



The magazine of Cambridge Vets *treating all animals large and small*

September 2019

## Spring is Here!

Spring is truly upon us now, and mating is just around the corner. Here are some reminders and tips:

- **Apply tail paint** now if you haven't already. Monitoring the proportion of non-cyclers will give you a heads up for fixing any problems early.
- **Metricheck** your herd now if you haven't already. Identifying and treating uterine infections increases their chances of cycling and conception.
- **Monitor BVD status** – have you had your BMT checked for BVD? A simple sample pot can be sent to the lab. Bulls need to be tested BVD negative and vaccinated prior to mating.
- **CIDRs** give best ROI if used early, preferably before PSM. The standard program is 10 days for cows and 9 days for heifer synchrony. Heifers can also be synchronized with PG shots, but this requires heat detection and mating to heat over a spread of days.
- **Check Body Condition and Nutrition.** Are your cows holding BCS or losing it? How much is their intake? What is the ME and DM of the diet?
- **Mineral balance and ketone levels** can be checked with a simple blood test. Vitamin deficiencies or ketosis can have a negative impact on mating.
- **Know the odds** -Mating a cow that is not on heat has a 0% chance of conception and mating a cow that is already pregnant has a 20-50% chance of disrupting the pregnancy. It is crucial that a good process is in place for picking and drafting cows on heat.
- **Have a strategy** - Ensure that all farm staff are well informed of the process around mating. Cover off things such as:
  - What heat detection aids will be used?
  - How are the aids applied, interpreted and maintained?
  - What is the process when a cow is recognised as being on heat?
  - What is the process after a cow has been mated?
  - What is each person responsible for?

## Caesarians

Across NZ about 4-5% of veterinary calvings are performed by caesarian section. We are often asked about success rate.

Andrew Muir followed up his practice's C-sections and found

- 92% survived if the cow and situation were considered perfect and the calf was alive
- 50% died if the cow was down and the calf dead
- Things like a dead calf or twisted uterus reduce the odds of survival
- 50% of survivors mated got back in calf – but things such as length of time before mating have an impact here

If you had a cow with a caesarian this year, we would like to hear how she gets on at scanning.

## M Bovis Update!

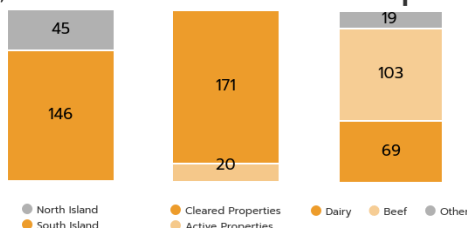
M Bovis is mostly spread through movement of animals and infected milk fed to calves; transmission via semen is a lower risk but bulls can also transmit it via nasal secretions. However, it is still wise to source bulls from as few properties as possible, and if bulls are leased, the fewer farms they have been on the better. Movements should be traceable and with all properties confirmed negative for M bovis. Tests are available for reassurance beyond asking the previous questions. PCR can be done on swabs, but a single negative result does not guarantee no infection.

### Mycoplasma bovis Eradication Programme update



**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Mauri Ōhū Mātaia

To date, there have been **191 Confirmed Properties**



there are **295** properties under a **Notice of Direction** and... **606** properties under **Active Surveillance**

### What's changed over time?

**112,503** Animals have been culled  
**825** Properties released from NoD movement restrictions  
**880,822** Tests completed

As Ag Day is fast approaching, here are some tips and reminders for your lambs;

## **Training your lamb:**

As lambs are assessed on their bond with the child, leading, coming to call, and presentation, it is important that the feeding is not left to the parents! If the lamb associates "its" child with milk and games, it will happily come when called and walked on a lead. Get them used to a collar and lead, and feed should be used as a reward after walking or coming to call. It should be a fun game for both parties!

## **Getting ready for Ag Day:**

Get used to the idea that your perfect lamb will play up on the day! Acclimatize it to lots of people and other animals.

Remember to have the collar and lead clean. Bring a bucket and brush to clean the feet, and a clean cloth (to wipe the eyes, nose and ears – do NOT wash the wool), feed and a water bucket.

## **Health tips:**

**Diarrhoea:** often scours are just nutritional. You can remove them from milk for a day and replace it with electrolytes, then gradually back onto milk. You may need to increase the number of feeds to replace lost fluid. Alternatively you could try increasing the milk powder concentration by 25% with the same volume feed. If the lamb is obviously ill it may need further treatment – please contact us.

**Joint ill:** if the lamb looks lame, and is slow or holding a limb up, check the joints. If they are hot and swollen, antibiotics are required. It is important to address this promptly.

**Ringling:** tails are generally docked with a rubber ring to reduce the risk of fly strike in the summer. It should be done after maternal bonding and before 6 weeks of age; often about 1 week old. The ring needs to be applied near the top, leaving just enough to cover the bum/vulva. Ram lambs may be castrated with a rubber ring at the same time. Make sure both testes are included but not the teats. Lambs often roll around afterwards!

**Vaccinating:** Lambs need to be vaccinated against the clostridial diseases such as tetanus and blackleg and pulpy kidney. These bacterial spores are common in the environment and can gain access via any break in the skin or mucosa and can cause sudden death. Two injections of 5in1 are required a month apart; the first is often done at ringling. However, if the ewe was not vaccinated pre-lambing, the lamb will not have any protection from her colostrum and so should be given LambVax early in life before the 5in1 injections.

## **Kid Goats**

The main difference with kids is that they may need dehorning (if so, best done at 4 – 7 days), they don't need docking, their coat can be washed, and they need to be trained for leading around an obstacle course!



## **DID YOU KNOW IT IS CVS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH FOR PETS?**

### **So - Why should our pets teeth be cleaned?**

Dental care for our pets is a crucial part of keeping them healthy throughout their life. Dental disease affects up to 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of three years. It is the most common disease affecting cats and dogs.

Maintaining a healthy mouth from a young age is a great way to go but it is never too late to teach your pet to tolerate having their mouth opened and their teeth cleaned.

A healthy mouth is full of bacteria. However, even though this is normal, some of the bacteria adhere to the tooth surface in a slimy film called plaque. The plaque hardens and more plaque forms then hardens and so on until the brown tartar is visible. As time goes on, the tartar gets thicker and thicker and starts to affect the gums, making them red and inflamed and this is called **gingivitis**. At this point the damage caused by the gingivitis, if caught early, can be reversed. If left, this inflammation of the gum/tooth margin allows the bacteria to sit below the gum line and incrementally begin to weaken the structures that hold each tooth in place.

This is now called **periodontal disease**. The bone begins to shrink and the integrity of the tooth itself becomes tenuous causing chronic, low grade pain. There comes a time when the tooth may become loose or an abscess may form and in this instance, the tooth then needs to be removed.

This bacteria load is also in the saliva that is swallowed. It is then absorbed from the stomach into the blood stream and is sent through the body to all other organs which can affect the animal and cause them to become unwell.

Cue the dental treatment. Best case scenario is that under a full, nurse-monitored anaesthetic, the tartar is cleaned off with an ultrasonic scaler and then the teeth get a good polishing with animal friendly toothpaste. Worst case scenario involves multiple tooth extractions to minimise the disease and make the animal feel better. Most dogs and cats adapt quickly after having had teeth removed and will even eat the first night after! For some, their teeth have been quite painful and upon removal, they feel much better. A yearly vet check is optimal for your pets health care and a dental check will be performed at this time to inform you of the condition of your pets teeth. With proper home care and regular dental check-ups your pet will have beautiful well-functioning teeth for its entire life.