

November 2017

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November The month for:

Deer Velvet Removal and assessments

Lamb drenching

Calf drenching

Planning weaner grazing/weight monitoring

Calves 2nd Covexin 10 vaccinations

Ensuring bulls are ready for mating and at appropriate ratio

Monitoring daily submission rates

OPTIMISING LAMB GROWTH UP TO WEANING AND BEYOND

BY GERALD PINCKNEY

Lamb growth rates get off to a flying start from birth through to peak milk production (about 3 weeks after lambing). As high as 350gm per day and, unless carefully managed, can reduce quickly to as low as 100gm per day close to weaning.

To maximise the ewes milk production, lamb them in good Body Condition Score 3-4. The ewes should be offered 6-8kgDM of green grass to enable them to eat 2-3kgDM/day. This requires 1500-2000kgDM/ha (4-8cm in the early spring, 3-6cm in the late spring).

From 3-5 weeks of age they then rapidly change from monogastrics to ruminants.

Once they reach six weeks of age the twins will be getting around one half of their daily intake from pasture, and the singles about one third.

As the dependence, for the lambs, on pasture increases then so too does the importance of the quality of the pasture.

The key driver of high lamb growth rates, when grazing, is quality. Green leaf and high clover content, or other legumes/herbs (ie chicory, plantain, red clover, Lucerne) are vital to ensure adequate energy and protein levels for fast growth.

The improvement measured comparing an established ryegrass dominant pasture sward to a new grass with high levels of chicory and red clover can be as much as an extra 100gm per day.

Weaning usually occurs around 12-14 weeks. The one time this should happen at a younger age than this is if the lambs are competing with the ewes for feed (ie the covers either set stocked or residual when rotational grazing drop below 4cm).

From an Animal Health perspective;

- reducing the exposure to parasites (high residuals, preparing pasture with cattle, new pasture)
- maintaining good Vitamin B12 and Selenium status
- good quality drinking water
- vaccinating to prevent scabby mouth, when the virus is present on the property
- avoiding shearing lambs at weaning (reduces the risk of viral pneumonia)
- when grazing really good quality pasture/forage it is important the lambs are fully protected with Clostridial vaccinations to ensure the risk of pulpy kidney type syndromes are minimised

are all important when maximizing lamb growth through to weaning.

Type in the following link in your website address bar to get directly to the Beef + Lamb document with all the details around maximizing lamb growth.

<http://beeflambnz.com/Documents/Farm/400%20plus%20-%20a%20guide%20to%20improved%20lamb%20growth.pdf>



RURAL SCHOOLS GROUP DAY

BY TREENA BRAITHWAITE

It's been an absolute pleasure to be involved with the rural school pet days in our district once again. The time and dedication that these students put into rearing their animals pays off when they are competing at their school pet days. It's great to see that this tradition is still going strong in our rural schools.

Group Day was held at Upper Atiamuri School this year and it was great to see good numbers to this event again, congratulations to the school and community for putting on such an awesome event. It shows that when everyone gets together even the smallest of the schools can do it!

Once again BIG thanks to the sponsors as without you Group Day would not be possible financially for the host school to run. Piako Tractors, Camco Dairy Services, ANZ Bank, FMG and VET-Plus thank you for your continued support. Congratulations to our winners,



Our future young farmers are –

Calves Supreme Champion: Aste Dixon – Kaharoa School

Calves Reserve Supreme Champion: Jodie Julian – Upper Atiamuri School

Lambs Supreme Champion: Kasey Hall – Waikite Valley School

Lambs Reserve Supreme Champion: Katrina Walshe, Kaharoa School

Junior Overall Champion: Waikite Valley School

Intermediate Overall Champion: Waikite Valley School

Senior Overall Champion: Waikite Valley School

VETPlus Overall School Winner - Waikite Valley School

THIAMINE DEFICIENCY (A.K.A VITAMIN B1 DEFICIENCY, POLIO, P.E.M OR CEREBROCORTICAL NECROSIS

BY CLAIRE MISSON

This is a disease seen mainly in calves but occasional outbreaks may occur in older cattle. Cattle have bacteria in their rumens that normally produce thiamine (Vit B1). Deficiency usually results from the production of thiaminases (enzymes which break down thiamine) being produced in the rumen or from sulphoxides (associated with high Sulphur dietary intake), following sudden dietary change from poor, stinky pasture to a diet of good lush pasture or from feeding diets high in sulphates (for example Brassicas). The dietary changes alter the rumen microflora which promotes the breakdown of Thiamine leading to deficiency.



A continual supply of thiamine is needed for normal brain function. If there is a disruption, this leads to cellular changes in the brain, which eventually lead to brain swelling and thus death of brain cells. It is this brain swelling that is responsible for the clinical signs.

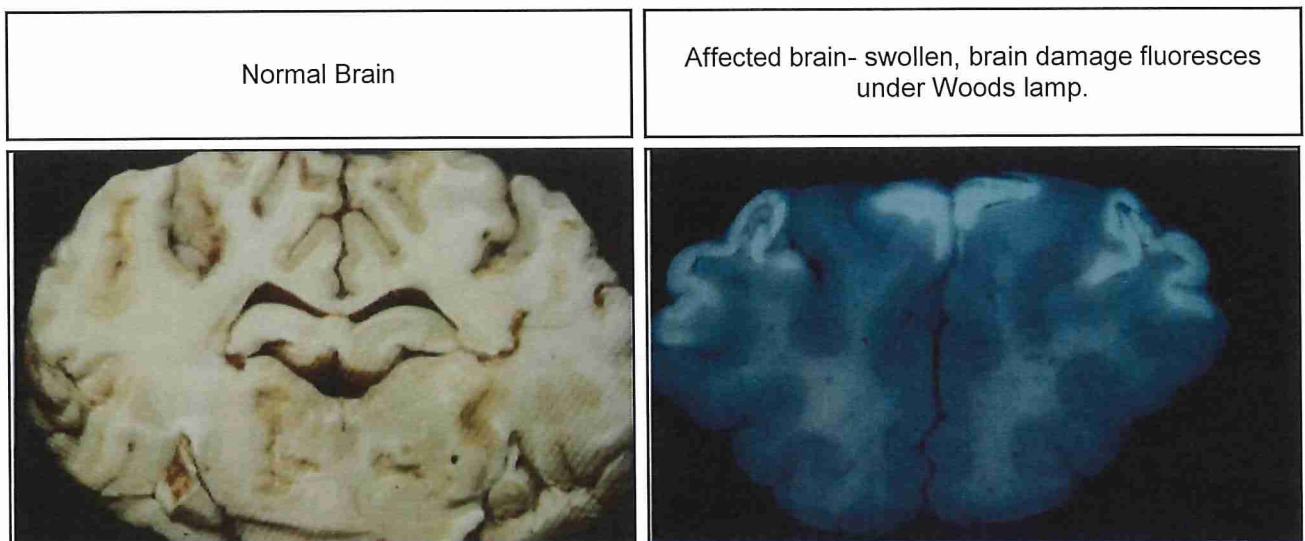
The common clinical signs vary depending on the severity of the deficiency and include:

- Depression;
- Hyperaesthesia- jumping around/panicking when yarded or pressure put on them for yarding;
- Apparent blindness, walking into fences, staring at a corner or aimlessly walking along pressing into a fence line;
- Ataxia/ Stumbling around;
- Champing of jaws, frothy salivation, abnormal head movements;
- Opisthotonos/head extended out rigidly/ Star gazing;
- Muscle twitches;
- Recumbency, seizures and death- commonly from misadventure such as drowning in creeks and falling down banks.

If the condition is not treated quickly, the animals will die. Typically a diagnosis is made by a veterinarian based on clinical signs and response to treatment.

The most common times of year that we see Thiamine deficiency is in young calves post-weaning in late December/ January as they are weaned off milk and put on a grass diet and in young cattle on brassica crops. Thiamine deficiency may be confused with Ryegrass staggers but staggers is usually on old ryegrass pastures in the autumn. Other diseases that also cause similar clinical signs include Bacterial brain diseases e.g. Salmonellosis, Listeria (Circling Disease), Lead poisoning, Salt toxicity/water deprivation, Hypomagnesaemia, meningitis. Occasionally this disease is seen in sheep and goats also.

For best chances of survival, affected animals must be treated immediately. Injections of Vitamin B1 (Duoject-B®), penicillin and an anti-inflammatory such as Flunixin or Tolfedine may be required to prevent further death of brain cells and cover bacterial infections. Calves that respond to treatment may fully recover within 12 hours while some may still have some residual blindness or even permanent brain damage.



VETPlus

optimal animal health

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WHO, WHAT, WHERE

Congratulations to Nick
Reid and Hope
Williams, a beautiful
baby boy, born 24
October weighing
4.20kg! A baby brother
to Ella and Flynn .

ARE YOUR BULLS READY FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE?

KYLE KANNAN

Bulls have a really important, sometimes undervalued role on the dairy farm. Bull selection, soundness and health are all very key with respect to mating.

Selecting virgin bulls is beneficial as they are unlikely to have or transmit venereal diseases and they are unlikely to have any prior injuries to their spine, pelvis or legs. Making sure the bulls are vaccinated for BVD and Lepto is also important from a herd health point. An option to get them vet checked can also provide some assurance around their ability to serve. Here at VETPlus we are ready to get down and dirty with your bulls and can offer a range of tiers of testing including measuring testicle size (scientifically proven bigger is better), conformation and palpation to check for deformities in the testicle. On top of this there is the option to evaluate the semen to make sure the bull is going to deliver a high quality sample to increase the chance of pregnancy. To get your bulls checked for mating readiness please call us at VETPlus.

PINK FOR A DAY

VETPlus gets behind Breast Cancer month each October. We once again went Pink for a Day on the 10th of October with all clinics participating. We have been selling PINK merchandise and raffles all month and our Reporoa team hosted the 3rd Annual Pink Walk Reporoa. BIG thanks to everyone who braved the rain and walked for this awesome cause.



BLACK LEG DEATHS IN YEARLINGS

BY KARL WEAVER

Recently we had a case of sudden death in a mob of yearling heifer replacements caused by Clostridial bacteria (black leg). The mob had been bruised during movement from one paddock to another around a sharp bend and had obvious black leg lesions around the shoulder region. Historically we have had other outbreaks of the disease. One I remember vividly was a mob on New Year's Day that had collided with a power transformer pole in their paddock during a thunder storm and developed black leg. Another case involved a sudden change in feed quality which can predispose some other members of the Clostridia family to proliferate and kill the animal.

Please ensure that your one year old cattle receive a booster vaccination of Covexin-10 in August/early September each year.



NZ DAIRY INDUSTRY AWARDS

Entries for 2018 are now open!

- NZ Share Farmer of the Year
- NZ Dairy Manager of the Year
- NZ Dairy Trainee of the Year

Enter at www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz – entries open 20th October 2017 and close 30th November 2017.

TAIL PAINTING REMINDER

Remember, a missed heat costs you about \$250, so you want to pick them all up. Make sure your staff know how to apply the paint, and pick light heats.

- No thick crusts otherwise light heats won't rub it off
- Not too narrow or it's not going to be easy to see
- Not too far forward or too short otherwise light heats might miss the patch

If you are using glue-on heat detection aid, follow the instructions precisely. Shortcuts are too expensive in this area!



3

Thick enough to cover skin
 Hair fibres still visible
 Touch up tail paint at least weekly

MEXICAN FIESTA!

Our VETPlus farmers all had a great night recently to celebrate the end of calving! The Annual Farmers Party which is usually held in July had a very Mexican feel to it. From Piñatas to Super Hero's, Sombrero's and Poncho's, there was plenty of variety.

There was plenty of dancing and singing along with some fantastic looking outfits! Best dressed female was Mo O'Hanlon and best dressed male went to Hamish Lee. The best dressed couple were Mario and Lisa Arnold while the best dressed VETPlus staff member went to Hayley from our Taupo clinic.

The award for Best Behaved Heifers at Heifer Teat sealing went to Aaron Karaha and the crew from Tuaropaki Dairy Unit. The lucky number drawn was won by James and Abigail Wotherspoon.

Thank you to everyone who came along, we must also thank our very loyal sponsors Provet NZ, MSD Animal Health, Bayer NZ, Virbac, Zoetis NZ, Boehringer Ingelheim and Ethical Agents as without their support this evening would not be possible.

Check out the photos on the VETPlus Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/VETPlus/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1330835073688280

