



Over the Fence

Greetings from Wanganui Vet Services

December 2017 • Issue 30



News and Views



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Animal Health Reminders

For the next two months:

- Toxovax / Androvax / Campyvax
- Ram fertility checks
- 5 n 1, 8 n 1 or 10 n 1
- Monthly drenching of lambs
- Finish velvetting / tidy regrowth
- Mastitis milk samples for culture
- Drench reduction tests
- Monitor ewe body weight

December 2017

Another year has gone by in record time, or so it seems, and what a memorable year it has been. A year of climatic contrasts, a change of government, an improvement in most agricultural product returns and we are all another year older!

We started with a fantastic summer/autumn with regular rainfall and great grass growth, but then it just kept on raining through the winter getting wetter and wetter. Now we seem to be looking at a hot, dry summer which does have its upsides if you are on holiday, but for the farming community presents another set of challenges. Many of us at Wanganui Vet Services have animals and land we endeavour to farm, so we also watch the rain radar with interest.

The political barometer was the most surprising change for many of us as the centre left swept to power, with a little help from Winnie, changing the definition of a majority along the way. The thought of change appealed to many, and despite a government who has been reasonably successful, guiding us through some of the biggest events in recent history – the global recession and three major earthquakes - something different was on the agenda.

In the agricultural industry there are always efforts to change and improve practices, which has made New Zealand a leader in this field, but there is also a strength of character in the farming community which keeps on delivering no matter what the conditions. We are always looking to innovate where we can, but most importantly, to deliver consistency and service of the highest order.

A few of our employees this year have not had the best of luck outside work hours with injuries. The great thing about it is they seem to bounce back not too worse for wear. The staff at Wanganui Veterinary Services continue to do amazing things in the community and at home, always going above and beyond the call of duty at work.

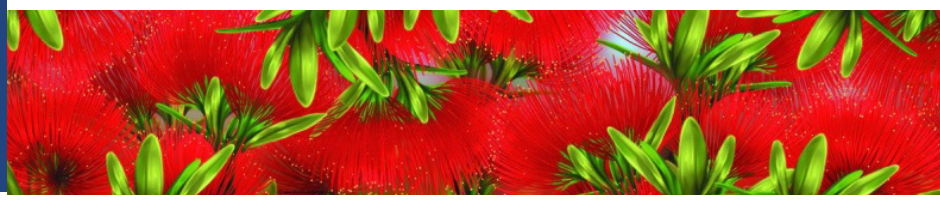
Every now and then we have a retirement or two and this year was no exception with Jamie Anderson from Vetcare Grazing hanging up his weigh scales and Wally Barrington signing off at Wanganui Farm Supplies. We thank them for the years of dedication to their jobs and they have left two businesses in great heart, whereby others can take up the challenge in their place. We have new staff in several other areas and they have brought enthusiasm and new skills to the business and are enjoying the friendly Wanganui community.

Wanganui has definitely benefited from economic growth over the last year. We regularly see new clients come through the doors, who have come to settle in Wanganui, and invariably they have great things to say about our community and how laid back and friendly the people are. Our aim as a local business is to contribute where we can to the town and our sponsorship is spread over many different aspects of Wanganui. Whether it be prizes, donations, marquee hire, or lending the chiller trailer or BBQ trailer, we are in amongst our community, supporting many organisations and events. I think Wanganui Veterinary Services and our Member farmers can be very proud of the part this Vet practice plays in the local community.

On behalf of everyone at Wanganui Veterinary Services I would like to thank you, our clients, for your ongoing support and the huge part you play in making our work so enjoyable.

Wishing you, and your families a safe and relaxing Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Tom





RAM HEALTH

Annual ram purchases are a significant annual investment these days and yet too often they are a neglected little mob of stock on the farm.

Remember that for optimum performance they need to be in good body condition – not just at mating, but for at least the two months before then too. From start to finish it takes around 60 days for semen to be produced.

- Vaccinate with Clostridial vaccine
- Monitor worm status (especially barbers pole worm)
- Use appropriate drench if required
- Ensure that we at least palpate all rams annually
- Tidy up all wool on scrotum at least 2 months before start of mating (testicles need to be as cool as possible)
- Check all feet / lameness at least 2 months prior to mating
- Monitor fly strike – particularly on heads after fighting damage
- Feed them well!

LAMBS

2017 looks like being a good year for lamb production – another good demonstration of how important the weather is to grass growth and how important feeding is to production.

Ewe condition at mating this year was much better and facial eczema was not a serious problem resulting in an average 15% lift in scanning percentages in our district. This year we also had mostly wet but warm weather for lambing resulting in good survival and thus good tallies at docking. The early season lamb price is also much better than this time last year and long may that continue!

Ewe health and condition at tupping are the key to higher scanning rates – if it is to be repeated it may mean that a bigger percentage of lambs should be sold store this year.

Too often we see things unravelling in the late summer, early autumn as hill country farmers proclaim 'all stock finished on property' that then results in lower ewe condition and thus less lambs next year. It is basic stuff, but still seems to happen far too much - trying to finish more lambs can often be at the expense of ewe condition so early decisions need to be made and while lamb prices are high there is still a chance to break the cycle.

PREGNANCY TESTING

In days gone by, pregnancy testing of dairy herds was a manual job for late autumn / drying off, to find which cows were dry, as those cows had to go before any other culling decisions could be made.

Nowadays, however, pregnancy testing can be used as a valuable management tool to enable all sorts of management decisions. Many herds, or parts of, are tested more than once in an attempt to get early results for AI, ageing of pregnancies, monitoring abortions etc

There is no longer a simple annual recipe for this – everyone has different objectives in their management and so need a customised approach.

Please talk to Dave or Pete regarding your requirements to enable them to develop a specific plan for your operation. The important thing here is that this discussion has to happen soon. Timing of the testing is critical so this needs to be scheduled in plenty of time.

Similarly with beef herds – if we are to successfully group pregnancies into cycles or other requirements, timing of testing is essential so call early.

Animal Welfare

As Bob Dylan said, the times are changing, and this is particularly true in the area of animal welfare standards. What was an acceptable practise in the past may now not be recommended or even legal eg. Caged hens, farrowing crates, cows tails, mulesing.

Like it or not, we now have consumers with strong views about the food they eat and how it was produced. This is both in New Zealand and overseas. The expectations of our end consumers have to be met to ensure that we safeguard our farming reputations and continue to sell our products. MPI and SPCA are the two main bodies involved in policing the welfare regulations

The world of such things as social media, smart phones, disenfranchised employees, all contribute to the fact that now, more than ever, we farm in a fish bowl.

We constantly need to be aware of this and think about such things as..

- Body condition of animals – a lot of the problems we see with this is that farmers become desensitised to the condition of their own stock. They see them all the time and think they are OK. It is worth comparing your stock with others as often as possible.
- Downer cows need to be managed carefully – the hospital paddock by the roadside is no longer desirable and downer cows do need a lot of care or they are better euthanized.
- Anger needs to be better managed such as in disciplining a working dog with 'no ears' or responding to a kick from a cow or a struggling sheep when shearing etc.
- Lameness animals need to be attended to straight away.
- It is no longer good enough to plead ignorance and say you don't get to that area of the farm very often.
- Sick animals need to be attended to as soon as they are spotted.





- The need to transport animals without causing them any distress.
- Ask yourself, what is the most appropriate method of humane slaughter for this animal?
- What if someone had a camera on a drone observing what you were doing?? Etc, etc.



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.



LEPTOSPIROSIS

There is a good general awareness about Leptospirosis – particularly in the dairy world, but it remains the most common of the significant zoonoses (infection transferred from animal to man) in New Zealand.

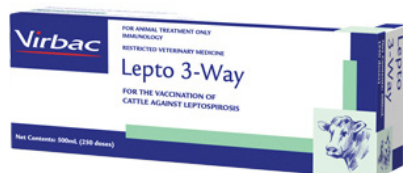
Leptospirosis infections occur worldwide in almost all warm blooded mammals including farmed, domestic and feral animals. People contract Leptospirosis when they are exposed to the urine of infected animals – generally through cuts and scratches or through the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth, or even via infected waterways.

The problem is that most infected and shedding animals show no outward signs of the disease.

Our main disease management tool is vaccination – this is a long term strategy and must be conscientiously undertaken. It appears that some people may be getting a little casual about this.

REMEMBER...

- All stock must be vaccinated every year – don't leave some random little mob out.
- Don't forget bulls and recently purchased animals.
- Don't forget grazing heifers.
- Ensure the calves are vaccinated early enough.
- Be vigilant with rodent control on your farm.
- Any pigs on the farm should be vaccinated.
- It is essential that all your staff have been warned of the risks of possible infection through the various requirements of stock handling.



There is no general recommendation for vaccinating non-dairy stock, but there are certainly issues here that need to be addressed.

We have seen many outbreaks of Leptospirosis infection in lambs in the district, most deer in the area have antibodies to Leptospirosis and no doubt many beef herds. Disease management in such stock classes is on an individual farm basis – get in touch with us if you have specific queries or concerns.

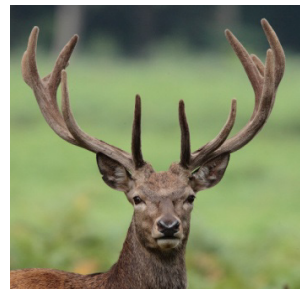
VELVET PRODUCERS

Velvet production is finally moving into the modern era.

As a result of a visit from a Chinese delegation and their recommendations to MPI, it has been decided that velvet is finally a food product and needs to be treated accordingly.

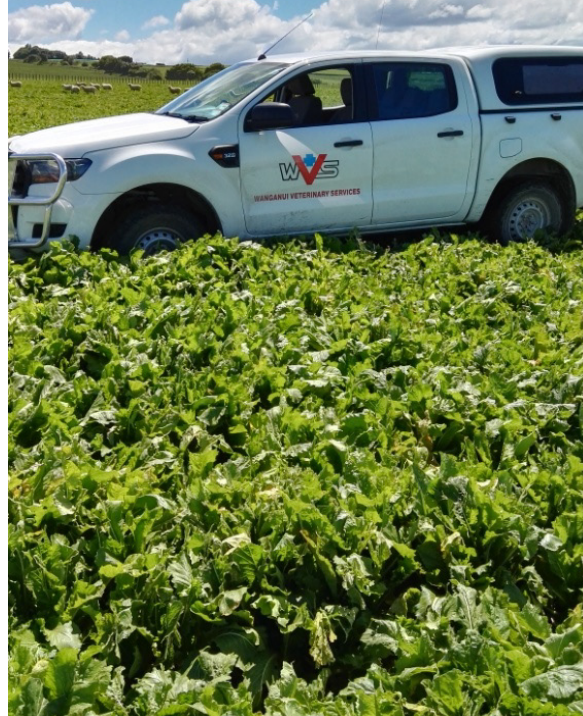
As a result, we have a new set of standards for deer shed design, velvet handling and storage. Most farmers have been positive about the changes and made some significant improvements to their sheds – it has helped that velvet prices for this season are looking solid.

Essentially, it has meant that wherever velvet is removed from stags, at least that area of the shed has to be completely clean, washable (walls and floors) and disinfected regularly. There have been many innovative ways of achieving this so please talk to Dave Rankin about what may be required for your property.



What's Up

For all you Summer and Winter cropping needs, contact Bruce Baldwin to discuss your options 027 663 2565



HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 18th - 22nd 8.00 - 6.00 OPEN
 Saturday 23rd 9.00 - 12.00 OPEN
 Dec 25th - 26th CLOSED
 Dec 27th - 29th 8.00 - 6.00 OPEN
 Saturday 30th 9.00 - 12.00 OPEN
 Jan 1st - 2nd CLOSED
 Jan 3rd onwards Business as usual



Have a Merry Christmas!



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 35 Somme Parade, Wanganui 4500
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 www.wgvets.co.nz

STAFF CHANGES

RETIREMENTS : We recently said farewell to two long serving staff members – Wally Barrington from Wanganui Farm Supplies, and Jamie Anderson from our Vetcare Grazing Team. We wish them both well in their retirement and thank them for their years of service.

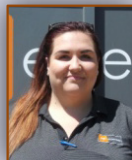
VET NEWS : We welcome Becs Kinley, our new mixed animal Veterinarian. She joins us from Taranaki Vet Services, and brings 15 years of experience to the Practice. Becs looks forward to meeting you.

This month, Cayleigh Carter is leaving the practice to further pursue her career in Paihiatua. We wish her well in her new job, and thank her for contribution to WVS for the last 2 years.

INTRODUCING : The Pet Essentials team members :



Mindy Tait
 Manager
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



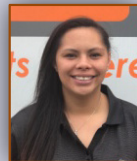
Caitlyn Mackley
 Shop Assistant
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



Maree Jennings
 Shop Assistant
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



Sam Fraser
 Shop Assistant
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



Kayla Koro
 Shop Assistant
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



Ra Ihaia
 Shop Assistant
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui



Tony Jenkins
 Butcher
 Pet Essentials
 Wanganui

WELCOME : Welcome to the following team members :



Becs Kinley
 Veterinarian
 Wanganui
 Vet Services



Amanda Pearson
 Vet Nurse
 Wanganui
 Vet Services



Nicole Chadwick
 Vet Nurse
 Wanganui
 Vet Services

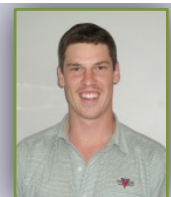


Regan Davis
 Groomer
 Wanganui
 Vet Services

With the increase in weaner numbers this year, we are looking for places to graze stock as they move through to become May to May heifers. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a Grazier, please call the Vetcare grazing team to discuss the options available.

John Guiniven 027 535 7211
 Kay McGillivray 027 2046 500
 Blake Cameron 027 3360 088

VETCARE GRAZING LIMITED



Blake Cameron
 Field Representative
 Vetcare Grazing

