

**We've got you covered -
Farm Visits & Deliveries**

**We're in your area because
we're local...**

Monday—Milton / Clydevale

Tuesday—Lawrence / Millers Flat

Wednesday—Owaka

Thursday—Clutha / Slopedown

Friday—Lee Stream / Hindon



Only a phone call away—Roly can swing by and drop something off while he's in the area, or stay and chat about what you may need for the upcoming season... over the fence or over a coffee! Roly has the experience, knowledge and Veterinary back up to help sort your Drench, Trace Minerals, Vaccine needs or whatever other questions you may

“Christmas is coming” Promotions....

Alleva Drench: Get a **Christmas Ham** with every 2 x Boss 20ltr

NEW! Turbo Triple + Tape PLUS with a Xmas Ham

Turbo & Boss Pour On—get a Xmas Ham on Selected Products

WIN! Purchase any Alleva drench and go in the draw to win a

Multi Draw 297pc Tool Kit!

WIN! Take A Mate Fishing — Stewart Island...

Zoetis: Buy Local, Support Local — Get 2 x 20lt of Troika or 4 x Ultravac 500ml, Dectomax or Dectomax-V and you get a local butchery voucher worth **\$50.00**

BI Cattle: Get an All Blacks Bag with Eprinex 5ltr
Get 2.5ltr FREE with every 25lt Eprinex

BI Sheep: Matrix is back! And with a shirt on every drum!

Smartshot: Win an Espresso Coffee Machine—2 chances in Clutha

CLUTHA VETS SHEEP & BEEF FARMER NEWSLETTER



Issue 239 Pre-Weaning Edition November 2023



Clinic News

Annie Jackson

As I write this, our late spring snow storm has arrived to remind us how vulnerable we are to the vagaries of the weather, and how we can never take it for granted. The challenges of the weather on our farming systems and on our farmers are little understood by our urbanite neighbours.

Connie Waddingham, one of our senior vet nurses' who is based in our Milton clinic, is soon to be leaving us for a new challenge in Christchurch. Connie has been with us for nine years and would have cared for and looked after plenty of your pets and working dogs as they have come through the door. She has also been the mainstay of the worming programme for your dogs and cats. Not an easy undertaking considering the extent of it and the number of animals on the programme. She is an excellent nurse and will be very much missed, but we are excited for her as she heads off on her next adventure!

Claudia Talbot, our UK vet, will be heading off to Australia at the beginning of December for her next adventures after exploring NZ and being part of the team at the Clutha clinic for most of the year. We have really enjoyed having Claudia on board and wish her all the best.

Dana Marais our NZ locum has agreed to extend his stay to help us out until the end of March. You may get to meet him soon on some ram runs or maybe beef cow pregnancy testing.

The count down until the magical deadline of Christmas is now on (always far too quickly for my liking these days!). It is also an extra busy couple of months for our farmers to get all the crops and young grass sown, baleage / silage made, lamb weighing, drenching, ewe uddering.... the list goes on! But we are always here to help with any animal health advice.

In This Issue:

- Clinic News
- Monitoring drench effectiveness
- Upcoming sheep farmer event
- New option for pre-weaning drench
- Pre-weaning checklist
- On-farm visits and deliveries
- Christmas promotions

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Your Drenches

By Alisa McDonald

Do I really want to know if my drenches are not working?

The answer is YES!!!! You won't see obvious failure of a drench until it is under 50% effective, but before this there is a lot of lost production (that often gets blamed on other things).

When drench resistance is established on farm, the continued use of ineffective drenches can rapidly increase the gene frequency of drench resistant worms i.e. the problem gets worse quicker, not to mention the production losses and waste of money from using ineffective drenches.

Post drench checks can reduce the risk of this. Ideally these should be done on EVERY farm EVERY year, even if you have recently done a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT).

What are drench checks?

A post drench check is a faecal egg count (FEC) done 10 – 14 days after a drench is administered.

A drench check after the weaning drench and again later in the season will give you an idea of drench efficacy. Sometimes drenches will be effective early season against Ostertagia, but be less effective against Trichostrongylus later in the season, or vice versa.

If your drench is highly effective, and the lambs have been drenched properly (dosed to heaviest, nothing spat out the drench, drench guns working) the egg count should be zero.

If eggs are present, further investigation is recommended – a FECRT.

What does a FECRT involve?

A FECRT provides the best information on the efficacy of drenches tested on your farm. Ideally every farm would do a FECRT every five years. Drench resistance status changes over time, so one good FECRT result does not mean that you can relax and never worry about drench resistance again.

Doing a FECRT requires some preparation: if you think you would like to undertake one this season, please contact the clinic and we will help you get set up for this.

In summary, the test involves leaving 10 – 15 lambs per drench family that you want to test undrenched. Regular FECs are done first, until egg counts are high enough that we can be confident that all relevant worm species will be present, at which point we proceed with the FECRT itself.

In most cases we test the three single actives and then the combinations that are used on your farm. This tells us which worms are resistant to which drenches, and detects emerging issues before they become major problems.

The head in the sand approach to drench resistance generally doesn't help. It can be stressful worrying about what you might find, but having good information about the efficacy levels of each drench on your farm means that you can make informed decisions to optimise production and profitability.

Save the Date!!

We would like to invite you along to a pre-weaning get together early next month. Held in two locations (Lawrence and Balclutha) the events will be a mixture of some information sharing and some socialising.

Scheduled for late afternoon, we are hoping you will be able to take a well deserved break from the tractor work, head to the golf club to hear some informative presentations and then join us for a BBQ and refreshments.

- **Balclutha Golf Club**
◇ Monday 4th December, 3:30pm
- **Lawrence Golf Club**
◇ Tuesday 5th December, 3:30pm

Our main presenter will be Colin McKay, technical services manager with Elanco NZ, discussing various aspects of flystrike and its control, something that is becoming an increasing challenge for South Otago farmers.

As well as being a great presenter, Colin is one of NZ's most respected gurus on all things that attack the surface of our livestock, and is the co-author of "Ectoparasites of Sheep in New Zealand and Their Control"

The programme will be rounded out by several presentations on local issues by the Clutha Vets team. More details to follow soon. Keep an eye out for your invitation!

Turbo Ideal for Young Lambs

It is generally agreed that, when it comes to delaying the onset of drench resistance, using triple active drenches is your best option.

Most local farmers are following this advice, using products such as Matrix or Boss Triple as their main lamb drench. However, while these products have high safety margins in most circumstances, one of their three ingredients, abamectin, can be harmful to young lambs. They are therefore, not recommended to be used as a pre-weaning drench. Or, at least used very cautiously, ensuring smaller lambs are dosed to their body weight. And these products should not be used at all in any lambs less than 15kg live-weight.

But thanks to innovative New Zealand drench manufacturer, Alleva, these concerns have just become a thing of the past. You now have a triple active option that can be used with confidence as your pre-weaning drench. "Turbo Triple + Tape" contains eprinomectin rather than abamectin. Anyone with cattle will probably be familiar with eprinomectin as it is one of the active ingredients in some widely used cattle pour-ons and injectable drenches. As well as being safe to use in young animals, eprinomectin is also the most potent member of the "avermectin" family of anthelmintics.

And, as the name suggests, it also contains a tapeworm component (praziquantel) for those farmers who like to give their lambs a good clean out at this time of year.

Turbo Triple + Tape ticks all the boxes:

- Triple active for drench resistance prevention
- Safe for young lambs
- Contains the most potent "avermectin" available
- Controls tapeworm

What's not to like? In stock now at Clutha Vets.



Pre-Weaning Checklist

By Andrew Roe

With most farmers weaning their lambs some time in December, many will be bringing the ewes and lambs through the yards soon for their pre-weaning treatments. Following are a few animal health topics to bear in mind at this time of year.

Worm Control

While farmers further north often don't start their lamb drenching until weaning time, lambs at this end of the country are likely to need some assistance before then. The culprit is Nematodirus, a worm that thrives under our climatic conditions and one that is particularly harmful to young lambs. Starting the drench programme around four weeks before weaning is the solution

Clostridial Vaccination

Any protection your lambs gained from the "5 in 1" vaccine given to their mums will be worn off by now, leaving them vulnerable to pulpy kidney and other causes of "sudden death". Yarding the lambs for their pre-weaning drench provides a great opportunity to get them vaccinated. If you gave them their first dose at tailing, their booster will be due now.

Vitamin B12

Pasture cobalt levels typically start falling in November, and continue declining during the drier summer months. If you used "SmartShot B12" at tailing your lambs should be fine. But if they only received a short acting B12, or nothing at all, consider supplementing them pre-weaning. A combination "5 in 1" and B12 (+/- selenium) product is an option if wanting to vaccinate them as well.

Don't forget the ewes

With only three, or maybe four, months between weaning and mating, there is not a lot of time for those ewes that have lost condition over spring to get back into good shape for mating, especially as all the best feed is usually ear marked for the lambs from now on.

So taking note of those in poorer condition at the pre-weaning yarding and giving them a drench will be more beneficial than waiting to address the issue at weaning time.

While wholesale drenching of adult stock is not recommended, targeting those individuals that need some help is a good idea. Even if worms was not the reason for them being in poor shape (it was probably because they reared three lambs!!), once ewes become thin their ability to deal with incoming worms is compromised