

Sheep & Beef Newsletter



Our Vets

- Dr Greg Hall BVSc
- Dr Peter Benn BVSc
- Dr Aaron Chambers BVSc
- Dr Robyn Lofthouse BVSc
- Dr Michelle Gosling BVSc
- Dr Emma Sargent MVB
- Dr David Casserly MVBMRCVS
- Dr Harriet Weller-Poley BVScMRCVS
- Dr Rabeca McKenzie BVScB ApplScMANZCVSDipHBM
- Dr Matthew Turner BVetMed

Clinic Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:00am – 5:00pm

SAT - INGLEWOOD
9:00am – 12:00pm

SAT – WAITARA
8:30am – 1:30pm

CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT



Pre-Lamb Drenching of Ewes

Ewes in good and improving body condition at mating will have much better conception rates than ewes that do not.

Ewes that lamb with a body condition score of above 2.5 will have:

- Better lamb survival;
- Better colostrum production and persistence of lactation; and
- Are more likely to wean in good condition.

These ewes are less likely to benefit from pre-lamb treatment for worms.

On most North Island hill country it is almost impossible to prevent the average Body Condition score from dropping by about 0.5. In some years the winter condition loss can be quite severe and a cause of unseen production loss.

If ewe body weights and pre-lamb body condition scores are not as you would like, the immune response will be compromised, milk production will be lessened and worm egg output will be significant leading to lower lamb survivability and reduced lamb growth rates. The result will be lambs being held on farm longer and the flow on parasite build up on stock and pasture over summer and autumn.

What do we want from a Pre-Lamb Drench?

- Treat existing worm infections.
- Provide protection against reinfection in treated animals.
- Prevent the pre-lamb rise in worm egg output from ewes.
- Reduce pasture contamination from worm eggs in the lambing paddocks, reducing infection in lambs right up to weaning.

What Stock would benefit from a Pre-Lamb Drench?

- Ewes in low body condition score or low body weight.
- First lambing ewes (hoggets/2ths).
- Multiple bearing ewes (twins and triplets).

During late pregnancy and in early lactation most ewes have a temporary drop in immunity and consequently pass more eggs in their faeces. This is referred to as the peri-partum rise in egg counts and this peri-partum rise is greater for ewes with multiple lambs, thin ewes and young ewes having their first lamb.

The main worms affecting ewes during this period are **Ostertagia** and **Trichostrongylus** and to a lesser extent **Haemonchus** and **Nematodirus**.

The most effective pre-lamb drench to use would be one with persistent or extended activity against these four worm types.

COGLAVAX 8

Last year we introduced a new clostridial vaccine called **Coglavax 8**. This vaccine delivers all the protection that the traditional 5in1 vaccines offer (Multine – Ultravac) plus the addition of a further three clostridial perfringens – Type A, B, & C Toxoid.

The widespread use of crops, high energy feeds and rapid dietary change increases the risk of “sudden death syndrome” related to clostridium perfringens Type A and enterotoxemia related to clostridium perfringens Type A, B, C & D.

Coglavax 8 offers this additional protection at only a couple of cents more per dose than traditional 5in1 vaccines.

More PROTECTION
More PRODUCTION
More PROFIT

This Issue

- Moxidectin & drench resistance 1
- Coglavax 8
- Rotavirus Vaccination



What About Moxidectin and Drench Resistance?

Moxidectin is a member of the macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench family and has a similar mode of action to the other widely used MLs, abamectin and ivermectin.

Moxidectin offers persistent activity against Haemonchus (Barber's Pole worm) which is why moxidectin based drenches are the No. 1 choice of treatment for this worm.

While Australian studies have shown marked resistance to moxidectin in field strains of Haemonchus (Barber's Pole), there are few reports of reduced head kill involving this parasite in New Zealand.

Unfortunately the same situation does not apply to other roundworms, in particular Ostertagia. Hughes et al., (2004) found 72% efficacy for oral moxidectin against Ostertagia circumcincta originating from a central North Island property, while Ridler et al., (2004) found a marked reduction in moxidectin's persistent activity against Ostertagia, resulting in the death of sheep 30 days post drenching.

It is widely accepted that the shortening of the persistent activity period is an indicator of developing resistance to moxidectin as the declining drug levels present in the "tail" allow moxidectin resistant parasites to establish

and reproduce, but not the moxidectin susceptible roundworms. This resistant population then has a reproductive advantage, particularly if repeat doses of moxidectin are given at regular intervals, such as occurs on farms when treating for Barber's Pole worm over late summer/autumn.

What does all this mean when selecting a Pre-Lamb drench?

Moxidectin is the "go to" product when treating for Barber's Pole because of its persistent activity and relatively short meat withhold period. The integrity of this drench active needs to be preserved for this reason.

Care should be exercised when making your pre-lamb decision.

Product Risk Assessment with Pre-Lamb Drenching of Ewes.

BIONIC CAPSULES

Delivering a combination drench (Abamecton/Albendazole) in a controlled release bolus for up to 100 days – do your ewes need this prolonged protection?
Low/Medium Risk

L.A.I. INJECTION

Single active concentrated moxidectin injection – extended activity against Ostertagia but sub-lethal exposure to other worm species – major risk for developing resistance – "Must do an Exit Drench"
HIGH RISK PRODUCT

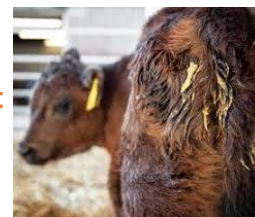
EWEGUARD

Single active moxidectin injection combining with 5in1 vaccine – same risk factors as with L.A.I. injection. Giving an oral triple combination drench along with Coglavax 8 vaccine injection would be a far more sustainable option and at less than half the price of using Eweguard.
HIGH RISK PRODUCT

ROTAVIRUS VACCINATION

Preventing Calf Scours

Now is the time of year to think about vaccination of cows to protect your spring born calves against rotavirus infection.



Vaccination of cows prior to calving is a proven way to boost cow colostrum antibodies against rotavirus, E. coli and corona virus.

When correctly vaccinated the "gold" colostrum has added levels of antibodies (IgGs and IgAs) against these diseases. This gives them the best possible immune "armour" to resist infection with these bugs. Farmers who use these vaccines tend to carry on annually as they see the benefits of decrease losses due to calf scours.

Our first choice is **ROTAVEC CORONA** because it is a great vaccine with a proven track record. It is a one shot vaccine and is ideal for the first time user. It is however, more expensive than other vaccines and does tend to leave a few lumps at the injection site.

Another great vaccine is **KOLIBIN NEO**. The benefits of this vaccine is that it produces few vaccine site reactions and can boost animals previously vaccinated with Rotavec.

It is cheaper per shot than Rotavec but a previously unvaccinated animal would need two shots of the Kolibin Neo. For this reason the Kolibin Neo is more economic to use as a single booster shot on cows previously vaccinated. For cows that have never been vaccinated, the single shot of Rotavec is more cost effective.

Both vaccines stimulate the production of antibodies in the cow's colostrum. The vaccines need to be given a minimum of 3 weeks before calving with Rotavec and 2 weeks with Kolibin Neo. The colostrum antibody production lasts for 12 weeks from vaccination.



Protect your calves today!