

VETS ON ALABAMA

SEASONAL HOOF PRINT

SHEEP, BEEF, DEER & HORSES



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In This Issue:

- Mastitis in Sheep
- Dehorning Older Cattle
- Bravecto
- Tailing Time
- Toxovax and Campy Vax
- Nettle Toxicity
- BVD
- StrikeForce – New Flystrike *Solution*

Mastitis in Sheep

Acute mastitis in sheep most commonly occurs in the first week and third/fourth weeks of lactation. It is a severe disease which can result in the death of the ewe; other effects include loss of function of the affected half, starvation of the lamb(s) and the cost of treatment.

Symptoms include apparent hindleg stiffness, a hot, hard udder, watery, clotted or discoloured milk, reluctance to move, eat or let lambs suck, depression and fever. Affected animals require immediate treatment to stand the best chance of survival. This should include treatment with a broad-spectrum antibiotic, anti-inflammatory drugs, food and water within easy reach and may include stripping of the affected half. Please consult the practice for advice on drug choice and

supportive care. In some cases the affected half can become gangrenous (cold, dark, sometimes blue-black, clammy to the touch). It will then slough off. Sick ewes with gangrenous udders should be euthanased on welfare grounds.

Chronic mastitis may develop after or instead of the acute stage. These animals are often only picked up at weaning or the pre-tupping check. Some may not be noticed until the subsequent lambing year when they are unable to feed lambs and have a hard, non productive udder, which does not show the classic signs of acute infection (heat, discolouration, discomfort or a discharge containing blood or pus.) The udder may have small areas of hardened tissue where abscesses have previously formed, or the whole udder may be affected and feel like one hard mass. (Please note, it is important to check for teat peas in these animals as prognosis is much better if a teat pea can be identified and removed.) Such animals should not be put to the tup as the affected half is not functional and cannot be successfully treated.

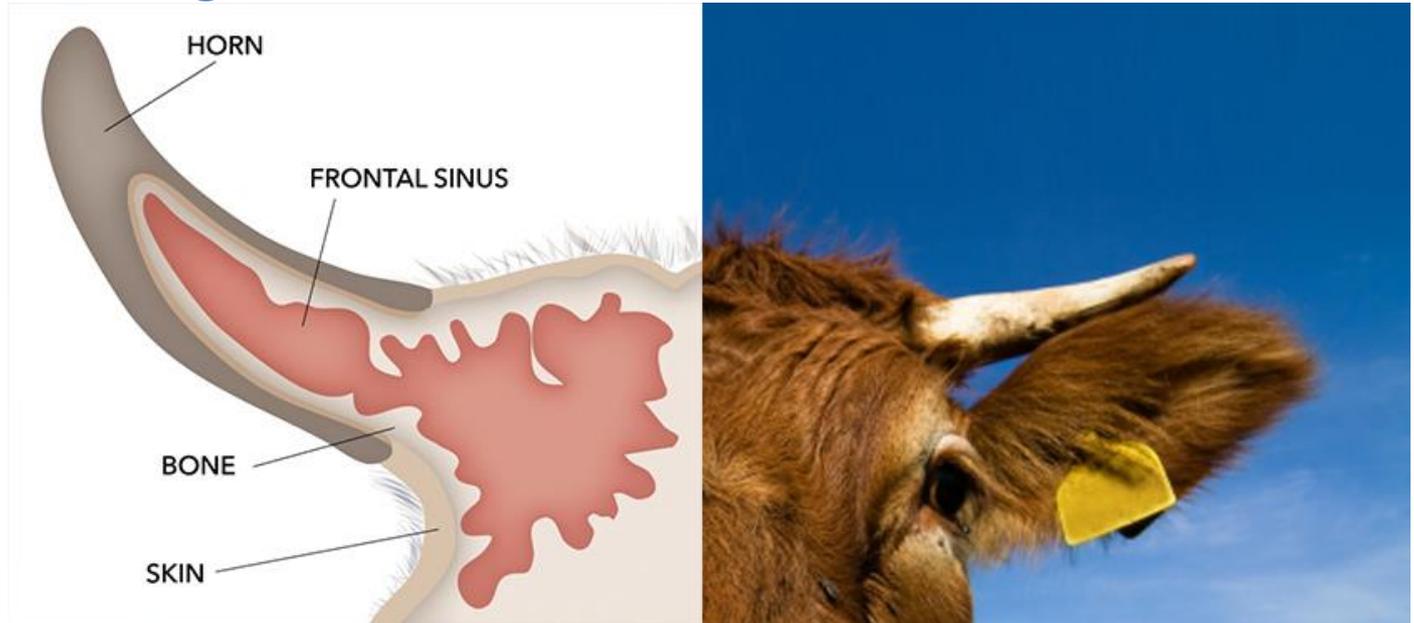
Subclinical mastitis produces no symptoms but can be detected by tests on the milk (such as the California Milk Test and Somatic Cell Counts as used in dairy cattle). It results in reduced lamb growth rates and we could investigate this possibility if lamb growth is sub-optimal.

Risk factors for mastitis include large litter size, poor body condition, poorly shaped udders and teats, unhygienic lying conditions (whether indoors or out), cross-suckling by lambs, adverse weather and teat lesions, such as those caused by injuries.

Please come into the practice to discuss preventative measures to minimise this costly and unpleasant disease.



Dehorning Older Cattle



Recently we have had a spate of enquiries about dehorning large, mature cattle, and the related costs. Whilst this is a service we are able to provide, we strongly recommend disbudding calves at 10-14 days old instead, as they are much easier to handle and the procedure much quicker/safer and cheaper.

However, we do recognise that there are some instances where dehorning later on is a necessity and recently we have been asked for estimates of costs for the procedure. Unfortunately, dehorning is a difficult thing to standardise farm to farm, as it entirely depends on facilities, size of horns, handleability of cattle, whether there is any assistance to help, weather, and holding area post procedure. Because of this, we wanted to give a quick indication of the factors that drive the cost of dehorning up – and what you can do to help reduce it.

The first and possibly most important factor is handling facilities. If you have a functional race and head bail, the procedure will be much safer and allow us to work through them faster. Our primary aim is that the whole operation is safe for both the humans and animals involved, and restraint is the key to that. A halter is often also employed to keep the head in one place and stop the animal moving at the crucial moment as the horn is cut.

Secondly, having plenty of assistants available to move animals into the correct place (and keep them there!) allows everything to run smoothly. Often everyone having a distinct job, for example one person to move animals up into the race, one to operate the head bail and one to put the back bar behind the animal, works well. This is also probably the minimum amount of staff you require (again depending on nature of the animals and facilities) plus the vet!

Thirdly, the nature of the animals also plays a huge part – some hand reared animals may be quiet enough to stand in a head bale for the procedure without needing any sedation, however other, less handled animals may require a little to keep them still enough for the local anaesthetic to be injected. If no headbale is available, we will have to anaesthetise the animal to immobilise and administer local. To reduce the risk from inhalation of rumen contents, giving anaesthetic reversal drug will awaken the animal for safer recovery.

Next we must consider the weather. Although this isn't something that can always be entirely under our control, organising dehorning to be done on a dry day with a period of dry weather before and after is always advised. This means less chance of mud contaminating the raw ends of the wound, and therefore less chance of infection. Ideally we always advise a nice clean paddock but if the weather isn't great a clean, dry indoor area would be advised for them to go into after the procedure. However we do appreciate this isn't always feasible. If neither the weather nor the indoor facilities are playing ball, we may want to give antibiotics to try to stop infection getting a foot in the door. Clostridial vaccines are similarly something to consider, ideally the course of 2 vaccines 4-6 weeks apart should be completed 10-14 days before we take the horns off to allow full protection.

Please also consider time – better to start earlier and have plenty of light to finish the job! Also remember that these things often take longer to do than anticipated, and animals have a way of surprising you!

Do let us know if you have any queries – we'd be more than happy to help if you have anything to book in!



Introducing NEW Bravecto® spot-on* for dogs – an extraordinary 6 months flea and 4 months tick protection in a single dose!

We are very excited to offer even longer lasting flea and tick protection for your dog from a single dose.

Now we have NEW Bravecto spot-on* , a single spot on treatment that provides an amazing 6 months flea and 4 months tick protection! No other spot-on* lasts longer from one dose.

Bravecto makes parasite protection easy. As the days start to warm up remember that flea pupae will begin to emerge as adults and jump onto your pet to feed. Fleas can be a source of constant irritation to dogs, causing discomfort and itching. It can take a staggering 8 weeks or more to remove a flea infestation once it's established. One way to help prevent an infestation is to use a treatment like Bravecto, which provides quick and persistent flea control with a single dose, lasting the entire flea life cycle.

With Bravecto it's now easier than ever to look after your family and manage fleas all year round.



It's Tailing Time!

Some of you will have already tailed your lambs and some of you are yet to start lambing, but as we have had a few queries of late in regard to best practice, we believe it is important to keep you up to date with a few minimum standards when it comes to tailing your lambs this year.

Recently there has been more focus but on Animal Welfare and animal handling by central government to ensure that New Zealand keeps abreast of the international community and the welfare standards.

Tailing

- The procedure of tailing lambs should not be performed in a lamb that is less than 12 hours old.
- Lambs should be tailed within 6 weeks of birth.
- The tail length should be left at a length that covers the vulva in female lambs and the same length should apply to male lambs.
- Schering irons or the use of rubber castration rings are the recommended methods for conducting this procedure.



Castrating

- When it comes to castrating, please ensure that the correct size of rubber ring is used.
- Rubber castration rings should be applied before 4 weeks of age, however for most farms it is done at the same time as tailing. Therefore best practice would be to ensure it is done before 6 weeks of age.

Clostridial Vaccines

Protecting against the following diseases - Tetanus, Pulpy Kidney, Blacks Disease, Blackleg & Malignant Oedema



In lambs born from unvaccinated ewes – the lamb requires one dose of Lamb Vaccine at tailing time and a second vaccination 4 - 6 weeks later to coincide with weaning. Lamb Vaccine contains a Pulpy Kidney antigen and Tetanus Antitoxin. This gives immediate protection against tetanus and provides the initial dose for Pulpy Kidney protection.

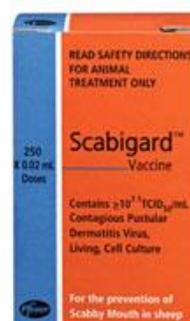


All lambs that are remaining on the farm post weaning (including those born to ewes that received a 5in 1 vaccine pre-lamb) should receive a vaccination of either Multine® 5in1 or Ultravac® 5in1 at weaning and a second vaccination 4 weeks later to coincide with drenching.

Scabby Mouth

Unfortunately Scabine® is unavailable in 2017 – therefore we have Phenax® classic from Virbac available. This product is presented exactly the same as Scabine® with 150 dose applicator and easy-flow needles. Application is the same requiring 2 scratches in the form of an X. A drop of vaccine is required for each scratch.

Scabigard (250 dose) is also available on request.



Protect your flock against Toxoplasmosis and Campylobacter



Toxovax[®]. Made to order. Time to order.

Toxovax is *made to order*, so you will need to place your order with us at least 8 weeks (or earlier) before you intend to introduce the ram to ensure it's available to collect when you need it.

(NOTE: Vaccine must be used within 15 days of the manufacturing date, and is ideally given no later than 4 weeks before introducing the ram)

Important things you need to know about the upcoming Toxovax season...



Season Dates:

First available dispatch date is **Monday 16th October 2017**

Final available dispatch date is **Monday 30th April 2018**

Toxovax should be administered *no later* than **4 weeks before introducing the ram**. It is a one off life vaccine protecting against Toxoplasmosis.



When do I need to place my Toxovax order?

Please place your orders **at least four- eight weeks in advance @ the clinic (or earlier)**. Ordering stock later than this can jeopardise our ability to supply your order. (Note: This is at least 8 weeks prior to putting the ram out.)



How is Toxovax dispatched and delivered?

Toxovax is manufactured in the South Island and each batch is released on the 1st working day of the week (usually a Monday, unless a public holiday) which arrives to the clinic on a Tuesday.



What if I want to cancel my order?

As batches are manufactured batch 4 weeks in advance, **we cannot accept cancellations after this time**.

Don't forget Campyvax4®



ABORTION STORMS. TWO DISEASES. TWO VACCINES.

Campyvax4® is a 1ml dose, administered 4-8 weeks apart to protect against *Campylobacter fetus ssp fetus*, serotypes DL42, 6/1 and *Campylobacter jejuni*. While Toxovax is a one off life vaccine, Campyvax4® does require an annual booster.



Tree Nettle Toxicity in Dogs

The New Zealand Tree Nettle, also known as ongaonga, is one of New Zealand's most toxic native plants. It is a large woody shrub whose leaves are covered in large stinging spines. These spines break after piercing the skin, injecting toxins into the tissues. As well as causing a sting that can last for several days, multiple stings over a large area can result in more serious symptoms including loss of motor function, drooling, paralysis, convulsions, respiratory distress, collapse and death.

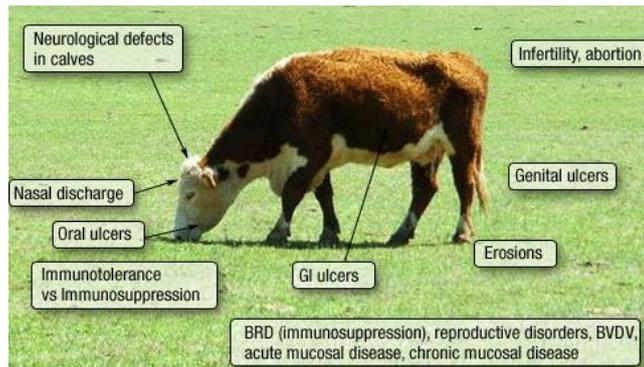


These signs have been seen in people and in dogs. Tree nettle is found in coastal and lowland areas of New Zealand, especially at forest margins or areas of damaged bush. The dogs that are worst affected tend to be pig dogs that have bailed up a pig in dense thickets of tree nettle. Dogs suffering from tree nettle toxicity should be washed as soon as possible to remove the broken spines then taken to a vet clinic as soon as possible. Severely affected dogs may not be able to walk and may need to be carried out. Affected dogs should be handled with gloves or some other form of skin protection to avoid transferring spines from the dog to the handler. At the vet clinic, dogs will generally be given anti-seizure, anti-inflammatory and antihistamine drugs and started on IV fluids. The prognosis for a dog with tree nettle toxicity depends on the extent of the stings. Dogs that recover may take up to two weeks to fully recover.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea in Beef Cattle

Recent advances in testing have shown that BVD is a serious and widespread issue. We now know that at least 60% of dairy and beef cows have been exposed to BVD, which is causing significant production losses.

BVD infection in beef cows can cause reproductive wastage, weight loss and probably reduced milk yield. BVD also causes immune suppression, meaning cattle that have an active infection will be more likely to succumb to other diseases. BVD infection can have major impacts during mating and pregnancy. It can cause infertility, embryo loss, abortions (slips), small slow-growing calves, deformed calves, and the birth of dead calves. The most damage is done when BVD infects pregnant cows. If a cow contracts BVD in the first 4 months of pregnancy, she may give birth to a Persistently Infected (PI) calf. PI animals are the main source of infection within the herd.



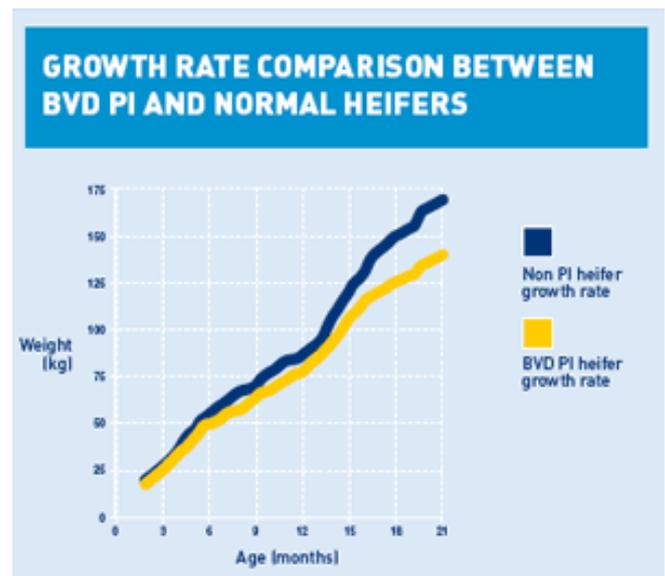
BVD effects:

- Bulls: suppresses the immune system; lower fertility.
- Calves: suppresses the immune system, scouring, pneumonia & reduced growth.
- Cows: suppresses the immune system, reduced production, reduced fertility, conception rate, early loss, later abortions, deformed calves, small/weak calves and PI calves born.

BVD economic model key points:

- You don't necessarily need both calf testing and herd vaccination (the linchpins of control), but you do need at least one to effectively control BVD.
- Clearing infection is really important, even if you are choosing to vaccinate.
- Testing all bought-in cattle is important and worthwhile.
- Securing your boundary fences is worth doing.
- The full biosecurity approach (testing calves, bulls, bought-in cows, actively clearing persistently infected animals, vaccinating bulls, calves and heifers, and improving the boundary with neighbours) minimised the cost of BVD.

BVD behaves differently in beef herds from the way it does in dairy herds. In dairy herds, calves – including PI calves – are removed from their mothers, only to return to the milking herd a couple of years later. This leads to a regular cycle of re-infection every few years. But in beef herds, calves and cows are kept together. This allows a much more dynamic spreading of the disease, back and forth between younger and older animals. This means that PI animals can be in constant contact with susceptible new calves, replacements, bulls and the breeding herd. The presence of a PI calf in a beef breeding herd can have devastating effects. This is because calves are at foot with cows at the stage of pregnancy when the cows are most susceptible to the effects of BVD infection. The calf spreads millions of viruses every day and can infect many cows, causing early fetal loss or the development of even more PI calves.



Please contact the clinic if you would like to discuss BVD and how it could affect you. We also have a limited number of free herd screening tests available. Vets On Alabama would like to be able to help in the prevention and or control of BVD on your property.

Source: BVD Steering Group

New Zealand's new flystrike *solution*.

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- ✓ **Long term** blowfly strike prevention
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- ✓ Any breed of sheep with any **length*** wool

This unique formulation provides farmers with up to **18 weeks of protection** against blowfly strike, whilst having the flexibility of a **low meat WHP of 14 days**.

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StrikeForce[®]-S

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* Up to 2 months before shearing.

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