Good Results from Pain Relief

A growing number of our sheep farmer clients are reporting good results from the use of Meloxicam (eg Reliven and Metacam) in their ewes and pregnant hogget's at this time of year. The drug is a potent anti-inflammatory and reliever of pain, which has been successfully used in the dairy industry for a while, especially following difficult calvings.

Situations where meloxicam works especially well are:

- Following replacement of a large bearing; by taking away the discomfort, ewes are less inclined to continue straining, and so less likely to push the bearing out again. Clients have reported improved survival of their bearing ewes since using the product.
- After a difficult assisted lambing, especially in hoggets. By reducing the pain associated with the procedure treated ewes are more likely to show an interest in their lamb(s) and to retain their appetite, and therefore, milk production.

Meloxicam is given subcutaneously at a dose of 1ml per 20kg and continues working for three days.

Are You Due for an RVM Consult?

Quite a few of the animal health products commonly used on sheep and beef farms are classified as "restricted veterinary medicines" (RVMs). Examples include;

- All antibiotics, regardless of what form they are in (injectable, oral, topical or intra-mammary)
- Most vaccines; including scabby mouth vaccine
- Some trace element products such as injectable iodine and copper preparations as well as most oral trace element boluses that contain copper.

It is a legal requirement that, before you purchase an RVM, you have a consultation with a vet. We are not permitted to dispense these products without a veterinary consult.

Thankfully, there is a provision in the rules, that allows you (and us!) to meet these RVM requirements in an easy and convenient way. By catching up with your vet once a year and going over your anticipated animal health requirements, we can then "forward authorise" your RVM usage for the following 12 months, saving you the need and inconvenience of speaking to a vet each time you require a particular RVM.

If you have not had an RVM consult in the last 12 months, why not book one in now, before the busy spring begins

Paul Kenyon Well Received

Thank you to all those who attended our recent sheep farmer seminar. We continue to get lots of positive feedback about the event, especially with regards to Paul Kenyon's keynote presentation.

Paul, head of the agriculture faculty at Massey University, and lead researcher at the uni's Sheep Research Centre has a huge depth of knowledge around sheep production, nutrition and reproduction, as witnessed by those in attendance.

Topics Paul covered included ewe wastage and risk factors for ewe loss, breeding hogget's, feeding ewes in late pregnancy, and ewe udder conditions

Paul has kindly provided us with a copy of his presentation, in PDF format. If you would like a copy please get in touch with the clinic.

You may also be interested in checking out some of the podcasts Paul has put together for Beef + Lamb NZ, covering similar topics to what were discussed at our meeting; the link to these is:

https://beeflambnz.com/search?query=Paul+Kenyon

Your Vets	
Balclutha Clinic	
Jason Darwen Rob Mills Hamish Moore Catherine Copland Peter Heslip Steven Butler	BVSc BVSc BVSc BVM&S BVSc, MVM BVSc, PGDinVSc
Andrew Roe David Exton Darius Tan Anneke Muller Wing Szeto Hayden Linton	BVSc, MANZCVS BVSc BVSc BVSc BVSc BVSc
Chase Jordan	BVSc

Milton and Lawrence Clinics

Sid Taylor	BVSc, MANZCVS
Annie Jackson	BVSc
Martha O'Connor	MVB
Bevan Topham	BVSc
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CLUTHA VETS SHEEP & BEEF FARMER NEWSLETTER

Issue 244



Clinic News

Annie Jackson

Every now and then, a staff member who has been an integral part of Clutha Vets, hangs up their vetting gumboots and stethoscope and leaves us. When this happens, it feels like the end of an era.

Rob Mills began at Clutha Vets, Balclutha 23 years ago. He moved to Balclutha with his wife Louise and their two little girls (and, later, two boys!) and began his veterinary career as a mixed animal practitioner. Rob eventually moved into mainly dairy work, but has always been able to turn his hand to anything. In 2010, Rob became one of the founding members of the Executive Management Group (EMG) that was set up to manage the Vet Club on a day to day basis. As you can imagine, this was a huge undertaking and Rob with his "big picture" thinking was absolutely integral in getting this new management up and running. This truly was a huge undertaking and he has been responsible for the great structure and stability that we have now. This leads to a clear succession plan and leadership amongst our vets, which helps to attract and retain excellent vets who are keen to work for us.

Rob, has not only contributed greatly to Clutha Vets, he and his family have contributed hugely to the South Otago community, with volunteer work in many different areas throughout the community.

Rob, has always been a great teacher and has enjoyed a good rapport with young people, and this fits in very well with the new role he taking up at the Otago Polytechnic. He will be a teacher and organiser of the Rural Veterinary Technician course. Rob was also integral in helping establish the successful Telford technician course, in its current format.

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August 2024 °



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- Copper for deer and cattle
- Clostridial disease prevention
- Pain relief at lambing
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Clinic News (continued)

And, once again thinking of the community, Rob Rob, in his modest way, has not wanted any fuss spearheaded and was responsible for the planning or fancy farewells....and so he will be quietly and construction of the Clutha Vets Dog Park. leaving Clutha Vets at the end of July. Rob, in his trademark "wanting to do things right" mode, was determined that Balclutha should have Thank you so much Rob, for all that you have a dog park that was excellent in all aspects.

It is always really hard to sum up 23 years in a few generously...we wish you absolutely all the very short paragraphs, and say thank you for all that best for your next chapter! one person has contributed so generously to Clutha Vets and his local community.

done; one little article doesn't really do justice to all that you have contributed and given so

Pre-Lamb Injectable Drenches: Minimising Drench Resistance

By Alisa McDonald

are aware that feed is tight and condition on ewes worms have survived the injectable drench you is a little lighter than usual around the district. We can do an 'exit drench' at the time of tailing, to understand that, in these conditions, the use of pre reduce the time that they will be shedding resistant -lamb drench products is something many of you eggs onto your pasture. Or, at the very least, it will may be considering to help your flock when feed is inform you that you need to do things differently tight and/or ewes are not in ideal shape.

Medium (35 days) and long (over 100 days) acting 4) After weaning, try to run a mob of untreated injectable moxidectin products (eg Cydectin, ewes or cattle through the blocks that treated Marthon and Eweguard) are great tools to assist ewes were set stocked on. ewes to fight off a worm challenge in late

they only contain a single active ingredient, and important for the immune system

because they continue working a lot longer than an oral drench, these products carry a higher risk of selecting for drench resistance if not used wisely.

And, because moxidectin is the most potent drug in the "mectin" group, if resistance to these products develops on your property, it is highly likely that you will have resistance to the likes of abamectin and ivermectin as well.

reduce the odds of drench resistance developing drench which would be lucky to last three weeks. or worsening.

ewes who will benefit the most (see the insert for lambs? There is an easy and reliable in-house test suggestions). Healthy, well-fed ewes should have that we can carry out on your flock. Just pick up good immunity to worms, especially those that are about a dozen dead lambs (either still born or only carrying singles.

2) Consider a 'primer' drench at the time of the freezer until you have enough to bring in. moxidectin injection. The primer should contain BZ/Levamisole actives so you are effectively By calculating the lambs' thyroid weight to body giving a triple. This gives you a better chance of weight ratio, we can determine if your lambs were killing all the adult worms in the gut. These adult suffering a subclinical iodine deficiency, and thereworms are the egg producers and also more likely fore, whether or not you need to change your to survive the treatment where resistance is devel- supplementation method next season to maximise oping, compared to the incoming worm larvae.

3) Carry out a faecal egg count (FEC) on treated ewes around 60 days after injection (for the long It has been a tough season for many of you; we acting products). If this reveals that a number of the following year.

pregnancy and early lactation. However, because 5) And remember your trace elements: selenium is

Easy Check of Iodine Status

Good iodine uptake by your ewes during pregnancy is very important for the survival of their lambs. Most farmers in our region provide some form of iodine supplement to their ewes, but the method varies greatly, ranging from injections (Flexidine or Depodine) which last for around There are a number of things that you can do to seven months, to a pre-lamb oral trace element

How do you know if your iodine supplementation 1) Avoiding whole flock treatment: target those option is meeting the needs of your ewes and their those that died soon after birth) and drop them at the clinic. You can store them in the dog tucker

your lamb survival.

Animal Health Reminders

Lambing Checklist

Next time you are in the clinic, pick up a copy of our checklist; it's a great reminder of all the stuff you may need during the spring. Better to have everything on hand before lambing starts than remember you need to buy something when out on the lambing beat!

Stag Nutrition for Velvet Growth

To maximise your velvet production ensure your stags are on a high protein diet from button drop onwards. Good spring pasture is as good as anything for this purpose, but until that comes away, consider using supplements such as high protein deer nuts or lucerne baleage to fill the gap.

BVD Vaccination for Heifers

For those beef breeders who have embarked on a BVD vaccination programme, remember that your heifers require two doses of the vaccine before mating. With the BVD vaccine that we use, it is possible to have an interval as long as six months between these two shots, so some of you may have given your heifers their first dose back in autumn. If you did not go down this route, then it would pay to start soon, to enable the second dose to be fitted in three or four weeks before the bulls go out.

Revival of Hypothermic Lambs

A great way to improve the survival of mis-mothered, hypothermic lambs is to refuel them with an injection of dextrose, before warming them up in the lamb warmer. Given directly into the abdominal cavity, this potent energy source is absorbed into the blood stream a lot faster than anything given by mouth, especially in lambs that are cold. A lot of our clients swear by this simple technique; if you are yet to try it call into the clinic and we will show you how it's done. Alternatively check out the fact sheet on Beef + Lamb NZ's website, that was prepared using Clutha Vets' information. Go to: https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/reviving-newborn-lambs.pdf

Prevention of Magnesium Staggers in Beef Cows

Sudden deaths in adult beef cows in late pregnancy or early lactation is something we get to investigate every spring. Magnesium deficiency, leading to grass staggers, is the most common cause of the problem. The cows' magnesium requirements unfortunately often coincide when magnesium availability is at its lowest. Dusting hay or baleage with magnesium oxide (Causmag) is one way to prevent the problem, but this is not feasible for all beef cattle herds. Another reliable supplementation option is the use of oral magnesium boluses. We can also blood test a few of your cows to check their pre-calving magnesium levels.

Pre-lamb Treatments to Improve Lamb Survival

Have you got all your bases covered when it comes to maximising new born lamb survival? Deficiencies of iodine, selenium and Vitamin E can all lead to the birth of weak lambs that lack the vigour and drive to get to their feet and have that all-important first feed. For iodine and vitamin E, the risk of deficiency is greater for ewes wintered on kale or swedes. There is a range of options for topping up your ewes' reserves of these important nutrients; have a chat to one of our team to work out the best approach for you.

Do your Cattle or Deer Need their Copper Reserves Topped Up?

Cattle and deer have high copper requirements which are not always met by what's in the pasture. And the situation is often worse over winter as the soil ingested with winter crops, or when break fed on grass, often contains high levels of iron which interferes with the animal's ability to absorb copper from their diet. Cattle and deer, wintered on crop, that were not copper supplemented before the winter are very likely to need a top up coming into the spring.

Protecting your Lambs Against Clostridial Diseases

Reducing the incidence of diseases such as tetanus, pulpy kidney and the nastier forms of navel infection in your lambs used to be simple; give their mums a shot of "5 in 1" before lambing and you'll be right! Now there are more considerations including a wide range of products and different vaccination timing options for the lambs themselves. Give us a call if you'd like to learn more.