



Quarterly News and Views

# Over the Fence

Greetings from Wanganui Vet Services

December 2015 • Issue 26



## Inside this Issue:

- >> Scouring in weaned calves
- >> Treating your calves for worms
- >> Tapeworm
- >> The 10 deadly names in clostridial diseases
- >> Facts on flystrike
- >> Christmas hours

## Animal Health Reminders

*For the next two months:*

- Animal Health Reminder
- Toxovax / Androvax
- Ram fertility checks
- 5 n 1 or 10 n 1 Vaccine for lambs going onto crops
- Monthly drenching of lambs
- Finish velvetting / tidy regrowth
- Mastitis milk samples for culture
- Drench reduction tests



## December 2015

Once again Christmas is nearly upon us. The months have certainly flown by and it has been an eventful and challenging year for the clinic and for the general farming community. The resilience and hardiness of the rural community has shown through once again.

We have had a drought, floods, fluctuating commodity prices and said farewell to our retiring staff. Sadly we have also said final goodbyes to some friends and farming identities over the last year, and our thoughts are with their families as they approach Christmas without them.

The rugby world cup kept us enthralled for September and October but thankfully the best team won! Closer to home Wanganui regained the Meads Cup returning to the top of Heartland rugby and scored the try of the season in the final. Wanganui as a provincial town hit the headlines as "zombietown" but finished the year with a gain in employment and showing signs of economic growth.

I attended the opening of Fine Arts Wanganui art gallery in November which has our very own Marie Grice as one of the twelve artists involved. Marie has been instrumental in getting this together and brought to fruition. In fact our staff are a really talented bunch featuring all over the place from Masters Games performances to greyhound racing to community fundraising and we are immensely proud of their achievements. Then there are our staffs' children – what a bunch of stars they are!

It has been our pleasure to help with community events through sponsorship of prizes, product, donations and of course the marquee and mighty BBQ trailer. We thoroughly enjoy giving back where we can and hope we can support local initiatives that benefit the town and surrounding area.

I would like to thank you, our clients, for the support you have given us over the last year and for the part you play in making our work so enjoyable.

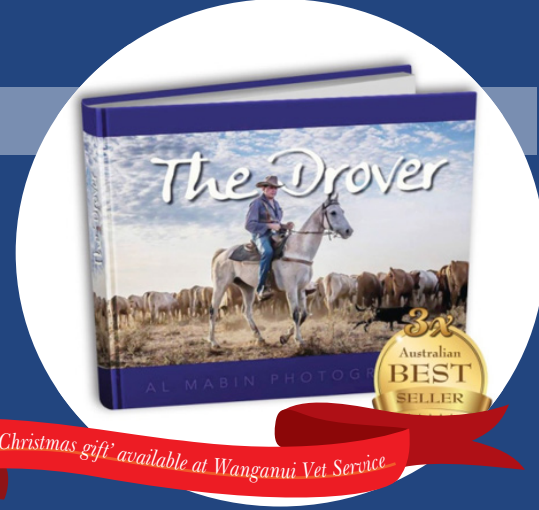
**Have a great Christmas and New Year,  
Tom.**



## THE DROVER

Last year, the biggest cattle drive in Australia's history saw 18,000 head walked 2000 kilometres from Winton, in Queensland, down to Hay, in southern NSW. Under the strong leadership of highly experienced boss drover Bill Little, from Roma, Qld, the stock were mainly walked down 'the long paddock' - Australia's vast network of travelling stock routes.

To commemorate this event, Alice Mabin, - a name most of you will remember from her days with Pfizer Animal Health/Zoetis, got the chance to join this epic journey.



*Great idea for Christmas gift available at Wanganui Vet Service*

## SCOURING IN WEANED CALVES.

When weaned calves start scouring, most farmers think of worms and reach for the drench gun. Sometimes this will be the right diagnosis, but often it won't be and the drench will be wasted.

**From our experience the following list are the most likely causes of scouring**

- Yersinia • Campylobacter • Salmonella
- BVD virus • Coccidia • Worms
- Digestive upset • Combinations of the above.

Most of these require dung and or blood samples to be taken to get a diagnosis.

Our advice is if a routine drench is not working and calves are still scouring or if calves are sick and losing weight rapidly seek Veterinary advice; get a diagnosis and treat accordingly.

Yersiniosis is the most commonly diagnosed cause of scouring. Yersinia is a bacteria and usually occurs when calves are stressed e.g bad weather, wet conditions, shortage or poor feed, weaned too early, sudden change of diet etc... Yersinia responds very well to the correct antibiotic treatment.

Campylobacter and Salmonella is diagnosed infrequently. Again these are bacteria and will respond to the correct antibiotic treatment once diagnosed. An effective vaccine is available that will prevent Salmonella outbreaks and is also useful in the face of an outbreak.

BVD Virus is very common and can also be the underlying trigger of other causes of scouring. It is very much like Human Aids because it depresses the immune system so it not unusual for BVD to be diagnosed together with other causes of scouring. There is no treatment for BVD infected stock. Vaccination is the best option to prevent the effects of BVD.

Coccidia is an under-diagnosed cause of scouring in weaned calves. It mainly occurs when calves are

fed short feed in wet, muddy confined conditions. Coccidia live in the large bowel and can cause a lot of irritation so calves are often straining a lot, passing some blood in the dung and often have their tails sticking up like a flag. Coccidia can be diagnosed from a faecal sample and treated with a coccidiostat.

Worms are a very common cause of scouring and it is essential to have a worm control programme in place involving not only drench but grazing management to minimise worm uptake. Another big issue is drench resistance which is becoming increasingly common, so if a particular drench appears not to be working, seek advice and get a drench check done.

Digestive Upset this is the most common and will cause dirty tails, scouring and poor growth. It results mainly from weaning calves too early before the rumen is sufficiently developed to digest grass efficiently. It will occur if calves are weaned off pellets too early. Pellets rich in carbohydrate are required to finish developing the rumen properly. Sudden changes of diet and stress mainly due to rough weather can cause a digestive scour.

## TAPEWORM

Tapeworm effects on lambs - to pre-wean drench or not, that is the question. A Beef & Lamb trial showed significant differences between lambs treated with a triple plus tape drench to those treated with a triple or no drench at all.

Pre-weaning treatment:	Untreated (control)	Triple (MATRIX)	Triple Plus Tape (MATRIX TAPE)
Average Liveweight gain (LWG)	220 g/day	234 g/day	258 g/day
LWG difference to control group	0 g/day	+14g/day	+38g/day
Dag score over course of trial	Worsened	Improved	Improved most

### Key points:

- There was a dag reduction response to a triple drench. This was further improved when a tapeworm drench was included.
- The faecal score also improved and again more so with a tapeworm drench added.
- Up to 1 kg weaning weight response to a pre-weaning triple plus tape drench versus no drench.
- The trend was similar over all the farms in the trial.
- A similar trial in 2006 gave a 43 gram per day growth rate response.

This trial exhibited sound reasons for treating lambs pre-weaning with a triple combination and tapeworm drench (e.g. IVER-MATRIX TAPE).

# ARE THE PETS SCRATCHING? What should you use?



**Frontline Plus**  
**Seresto Collar**

**Bravecto** (Chewable)

**Advantage**

**Advocate**

**Revolution**

**Nexgard Spectra** (Chewable)

For fleas and ticks lasts up to 8 weeks per treatment

For fleas and ticks lasts 8 months

For fleas, ticks and mange lasts for 12 weeks

For fleas last 4 weeks per treatment

For fleas, earmites, worms and lice lasts 4 weeks per tmt

For fleas, worms, earmites & mange lasts 4 weeks per/tmt

For fleas, worms and ticks lasts 4 weeks per/tmt



If you are still unsure which product to use for top advice speak to us here

**Wanganui Veterinary Service 06 349 0155**



## TREATING YOUR CALVES FOR WORMS.

With calving comes a busy time of year that seems to go on until Christmas! Before doing what you've always done, take a moment to make sure it is still correct for your property.

**Here are some basic rules that all farmers should go by:**

### • Use combination drenches

We used to say rotate drenches, but now we say use combinations as research has shown this is best for production and preventing resistance. You should always use combination products (double or triple) in all cattle under 15 months of age.

### • Give the drench properly

Dose accurately for weight and take your time and do it right. Pour-on, injectable and oral drenches can all be given poorly, so make sure you do it correctly.

### • Take care with young calves

Don't mix drench in with the milk as deaths can occur. Avoid abamectin containing products in calves under 120kg.

### • Take care with yourself

Choose a drenching method that works best for you and doesn't unnecessarily put you at risk of injury.

There has been a lot of research published in recent years that has changed the advice given around drenching. Unfortunately that can make it confusing for the farmer who was told one thing, only to now be told another. If you are in any doubt, talk to your vet to discuss your particular requirements.

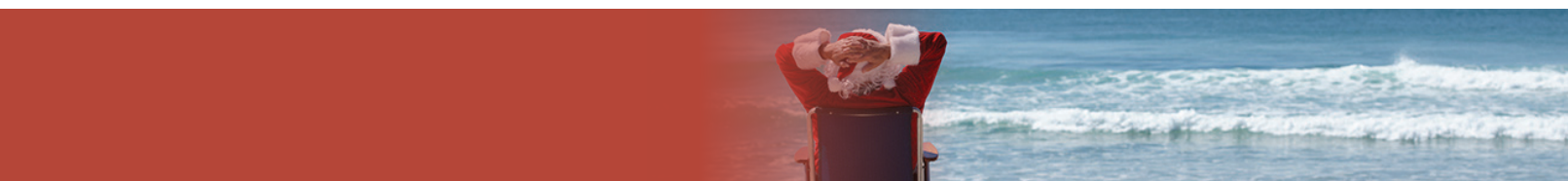
## SOME FACTS ABOUT FLYSTRIKE



Flystrike is just around the corner and it might well be a bad year for it if the wet humid weather continues into summer.

- Each year 3 - 5 % of the national flock are struck some 1.35 - 2.25 million sheep.
- At least 250000 lambs die from flystrike each year.
- If a flock is seriously affected lamb losses can be as high as 5%.
- After treatment for flystrike, a sheep may take 6 weeks to regain lost weight and up to 8 weeks for its fleece to recover.
- The Aussie blowfly is not a back striker by preference. More than 70% of strikes by this fly are around the rump and breech areas.
- Only 4 species of blowflies regularly strike sheep. Farmers monitoring for fly strike need only worry about the green and golden brown fly species. Other fly species will not strike sheep.
- The Aussie blowfly is not totally resistant to all organo phosphate(OP) dips. OP dips still work against this fly but provide a shorter protection period than in the past.
- The Aussie blowfly is now present throughout the North and South Islands as far south as Gore.
- Flystrike is the most serious animal welfare issue affecting sheep so don't wait until you have some struck lambs or ewes before you do something.
- Prevention is by far the better option than treatment.
- There are many effective chemicals available to prevent strike including spray on, jetting products and dips.
- What is best to use will depend on length of protection required, strike severity, class of stock being treated, when stock are going to the works etc...

**Contact our experts on Fly control Glen Baker and Tom Dinwiddie of advice on what to use.**





# What's Up



## Christmas Hours

**Monday 21st to Thursday 24th December**

8.00am to 6.00pm  
Friday 25th to Monday 28th December  
Closed

**Tuesday 29th to Thursday 31st December**

8.00am to 6.00pm

**Friday 1st January to Monday 4th January**

Closed

**Tuesday 5th January**

Business as usual

### Farewell

to Trace and Judy your friendly faces will be missed.



## VETCARE TRAINING

The last term of the student study year is about to finish. Another big year of achievement is coming to an end.

We are only a couple of weeks until the course completion date of Friday 27th November.

There are last minute final touches to assignments and assessments happening plus sign offs in the all important logbooks are being sought. This is a very busy time till completion.

The VetCare Training Graduation Ceremony is to be held at Infusions at the Wanganui Racecourse on Friday 4th December, from this event our graduates launch themselves into their careers with qualification in hand! Out into the big world of Veterinary Nursing.

Thank you to all the members who have had our students on farm accompanying the large animal vets this year – their soiled overalls always indicated the level of fun they had had!!

Applications for the 2016 course intake are still open with a few places still left to fill.



## Toxovax Orders

Toxovax must be ordered early to guarantee supply. The vaccine only has a short shelf life and is only manufactured on demand. Orders must be in at least 3 weeks before requirement.



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