

Flocknews June 2023

Greetings everyone! Its coming to a busy time of the year with lamb marking/weaning happening. This edition will cover a big topic of worm management: learn about drench tests, how to collect pooled faecal samples for worm egg counts that are representative of your mob. Did you know that we offer consultancy packages to help with worm management? Also, find out more about our upcoming farmer discussion session on reproduction and vaccinations sponsored by Zoetis.

Worm control and management

We commonly get asked what is a good drench to use?

Did you know that it is recommended to undertake drench tests on farm every 1-3 years depending on your farm's response. What is a drench test? Well, this process involves placing sheep into groups of 10-15 and assigning an anthelmintic chemical per group. Faecal samples are collected before and 2 weeks post drenching. These two faecal sample results are then compared, and a reduction percentage per anthelmintic chemical is calculated where 95-98% reduction is the ideal outcome. THIS is the best way to assess which drench to use on farm. Drenches are farm specific as it all relates to what anthelmintic chemicals the worms on farm have been exposed to.

It is also important to understand that every time we use a drench, we are moving one step closer to this drench becoming resistant on farm. We like to talk about integrated worm management whereby:

- Good nutrition is paramount. This helps build the immune system.
- Pasture management – making 'low worm risk' pastures is important for at risk groups such as your lambing ewes and weaners.
- Monitoring your sheeps' worm burden by collecting pooled faecal samples for worm egg counts +/- larvae differentiation (the egg is hatched, and the larvae is classed – this is how we can tell you what worms are on farm).
- Drenching – at strategic times or when therapeutic properties are required.

How to collect pooled samples to monitor your mob's worm status:

- Hold sheep in yards for half an hour – one hour.
- Collect 4 – 5 pellets from individual every dung pile and place in a zip lock bag (separate bags for each animal). Collect a total of 20 animals. The faeces need to be fresh and warm – the bag should mist as a result. Make sure to wear gloves. We are looking into providing a sample collection kit so watch this space.
- Drop these into the clinic on the same day preferably (do not need to be refrigerated just kept in a cool environment away from the sun/light).
- We will either perform the test in the clinic or send it to a local lab with a quick turn around time.
- Worm egg counts do have their limitations so to improve the information we gather from them, do not have sheep off feed prior to collecting samples (faecal output is reduced and therefore worm egg count is unreliable). We also do not rely on individual worm egg counts to assess the mob's status.

Do you need help organising a farm worm plan? Are there some above concepts you would like more information on? We are happy to help and can put together a consultancy package that would suit your farms needs. We can also help organise a drench test on farm – call us to find out more.





Information Session for Sheep Farmers – Reproduction and Vaccinations

Thursday August 3rd 2023

Rochester Cricket Club

2pm



Join us for an afternoon discussion on important steps to prepare your farm for a successful joining period. We will be starting with the basics including seasonality and anatomy and then going into topics involving teaser rams, joining lengths, flushing and how to best utilise pregnancy scanning on farm.

Afternoon tea will be provided, followed by a discussion with Heidi Sutherland (Zoetis) on the importance of vaccinations and practical vaccination site and technique.

We will have plenty of time for a Q & A session!

RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday the 24th July – we will add you to an email list and keep you updated with venue, maps etc. To RSVP, please ring the clinic on (03) 5484 2255.

Looking forward to having the opportunity to talk sheep with you all.

We would like to thank Zoetis for their generous support in sponsoring this session and making the day possible.



*******REMINDER – TEASERS!*******

Could your enterprise benefit from the use of teasers to shorten your joining and therefore lambing period? Are you planning on using teasers next season? Do not forget to keep some ram lambs back at marking time so that we can schedule a time to vasectomise them in time for next season's use.



Please call the clinic to update our system with your email account for future newsletter editions (03) 5484 2255. Do not hesitate to get in touch with Rocky Vets today!