

NOVEMBER 2017

VET NEWS

TETANUS

FILL THE GAPS

CHECK THOSE GUNS



Some photos by Richard Hilson

VETservices
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WORMWISE WORKSHOPS

SIMON MARSHALL

Managing internal parasites is one of the biggest challenges that farmers face. It is one of the biggest costs to the red meat industry through reduced stock performance and chemical purchases. Research shows that there is widespread resistance to several drench families across both sheep and cattle. Most farms have worms that can survive one or more worm drenches – anthelmintic resistance. Locally we have discovered at least two farms this year with at least one parasite that can survive a triple drench. So the threat is real and ever present.

Wormwise is the national worm management strategy. It is aimed at helping farmers and their advisors to manage worms, not just for today but sustainably for the future. Wormwise is the product of an industry initiative to develop a national worm management strategy that began in 2005. Wormwise delivers this strategy by managing and integrating research work, education, communication and extension services for farmers, veterinarians, key influencers and retailers.

One of the main ways that Wormwise aims to achieve farmer behaviour change is by regional farmer workshops. There are 14 Wormwise facilitators in New Zealand who are trained to deliver the workshops. The workshops are funded by the regional delivery plan (RDP) and are farmer driven. I am lucky enough to be one of the facilitators and over the last 2 years I have run 5 workshops from Waiwhare in Hastings down to Masterton in the Wairarapa.

The workshops are very interactive and are devoid of any powerpoint slides! Most of the 4-5 hours is spent working in small groups figuring out the various intricacies of internal parasite management and the risks of creating drench resistance on your farm. Most farmers come away from the workshops with a great understanding of worm control and a renewed enthusiasm for sustainable parasite control. If you are interested in attending a workshop contact your local B+LNZ extension manager and ask them when the next one is. For more info on Wormwise go to <http://wormwise.co.nz/>



Workshop at Waiwhare in Hastings

CHECK THOSE GUNS BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER

RICHARD HILSON

No one likes an inaccurate firearm as you'll rarely hit the target and missing the target is definitely a waste of time and money. And if you are the shooter then you can only blame yourself if it wasn't sighted in properly. Same for your farming "guns"- drench guns and vaccinators. I've seen some bad shooting over the years and we deal with some very inaccurate animal health guns too. The following applies to the quality metal vaccinators that are designed and purchased to last pretty much a lifetime but be aware that the plastic versions are not always dead accurate either.

A cursory glance is often enough to see that a gun should work okay. Pushing the plunger a few times might also be a good idea to make sure it moves. But you could do better. Much better...

Can you see the calibrations? You need to see so that you can get it to deliver the right dose. It might need a new barrel.

Is it sucking and expelling properly? Guns generally make a standard double suck noise when worked with air, before attaching to a draw off tube. Have a listen. Put your finger over the far end - it should create definite pressure when you squeeze air or fluid through. No leaks around the barrel or other joints? Does it return well? Many guns are poorly lubricated or do not have enough tension in the handle springs, meaning they do not return fully and under deliver subsequent doses. This is easily fixed.

And, importantly, does it deliver the right dose? Under dosing with anthelmintics promotes drench resistance. Under dosing with vaccines usually means poor cover for your animals. Overdosing with any product is a waste of money and can actually lead to toxicity issues for the patient. Accuracy does

matter. Use a small measuring flask (we have plenty in our clinics) to squirt a known number of doses and work out the real volume. Use water to do this though, don't waste product in this part of the process. Repeat that finger-over-the-end process at this stage too, look for leaks around the base of the barrel, lack of pressure against your finger and possible cracks in the barrel. Many guns deliver anything but what they are set at. A small error in a vaccinator can mean that you have a significant number of animals unvaccinated at the end of the day or too much product left over- and it seems that both scenarios are very annoying, judging by farmer reaction!

A good way to avoid flare ups on the next busy day is to do the maintenance when you get home. For drench guns, rinse with water to remove excess product, remove the fittings on both ends, check valves and valve springs are clean and in good shape, lubricate with castor oil and put away without working the trigger. I always follow this system, even if a gun will be used again the next day - don't leave it full of product.

For vaccinators, do a similar routine but use a minimal amount of lubricant. Put the valves in the right way though: a good idea is to remember "spring forward" as that should help you get it all facing the right way.

We get many shabby guns in the clinic for repair, which we are happy to do. Quality guns are often as good as new after servicing and the parts are cheap, even though picking the right ones can be confusing at times. If you'd like some quick advice on looking after the guns that deliver the value in your animal health programme, please ask about our easy-maintenance and frustration-avoidance guidelines.

FILL THE GAPS — TWO TOOTH AND TOXO

RICHARD HILSON

Here is a job worth doing. The dry start to 2016 (after all that rain in the rest of the year, who can remember the dry?) meant that there were less hoggets mated that autumn. The dry had a profound effect on hogget growth rates and also impacted crops that had been destined for growing good replacements - brassicas and plantain went slow or not at all.

Without enough ewe lambs making respectable mating weights, less were mated. Going hand in hand with that was a practical decision to just vaccinate those that were to run with rams. Many potential replacement ewe lambs missed their "standard" performance vaccines, Campyvax4 (or Campylovexin) and Toxovax. Many farmers vaccinate all selected ewe lambs regardless of whether or not they will be mated, it makes the following year just as simple.

Those who just do the hoggets that will be run with rams do find themselves in the slightly tricky spot just under a year later where there is one age group with two vaccine histories, and that is when the questions get tricky.

By and large, most farmers have the two groups apart, those with lambs and those that were dry over winter. The question is: to vaccinate the rest or not to vaccinate? The simple answer is to vaccinate the balance.

In the case of campy, the risk in a flock is unlikely to change. Carrier sheep still exist and the risk to incoming two tooth is unchanged. The overtly obvious consequences of not vaccinating against campy are very clear so ensuring all ewes get at least a sensitizer and a booster as hoggets or two tooth is important. A bigger question is: should we boost them annually against campy? But we'll leave that for another day or a chat in the clinic.

Toxoplasmosis is a common infection for sheep and once they have been exposed, sheep have good immunity hence why the vaccine is successful. The hoggets that were not vaccinated in their first year may contact toxo before mating as two tooth. Or they may not. Vague, eh? We have spent plenty of time using blood tests to ascertain how important it is to vaccinate two tooth to fill that gap and in most flocks there are still too many non-immune ewes - the risk of toxo abortion in future pregnancies is too great.

So, if you have unvaccinated two tooth ewes, please think about putting together a plan for covering their future performance. Lamb is fetching good money once again and unnecessary losses through abortion is forgivable but avoidable.

THE TETANUS GRIN

ANNELISE ENSLIN

Tetanus is a condition that is caused by bacteria called, *Clostridium tetani*.

The bacteria infects wounds where there is little to no oxygen and produces a toxin that affects nerves (neurotoxin) in a way that prevents muscles from relaxing, thus causing stiffness. This is different from some other neurotoxins that cause a "floppy" paralysis.

Different species of animals have different degrees of resistance to the bacteria. Horses are relatively susceptible whereas dogs and cats seem to be more resistant. This however does not mean that they are never affected.

With dogs in clinic we have seen it in association with toe nail injuries, tail docking (ringing), puppies losing their milk teeth. With horses being more susceptible it can occur with any form of wound. Therefore vaccines and anti-toxin are routinely used in this species.

Clinical signs usually consist of the following:

- Stiffness of a single limb that progress to affect all limbs
- Pricked up ears, lips pulled back at the corners, facial skin drawn back with wrinkles on the forehead and third eyelids coming up on both sides. This is classically referred to as the "sardonic grin."
- Jaw becomes locked
- Sensitive to light and other stimuli like loud sounds or sudden movements

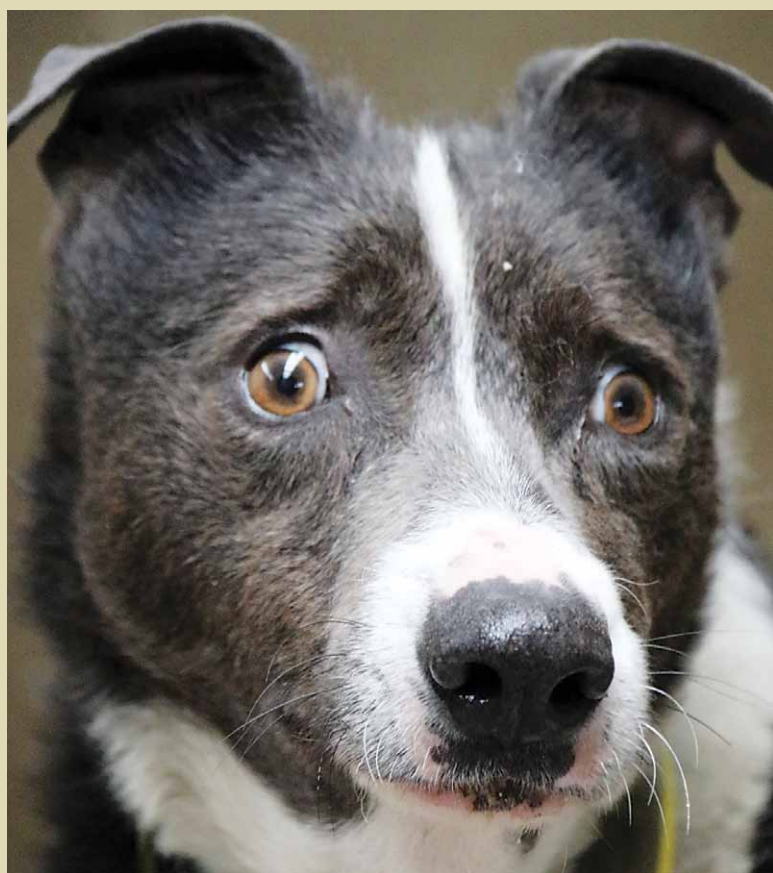
Treatment in dogs:

- Large doses of horse anti-toxin
- Wound clean up
- Penicillin
- In some cases, certain sedatives may help with muscle stiffness
- Intensive care involving syringe feeding, fluid administration by way of intravenous catheter if needed, if unable to stand frequent turning over
 - The anti-toxin will not do anything about the toxin that has already attached to and caused an effect in muscles. It will only neutralise the toxin that is still free-floating in blood and is still produced in the wound.

- Care will continue until such a stage where the body has produced new, unaffected muscle receptors that allow normal contraction and relaxation. This may take several weeks.

Prognosis:

If intervention occurs early in the disease process, the prognosis is good for recovery. However if left untreated for too long, the prognosis is poor as these dogs can suffer from fatal paralysis of the respiratory muscles and the inability to swallow resulting in choke or aspiration pneumonia.



VACCINATION TECHNIQUE

HARRY WHITESIDE

Just recently we have been made aware of a couple of instances of incorrect vaccination technique that had pretty dire consequences. Although in each instance no animal deaths occurred the end result was a number of really nasty abscesses. In turn, affected individuals were notably "off colour" and didn't eat for several days, causing lost production. There is also a strong possibility that the carcasses of affected animals may be downgraded by the time they reach the works should "knotty" lumps persist in the meat.

There are several precautions we can all take to try and reduce the issues outlined above.

The first of these is to choose the day wisely. AVOID wet days at all costs. Bacteria love warm, wet skin and the risk of injecting abscess-forming bugs is significantly increased under these conditions.

Picking up bacteria on the needle is an inevitable consequence of injecting any animal but risks can be further reduced by changing the needle frequently. After how many animals should I change the needle? That's a good question but probably no more than 50 at a time...by this number the point is probably getting a little blunt too!

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL! I have seen farmers with the very best intentions injecting a product intended for subcutaneous use into the muscle. This is a big "no-no"! Many of the vaccines have a "carrier" that can be extremely irritant to muscle tissue. Probably the worst "offender" is not actually a vaccine. Copper

is notoriously irritant to muscle and one of the most common causes of local reactions that we encounter.

Unfortunately there will always be the odd boisterous animal that refuses to stand quietly whilst being injected. Good handling facilities will no doubt help in such circumstances and as a last resort it may even be advisable to head bail such individuals. Failing that, try to ensure such animals are squeezed up tight by other animals to restrict their movement.

Choose your vaccination site well. Intramuscular sites include the neck ideally or the rump, although the risk of damaging valuable cuts of meat is greater with the latter option. With subcutaneous injections, again the neck is the most favourable site although in sheep adjacent to the ear and in cattle the little "notch" beside the tail are also reasonable options. However, the TB tester may not appreciate coming across a line of cattle with lumps under the tail so care is again advised especially regarding needle cleanliness in this otherwise heavily contaminated site.

Finally choose your needles wisely! Subcutaneous injections will be better achieved by short needles whereas intramuscular products require a longer needle, especially in well-conditioned individuals with thick covers of fat.

If you have any doubts prior to using an injectable product then don't hesitate to have a word with us prior to use and hopefully we can avoid the all too commonly encountered frustrations outlined at the beginning of the article.

A FEW PEOPLE CHANGES IN WAIPUKURAU

We are delighted to have Jane Taylor on board who is gradually taking over Sue Coppinger's role as she heads into retirement in the first quarter of 2018. Jane and her husband James live in Omakere with their 3 ½ year old son Jack. Jane comes to us with a wealth of experience from various administration roles, the last of which was with Colliers in the Waipukurau office.

Anna Gruner also joined us last month in the Waipukurau nursing team to replace Tori Osborne who is off to our Dannevirke Clinic. We wish Tori well in Dannevirke and those of you in that area will see her in that clinic from mid November. For those of you in the Waipukurau area you will meet Anna next time you are in

the clinic. To further bolster the Waipukurau nursing ranks Sarah Thorstensen joins the team from Hastings to be closer to home, you will also get to meet her next time you are in the clinic. Hastings have found a replacement, Katie Overton-Raill, who will have just started when you read this.

We are lucky to have such a great team of support and nursing staff right through all of the clinics to make your experience with us first class!

Napier clinic also welcomes Haley Gray who has a wealth of nursing experience and will meet and greet you at the front desk.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of the Outdoor Wicker Furniture Sets for October and November!

Maungatutu Station – Hastings clinic

Jim & Louise Price – Hastings clinic

Kevin & Maureen Martin – Dannevirke clinic

Jason & Nikki Halford – Dannevirke clinic

Marcus & Georgie Peacock – Waipukurau clinic

Guy & Caroline Stoddart – Waipukurau clinic

Sam & Sarah Johnston – Wairarapa clinic

Lloyd & Virginia Cave – Napier clinic

SEASONAL UPDATE

HASTINGS/NAPIER

Well Spring has sprung and what a great spring it's been so far! Loads of green grass, happy, fast growing lambs and calves, and busy bees in the fruit trees.

Lambing and lamb survival has been phenomenal which has led to some short covers and worms will surely be on the rise soon. Remember to monitor with FEC if you are unsure.

The spring flush has caused a few problems such as colic in horses, bloat and clostridial diseases in cattle.

WAIPUKURAU

It's been all hands to the pump lately with lots of things happening on farm. We have had lots of reports of a good calving season and have been busy setting up AI programmes on beef properties and trying to kick start non-cyclers on the dairy farms. Many properties have engaged with us to have bulls tested pre-mating and we are gearing up for the forthcoming ram runs.

Dehorning and vaccination of calves is just about tidied up now and this is another area where big changes are afoot in the not too distant future.

There is currently plenty of feed around after one of the wettest early springs on record and production thus far has been good with calves growing well.

Lambs too are starting to fatten up across the district and no doubt many will be ready to make the first cut for the works by the time this article hits the print. To date there have been few reports of catastrophic lambing losses which is of course great to hear and

DANNEVIRKE

As Tim made note in the last newsletter the wet weather has been making things incredibly challenging and this has continued into October. School holidays are finishing and nearly everyone is behind on docking so hopefully by the time you get to read this you may have had a chance to get some done. It seems that we can count the number of fine days we have had in the last couple of months on one hand!

We have continued to be busy with routine work such as metrichecking, and calf debudding. Non-cycling cows are now the focus and will be well underway now. The key with non-cyclers is

WAIRARAPA

For much of the period over lambing and docking, the weather did play the game. Lamb numbers look good around the district and the indicative prices look promising – fingers crossed.

Just a few notes about seasonal expectations – if the grass keeps growing and ewes put on plenty of weight, we can expect to see outbreaks of Salmonellosis in ewes between now and July. Most of you do realise this and take the sensible precaution of vaccinating your ewes – if you are unsure of the vaccination protocol, give the clinic a call and Sara or Stu will discuss it with you.

CLARE RYAN

With cattle mating happening now, lots of synchrony programmes are under way and remember to watch that bulls are working effectively.

Velvet season has started early and with a rush especially in the spikers.

Ram and dog vaccination runs will be happening next month so if you haven't had a letter from us, please contact Nicki B at the clinic to make sure you don't miss out.

HARRY WHITESIDE

there has been a good level of positivity in the lamb and beef sectors.

On the down side bloat has been an issue on some farms and we have also had instances of leptospirosis on poorer draining clay country that is still struggling to dry out.

Deer velvetting is in full swing now with lots of people having made really commendable efforts to adjust their sheds to the new regulations. The forecast pay out looks promising so should hopefully cover the cost of concreting floors and lining walls!

We keenly await the results of this year's ewe capsule survey which has kept Richard Hilson particularly busy but which will provide us all with some invaluable information. There has already been much to discuss on this topic and we look forward to hearing about Richard's findings.

One farmer assures me that the heavy cabbage tree blossom across CHB is indicative of a good summer to come...here's hoping!

SIMON MARSHALL

to get onto them early, the earlier the treatment is done the more economic the returns are. You can be quite focussed on who gets the treatments as well which makes even more fiscal sense.

Numbers of scouring calves are slowing down now thankfully. There has been a New Zealand wide shortage of many scouring treatments such as electrolytes which indicates to me that it has been a nationwide issue. We continue to hear about bottle reared lambs having issues with abomasal bloat, we can do something about this so please give us a call. November is going to be a fantastic month so we look forward to catching up soon!

STUART BRUERE

The email notification of visits to different zones within our district is going well. There always seems to be a few extra jobs to be done; so please continue to take advantage of this as it will help reduce some of your travel costs and make our days more efficient.

Remember to plan for some time away on holiday over the summer – this "free time" helps clear the head of the day to day "hum drum" of life. It can also be extremely valuable time to think "bigger picture" and strategically about your farming business.

OUR VET TEAM

Napier & Hastings:

Clare Ryan, Dave Kruger, Dave Warburton, Helen Crawford, Helen Taylor, Ian Leadbetter, Joao Dib, Mark Matthews, Neil Stuttle, Rachel Griffiths, Richard McKenzie, Roger McKinley, Sharné Boys, Stuart Badger, Veronika Pipe and Vicki Gilchrist.

Waipukurau:

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

Dannevirke:

Corinna Minko, Ingrid Meijer, Johnny Atkins, Kate Matthews, Naomi Barrett, Simon Marshall and Tim Hogan.

Masterton:

Elke Blommers, Jacques Van Zyl, Louisa Broughton, Nicola Haglund, Sandy Redden, Sara Sutherland, Sarah Wolland and Stuart Bruere.



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