



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

December 2020

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients and their animals!

SUMMER TIPS!

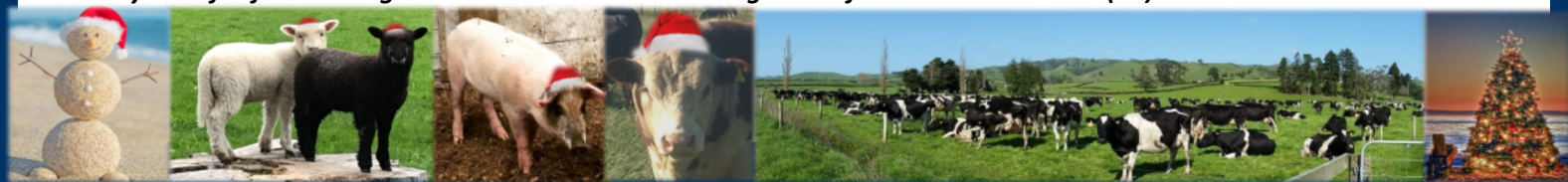
Along with summer comes a drop in grass growth and feed quality. Here are some points to consider:

- 1. Watch the boys:** Keep an eye on the bulls. Watch out for signs of lameness, and whether they are serving correctly. Remember, always have at least two bulls running with the herd at all times. Switch out bulls which are not doing their job correctly.
- 2. Managing the drop in pasture quality:** As it gets drier, the pasture increases in dry matter, loses digestibility and drops in energy, and there is often a drop in the daily in-calf rate that matches the drop in the milk production. Ensuring your cows are getting enough energy will help, and Dairy NZ has a summer management guide and some handy tips.
- 3. Body condition score:** Formulate a plan to maintain body condition score (BCS) over summer. Regular scoring will allow you to act quickly if BCS is starting to drop. The aim is to keep at least 85% of the herd above BCS 4.0 throughout summer.
- 4. Make informed culling decisions:** One option to manage feed over summer is to prioritise feed towards cows you are keeping for next season. Use herd testing and expected calving dates from early aged pregnancy test information to identify cows you don't plan on keeping.

Clinic Hours for Christmas & New Year 20/21

Mon 21st December	Tues 22nd December	Wed 23rd December	Thurs 24th December	Fri 25th December Christmas Day	Sat 26th December Boxing Day	Sun 27th December
8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mon 28th December Boxing day Observed	Tues 29th December	Wed 30th December	Thurs 31st December	Fri 1st January New Years Day	Sat 2nd January Day after New Years Day	Sun 3rd January
CLOSED	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mon 4th January Holiday Observed	Tues 5th January	Wed 6th January	Thurs 7th January	Fri 8th January	Sat 9th January	Sun 10th January
CLOSED	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	9am-12.30pm	9am-12pm

Duty Vets for farm emergencies will be available through our after hours service Ph: (07) 827 7099 or 0800 226 838



CALVES AND SHEEP - WORMS

Worm burden can be a particular challenge over summer and autumn. Ostertagia, Trichostrongyles, Cooperia, and lungworm are the major players in calves. Drench resistance is becoming increasingly common, so we need to be drenching smart, so we maintain both animal health and product efficacy.

Lungworm has a short lifecycle, so if that is a concern or risk, use a product with an abamectin ingredient.

Combination products will reduce the risk of resistance.

Oral products are a good option for young animals, and are cheaper too.

Levamisole is the best for cooperia, which are often untouched by the 'mectins'. Oxfendazole is the classic white drench, and still a reasonable choice for roundworm.

Newer drenches for sheep Startect and Zolvix are novel actives and are good options for a quarantine drench, or if we have documented resistance to the other families.

They must be drenched carefully, and never added to the milk as it goes into a different stomach and risks poisoning.

Likewise, we have seen adverse effects in older cattle drenched when they were dehydrated; ensure they have water and are not stressed, so avoid drenching after trucking. Animals should be dosed accurately; weigh them.

Check dose rates of the product, check dose accuracy of gun (into a measuring jug) "How often do I need to drench?" is a common question, but hard to answer. It depends on the weather, stocking density, pasture burden, rotation, co-grazing, age of stock and product used. Old sheep grazing under no pressure on a lifestyle block may not need drenching, as both sheep and cattle develop immunity.

However, this does drop around lambing.....

Having youngstock constantly on the same paddocks will increase worm burden. So will warm, wet weather.

Rotating them with older animals or different species to "hoover up" the eggs will reduce the pasture burden and need for drenching.

Do they even need drenching? We can run samples in the clinic lab for a Faecal Egg Count. If there is a low count, save money and hassle, and reduce the selection pressure for resistance by delaying drenching. Drench efficacy can be checked by doing a FEC before drenching and then again 10 days later.

Sheep also have to contend with Barber's Pole, which can ingest so much blood the lambs can die of anaemia. Genesis Ultra for sheep covers barber's pole for 42 days and also contains closantel for the control of liver fluke.

I recently saw a liver with fluke wriggling through it like a little snake, so if you get works reports of fluke you should consider a product that targets them too. The life cycle involves a snail that lives in mud, so it is most common on farms which have swampy areas.

We are stocking new cattle products called TURBO.

They all contain eprinomectin (covers roundworm and lungworm with a higher safety margin than abamectin) plus Levamisole to cover cooperia. Turbo Initial for weaners also contains selenium and cobalt, plus diclazuril to combat coccidiosis between coming off meal and developing immunity.

Turbo Advance is designed for bigger calves that can still be drenched orally, but does not cover coccidiosis.

Turbo Pour-On is useful for animals too big to drench, and Turbo Injection covers sucking lice as well as worms.

Benchmarking Submission rates

Our Infovet clients had an average 3-week submission rate of 83%, a little bit short of the 90% target.

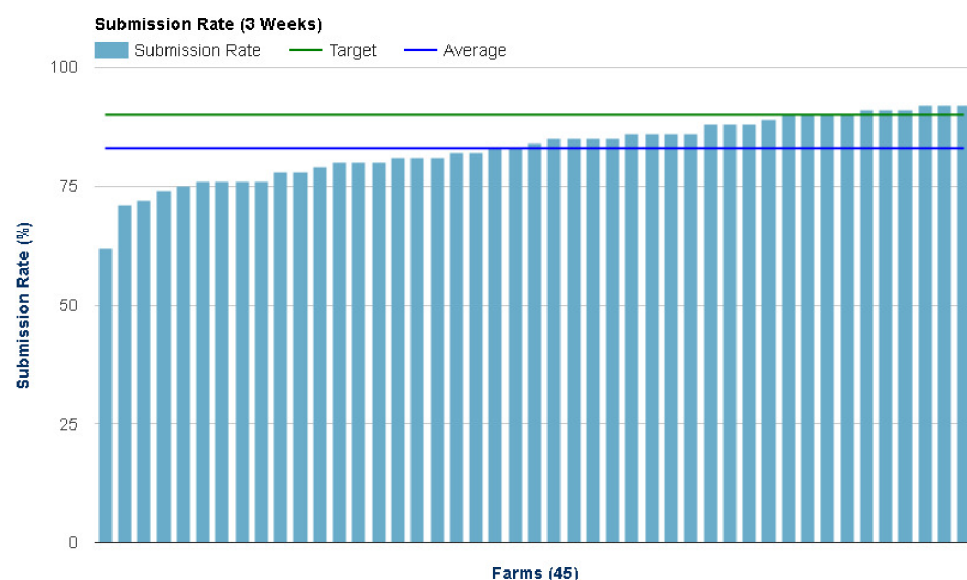
It is noticeable that the on-target farms were pro-active in terms of treating non-cyclers. How did you do?

 **benchmark.**

Submission Rate

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Year: 2020



*Target rate supplied by DairyNZ

SHEEP - FLYSTRIKE

As discussed under worms, drenching sheep can be very important for health reasons. Keeping them free of dags is very important, and likewise shearing to avoid sweaty wool. This will minimize the risk of Flystrike, which is a horrible thing to see. If you need a product to repel flies or treat flystrike, we have a range on our shelves:

- Zapp Encore and Cyrex are smaller volume products for smaller flocks, they cover fly and lice, but will probably require 2 applications in a summer.
- Clikzin – for the bigger farms, this has extended activity for longer protection and we have not seen any fly resistance issues with it, but it does not cover lice.
- Magnum covers flies and lice.



FACIAL ECZEMA

Every year we see cases of FE, where the animal is losing weight or is showing skin signs.

Pithomyces chartarum is a fungus in the pasture whose toxin sporidesmin poisons the biliary tract of the liver in deer, cattle, alpaca and sheep. This may be obvious and seen as red peeling skin and photosensitivity as the chlorophyll cannot be processed, or it may just be vague sick weight loss signs. You can also get redwater as the red blood cells break down. Unfortunately there is no great treatment.

- Provide shade
- Manderson's Mixture
- Vitamins
- Zinc cream

So prevention is the best option.

Interestingly chicory, plantain, legumes and tall fescue are less prone to *Pithomyces*, but zinc is the mainstay of prevention.

The forecast for summer seems a little uncertain for the North Island under an El Nina system. If there is not a drought, we generally see spores rising in February to peak in March and continuing past April.

Drop off grass samples at the clinic and we can do a spore count to see the risk profile on your farm. We publish these on our facebook and website, so keep an eye on these for your area trend.

If you are using zinc in the water to protect against Facial Eczema, you may need to start at half rates in the new year. We find adding flavouring helps mask the bitter taste, either aniseed or apple.

Zinc levels need to be in the Goldilocks zone – high enough to protect the liver from the oxidative damage cause by sporidesmin, but not so high as to cause poisoning which damages the pancreas and causes the animal to look sick, potentially with redwater, and fade away.

Check your dose rates carefully (check out our website) and call us to take some blood samples to confirm zinc levels are right in the animal.

Options for zinc administration are:

- Zinc oxide in the feed or drench
- Zinc sulphate in the water
- Zinc bolus e.g. Time Capsule, FaceGuard (cattle, sheep) – these last 4-6 weeks depending on brand, so mark on your calendar when the next one is due!

An alternative is to spray your paddocks with fungicide (e.g. Mycotak), but this needs to be done before the spore count rises.

AHP/Welfare, antibiogram, BCS and tail scoring

Both Synlait and now Fonterra are requiring farms to formulate a plan for animal health and welfare with their vets.

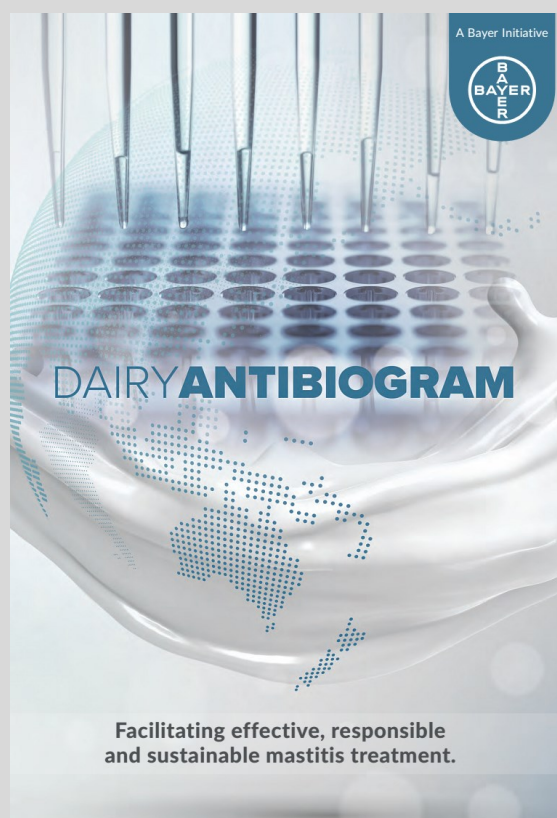
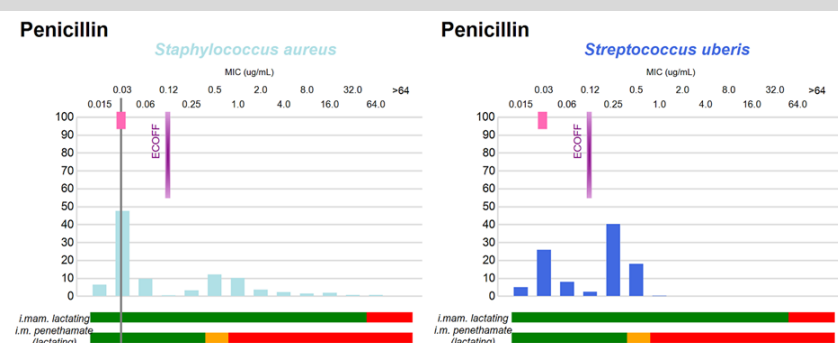
We are happy both to create the document plan with you, and to help with its implementation. This covers both the normal health calendar, and a wider welfare discussion. For example, we offer:

- BCS - Regular scoring will allow you to act quickly if BCS is starting to drop
- Tail Scoring - Did you know?

Recent data collection across NZ found that broken or dislocated tails accounted for approximately half of all tail damage found, or around 10% of all cows tail scored, and the incidence analysis suggests 3% or approximately 150,000 cases of new tail breaks or dislocations are occurring in the studied dairy herds each year.

Training staff on the best ways to move cows without causing tail injuries should be part of your farm procedures.

Antibiogram on bulk milk to monitor mastitis bacteria and antibiotic sensitivity/resistance profiles. Fonterra are giving Farm Source dollars for farms who order these tests to demonstrate responsible product use.



DEER

Drench

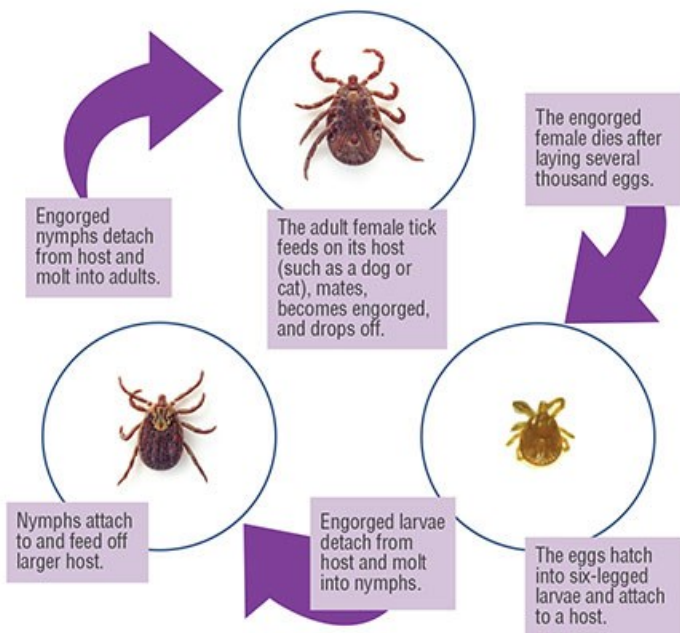
Weaner fawns may need drenching for worms in January/February, particularly for lungworm. It is generally recommended to use a combination oral drench at that stage, one with a 'mectin component for lungworm. These products are not licenced for deer though, so speak to us about dose rates and with-holding period.

TICKS

Ticks are particularly an issue for fawns at this time of year. An infestation can have a massive impact on fawns through blood loss. Each tick can remove up to 1ml of blood, and you can find a very large number of ticks on their ears! This can certainly kill fawns, or it can impact on growth and health, and downgrading of hides and velvet. Options include:

- Flumethrin pour-on eg Bantix
- Impregnated Ear tags
- Pasture cultivation (ticks like long grass / hedges, scrub and reeds)

The Lifecycle of the Tick



GOSSIP

Julie recently took out the NZ Empress Award for doing the most Caesareans (geddit? Caesar? Emperor?) this spring.

Well done Julie!



AG DAY

Congratulations to all the children who participated in Ag Day this year! Hopefully you had a lot of fun with your animal.



FACIAL ECZEMA DEFENCE

VET ONLY



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A single application lasts up to 6 weeks with the option of topping up to give additional cover for longer periods.



Face-Guard

Selovin

Prolaject™

Coppermax™

Bayer Copper Capsules

Flexidine

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