

VETS ON ALABAMA

SEASONAL HOOOF PRINT

SHEEP, BEEF & DEER



Issue: 015 – Winter 2018

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Our Production Animal Veterinarian Team

With Spring just around the corner we thought it was important to update you on how our production animal veterinary team will look over the upcoming season. We will have 4 veterinarians in the team – they will be Nick Hansby, Dana Marais, Craig Pritchard and Byrony Knowles.

Dana joined the practice earlier in May as a full time veterinarian and we have outlined some more information about him below. Craig Pritchard joins us a locum from late July until October and his position will be taken over by Grace Boardman from October. Many of you will have met Grace as she was with us in Spring 2017. Byrony Knowles also joins us in mid-July, as she will be coming in covering Maternity Leave for Urthe Engel.

We have focused on ensuring that we have a production animal team that will service the Marlborough area well during the forthcoming Spring and beyond and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you to fulfil your on farm veterinary needs. As the largest employer of veterinarians in Marlborough, Vets on Alabama would like to ensure we can continue and maintain a strong rural veterinary presence, which includes afterhours support in the Marlborough region. We firmly believe that we need to maintain a large animal vet team of 4, that will ensure that we can service the regions rural veterinary needs effectively and with your support we would like to see this continue into the future.



DANA MARAIS

“It’s been about 10 years and I am very excited to say that I am back home in Marlborough! Having grown up locally I headed to Massey University in Palmerston North after attending Marlborough Boys College. While studying I was fortunate enough to meet my partner Byrony Knowles who was in my year at vet school.

After graduating we worked in a Rural Mixed Practice in Northland. I have worked predominantly as a large animal vet in Ruawai and after working up there for a few years we have decided that it is time for us to head back to Marlborough.

We are excited by the opportunity to work with the team at Vets On Alabama as a predominantly large animal veterinarian and to be back in Blenheim and the Marlborough region.”

Pre-Lambing Controlled release drench capsules

Pre-lambing is a crucial stage in the production of our sheep flock. It is a critical time when the ewe's natural immunity relaxes. Underfeeding, low body condition, younger age, pregnancy with twins and triplets, and lactation are all "stressors" that further compromise the already vulnerable ewes.

In addition to this, facing a natural L3 worm larvae challenge around the lambing period can have further negative effects due to:

- Reduced voluntary feed intake
- Reduced food conversion efficiency
- Loss of body condition
- Reduced milk production
- More dags
- Higher worm counts → higher faecal egg counts → pasture contamination



Controlled release drench capsules are a great tool that can be used to reduce these negative effects. **They last for 100 days** at therapeutic levels and have a significant management advantage in the post-weaning period.

The key benefits of Controlled release drench capsules at Pre-Lambing:

1. Increased value of ewes sold (culled) at weaning
2. **Better ewe weights at weaning**
3. Ewes in better condition at mating → increased fertility in next season
4. **Additional lambs weaned** in relation to **ewe liveweight mating**
5. Increased wool production
6. **Increased total weight of lambs weaned per ewe**
7. **Less dags!!** → Reduced number of ewes requiring removal of soiled wool at weaning due to lower dag score
8. **Slow release Selenium and Cobalt (B12) for 100days** (In **Bionic®** and **Extender SeCo®** capsules).

Although slow release capsules cost more per head when compared to injectable drenches, they overcome the significant obstacle of resistance. With injectable drenches there is a drop below the therapeutic level towards the end of the claimed treatment period, resulting in resistance formation. Due to their unique formulation this is not an issue with the capsules.

When comparing slow release capsules to short acting drenches, short acting drenches are more economical for treating ewes with minimal long term financial value, i.e. single bearing ewe.

The **real benefit from Controlled release drench capsules comes from knowing when and where to** use them. They would have a good advantage in cases of:

- average to low condition scores
- multiple bearing ewes that are forced to graze down into the infective L3 larvae layer in the pasture
- younger or aged ewes which may struggle to increase or maintain their body condition post lambing

In these cases we can expect good response and increased economic advantage with the Controlled release drench capsules. If the sheep stock is light, the Controlled release drench capsules should be used earlier (4-6 weeks pre-lambing) compared to ewes in good condition (2-3 weeks pre-lambing).

Deciding which **Controlled release drench capsules** to use will depend on known resistance status of the farm.

Currently available are **Extender SeCo®** (albendazole), **Maximizer®** (ivermectin) and **Bionic®** (combination drench). If you are uncertain, you are safer with a combination drench. **Bionic®** is a premium combination drench which will provide therapeutic levels **against all prevalent internal sheep parasites for 100 days**, consequently reducing the risk for developing resistance.

Another concept which is beneficial in reducing resistance is **Refugia**. This means **leaving a proportion of the sheep population untreated**, and consequently preserving a susceptible parasite population. The effectiveness of the drench is maintained by the dilution of the resistance. This can be achieved in the following ways:

- Leaving around 5% of ewes in each mob untreated.
- Leaving the single bearing ewes untreated, as they are more likely to cope with parasite burden than the multiple bearing ewes. The untreated single bearing ewes should be monitored at tailing and weaning using Faecal Egg Counts.

At Vets on Alabama we can assist you in developing a full parasite management plan and advise you regarding the most suitable drench for your farm.

Protection From Clostridial Diseases

Clostridial disease is a real issue on every NZ pastoral farm. If not controlled it will almost definitely result in lamb losses. Usually it affects the best lambs that were fine the night before but are found dead in the morning.

The five most common clostridial diseases are:

Pulpy kidney (PK) – also referred to as enterotoxaemia: The classic sign is sudden death in young lambs that are well fed and growing quickly. If grazing lucerne – this must be a consideration. However it can affect animals at any age, especially when they are grazing high quality pastures.



Tetanus: This occurs when the tetanus spores enter a deep wound where there is minimal aeration in the presence of dead & damaged tissue. Tailing with rubber rings brings with it, one of the greatest risk. However having a searing iron that is not hot enough can cause tissue damage that allows the tetanus spores to proliferate



The next 3 diseases are similar in appearance and all fall into the blood poisoning category which is typified by sudden death followed by rapid post death deterioration, bloody discharge from nose & bloating.

Blackleg: This is usually associated with dirty wounds, grazing muddy winter feed crops, after lambing & using dirty vaccination needles.

Malignant oedema: Lesions very similar to blackleg.

Black disease: Usually associated with liver fluke infection.

Signs and symptoms

- *Lambs with Pulpy Kidney* are usually found dead with no obvious signs, but may be found lying on the ground with their head extended back.
- *Lambs with blood poisoning* usually found dead. They generally go off very quickly and may have gas under the skin.
- *Tetanus* appears 7-21 days after the injury that causes a deep penetrating wound that seals over or one that creates a lot of dead tissue (e.g. from tailing or shearing wounds). Animals are stiff and go into a rigid spasm if stimulated.

Pregnant ewes

If the ewes have not been previously vaccinated, with the first dose at the time of mating and a second dose should be given within four weeks of the expected date of lambing. If the ewes have been previously vaccinated, a booster 4 weeks pre lamb is all that is required. Successfully vaccinated pregnant ewes will not only be protected themselves, but will also pass on immunity to their lambs in the colostrum or 'first milk'; such lambs should be protected for the first 6 to 8 weeks of their lives against these diseases.

Product Options

- Ultravac® 5in1 - 5 in 1 clostridial protection
- Multine® 5 in 1 - 5 in 1 clostridial protection
- Ultravac® 6in1 - 6 in 1 clostridial protection
- Coglavax® 8 - 8 in 1 clostridial protection
- Covexin® 10 - 10 in 1 clostridial protection

- Nilvax® Se - 5 in 1 clostridial protection + Levamisole

- Eweguard - 5 in 1 clostridial protection + Cydectin

The cost

Common clostridial bacteria are endemic throughout NZ farms, however diseases are not commonly seen due to the widespread use of vaccination. Because vaccination is so effective and has been around for a long time many new generation farmers may never have seen the diseases.

Farmers need to be confident that a sound vaccination programme is in place that will help in stopping these diseases from being a problem. Most of the disease outbreaks are now associated with farmers forgetting to vaccinate.

Please call Vets on Alabama to discuss the best product to use for your situation. We have also ensured that vaccine and drench pricing remains competitive.

NB. Do not administer selenised (Se) vaccine to lambs – the level of Se will be toxic. Please have a chat with one of our vets if you have concerns about the Se levels.

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.



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.

Working Dogs

Farm dogs put on plenty of kilometres in their lifetime and just like a tractor that requires a warrant of fitness every year, so too does your working dog. Annual vaccines are a great way to help prevent the occurrence and limit the spread of communicable diseases on your farm, but your dogs may also be hiding certain conditions that cannot be detected at that time. Some factors affecting a working dog's performance include teeth & nutrition, joints and the heart.

Farm dogs make a living by running up and down the hills every day herding wayward stock and as a result, their joints take a beating and can actually degrade over time leading to arthritis. Arthritis isn't limited only to older dogs and can slow down performance significantly. There are a number of treatments to try to alleviate symptoms and improve performance, but the best way is to avoid arthritis as much as possible by starting your dog off right with the proper diet. Nutrition is one of the most important factors in maintaining good health in your working dogs. Just like putting petrol in your diesel ute, there can be disastrous results in feeding the wrong food to a high performance working dog. There are a few diets, however, that were made specifically for working/active dogs that can keep your dog in top notch condition.

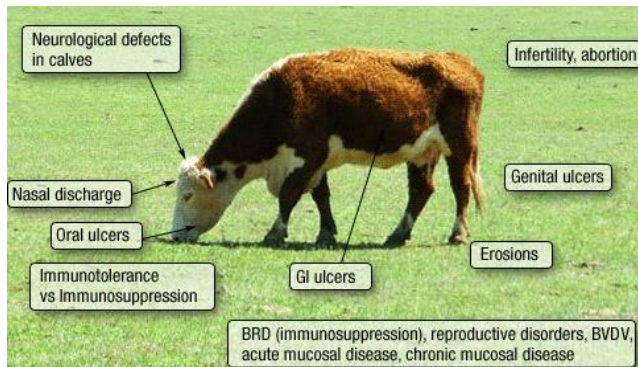
Teeth and oral health go hand-in-hand with nutrition, however, even with the best quality food, dental disease can cause poor performance in any animal. Teeth can break and they can accumulate tartar and calculus over time leading to inflamed and sore gums. A sore mouth can lead to weight loss but also the accumulation of calculus can lead to more serious diseases, such as heart disease. An examination from nose to tail is an important tool for your veterinarian to determine the overall health of your working dogs. Book in now for your dog's warrant of fitness to ensure they are ready for the upcoming season or contact us to discuss the best diet to keep them in tip top shape.



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.



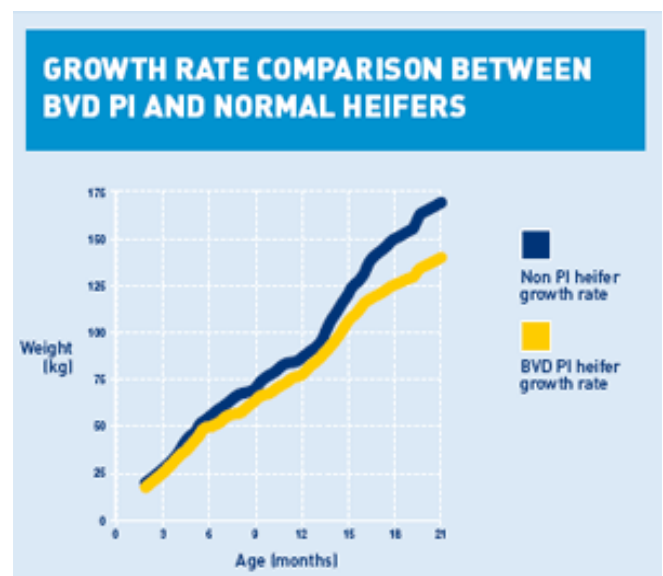
BVD effects:

- 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

Winter 2018 Sheep Measles Update - Protection for The Shepherd

Is your dog visiting or living on a property where sheep graze? Monthly tapeworm treatment helps stop sheep measles. Droncit controls tapeworms in dogs in a convenient single oral dose. At present Ovis Management (OML) is carrying out visits to those farms around the country with significant high prevalence levels. As in the past, it is a mixed bag of issues that result in high prevalence from **infrequent dog treatments, external dogs** coming on farms, through to all dogs on the farm being on a dosing programme except for the **pig dogs!**



These aspects reflect that while technically sheep measles can be easily addressed, human nature plays a major role in ensuring survival of the parasite.

A positive outcome is the ongoing reduction in prevalence seen in lambs at processing. This reflects survey results showing farmers are increasingly being proactive in on-farm biosecurity programmes to reduce the risk of sheep measles.

The surveys show farmers are increasingly using praziquantel on a monthly basis and actively deterring foreign dogs. While eradication of the parasite will be challenging, driving prevalence to low levels allows OML to explore other steps which may impact on prevalence. Further information is available at www.sheepmeasles.co.nz Contact us about the best worming regime for your dog, or to join our worming programme.



More Protection

AGAINST UNEXPECTED DEATHS

NEW 8IN1 CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINE

Coglavax8 protects sheep and cattle against 8 clostridial diseases found in New Zealand.

In addition to protection against the traditional 5, Coglavax8 provides the highest level of alpha toxoid for optimum protection of *C.perfringens* Type A, B, C, and D.

Enjoy more peace of mind and less unexpected clostridial deaths, allowing you to concentrate on finishing more stock for more profit – all for just a few cents more a dose.

	TRADITIONAL 5'N'1*	COGLAVAX 8	DISEASE
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM TETANI</i> TOXOID	✓	✓	TETANUS
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS</i> TYPE A TOXOID		✓	SUDDEN DEATH, ENTEROTOXAEMIA
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS</i> TYPE B TOXOID		✓	ENTEROTOXAEMIA
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS</i> TYPE C TOXOID		✓	ENTEROTOXAEMIA
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS</i> TYPE D TOXOID	✓	✓	ENTEROTOXAEMIA (PULPY KIDNEY)
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM CHAUVOEI</i> TOXOID	✓	✓	BLACKLEG
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM NOVI</i> TYPE B TOXOID	✓	✓	BLACK DISEASE
<i>CLOSTRIDIUM SEPTICUM</i> TOXOID	✓	✓	MALIGNANT OEDEMA



ONLY AVAILABLE AT YOUR VET

*Traditional 5'n'1 refers to products in New Zealand: ACVM No.3585 Ultravac 5'n'1 and ACVM No.0934 Multine
Ceva Animal Health (NZ) Limited. P: 09 972 2853 E: info.nz@ceva.com Coglavax 8 ACVM No.7528

