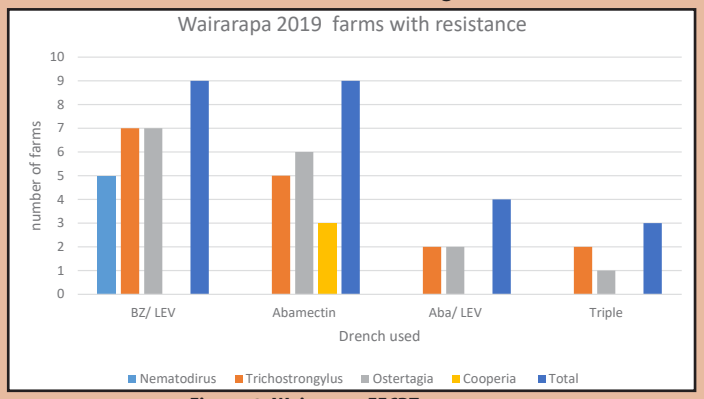


Figure *2*: Wairarapa FECRTs summary

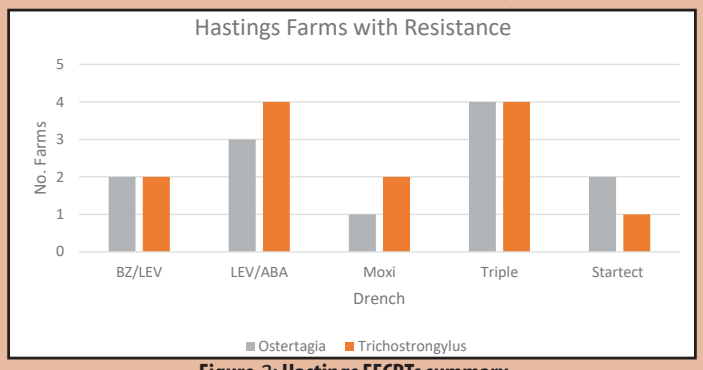


Figure *3*: Hastings FECRTs summary

Barbers pole worms in a lamb

WHITE MUSCLE DISEASE

ANYIKA SCOTLAND

In calves and lambs, white muscle disease (WMD) is a sure sign of selenium deficiency. Lesions occur in skeletal and/or heart muscles. The clinical signs of white muscle disease vary according to the particular muscle groups affected. Skeletal muscle groups commonly affected include those of the upper fore and hind limbs, and affected animals walk with a stiff-legged gait, show pain upon walking or are unable to stand. Lesions in the heart muscle may produce sudden death, and in chest muscles may produce respiratory distress.

Interestingly, selenium deficiency in foals seems to affect the muscles that control the jaw movement. Therefore this can lead to death, due to inability to suckle and swallow.

So how do we fix this problem? We can give an injection to the calf/lamb and foal at the time of the symptoms. However, treatment can often be unsuccessful as the damage has already occurred so the main aim is to prevent this disease in the first place.

Firstly, it is important to know the status of the animal pre-birth. This can easily be determined with blood tests of rams 4-6 weeks beforehand. Please enquire if you are worried about WMD disease affecting your stock.

Selenium deficiency: Cattle and Sheep

The main role of selenium as an antioxidant is to protect the integrity of the cell membranes. It also maintains the integrity of the immune system. Remember that excessive intake of selenium is just as bad as not enough selenium due to an accumulation in the liver and kidneys. Knowing the status of the animal before supplementation is vital. Selenium toxicity is fatal!

Clinical signs of selenium deficiency in cattle and sheep include:

- Infertility, as a result of embryonic mortality which occurs three to four weeks after conception.
- Poorer motility and increased morphological defects in sperm.
- White muscle disease: During or following exercise, affected animals become stiff and unable to stand.
- Poor growth rates, which is often seen in calves through the autumn

To diagnose an issue 5-8 blood or liver selenium concentrations can be taken and the levels compared to selenium tissue reference ranges which have been determined from selenium supplementation animal performance trials.

The best time to sample ewes and cows is 4-6 weeks before mating, lambs prior to weaning, and calves at any stage but especially through the autumn period. However, if you are worried about growth rates then I suggest they are sampled at the time the issue is discovered.

There are several options for treatment of selenium deficiency including;

- Many drenches and vaccines contain selenium as sodium selenate or sodium selenite. When these are administered orally or as a subcutaneous injection the dose rate should be 0.1mg Se/kg liveweight. This will produce a rapid increase in blood selenium concentration, which gradually declines over four to eight weeks. Most oral drenches with added selenium only increase the blood selenium levels for 1-2 weeks.
- Longer lasting supplements are available including injections and intraruminal boluses. A subcutaneous injection containing barium selenate given at a dose rate of 0.5-1mg Se/kg liveweight (500mg for cows) will be effective for 10-12 months.
- Selenium can be added to the water supply using an in-line dispenser system to provide 1.5-3mg Se/cow/day.
- Pastures can be topdressed with selenium to prevent deficiency in grazing livestock. Pastures must contain at least 0.03mg Se/kg DM to provide stock with sufficient levels. Pastures can be topdressed with 1kg Se prills/ha (10g Se/ha) in the spring or autumn every one to two years.

Please contact us at any time to discuss selenium levels in your livestock.

OUR VET TEAM

Napier & Hastings: Clare Ryan, Dave Kruger, Dave Warburton, Georgina Campbell, Greg Tattersfield, Helen Crawford, Ian Leadbetter, Joao Dib, Neil Stuttle, Rachel Griffiths, Rachel Muir, Richard McKenzie, Roger McKinley, Sharné Boys, Siobhan Ellis, Stuart Badger, Veronika Pipe and Vicki Gilchrist.

Waipukurau: Annelise Enslin, Anyika Scotland, Anne Gelling, Camille Flack, Caroline Robertson, Geert Gelling, Harry Whiteside, Kathryn Sigvertsen, Lucy Dowsett, Mike Fitzgerald, Nicolette Adamson and Richard Hilson.

Dannevirke: Johnny Atkins, Kate Matthews, Naomi Barrett, Simon Marshall, Sophie-Leigh Anderson and Tim Hogan.

Masterton: Anne Ridler, Jacques Van Zyl, Louisa Broughton, Naya Brangenburg, Nicola Haglund, Sandy Redden, Sanncke Neal, Sara Sutherland, Sarah Wolland, Stuart Bruere and Urthe Engel.