

Flocknews April 2024

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CHANGING OF RAM SEDATIVE STRENGTH

It is common practice to medicate rams at shearing time with the sedative known as Acepromazine. Our concentration has always been lower per ml compared to other clinics - more medication is required per ram to be effective. We have only supplied a concentration of 2 units per ml known as ACP-2. It is common practice in the ram shearing world to use the Acepromazine with a concentration of 10 units per ml, ACP-10. For example, a 100-120kg ram would only receive 1ml of the ACP-10 in comparison to 5ml of ACP-2. This change will be phased in from June. When ordering your ram sedative please be mindful of this change, our staff will require time to prepare your medication so please make sure to call ahead at least 7 days before shearing time. We will have an up to date hand out ready for you and be available for a discussion when you come into the clinic to collect your medication.

Diggora/lockington discussion group

In March we had our first discussion group for the Lockington/Diggora sheep farmers. We hope to have one every 3 months and will cover topics related to the season and requested by you! We hope to do our next one in June/July. If you are in this area and would like to join or start one in your area t give us a call at the clinic.

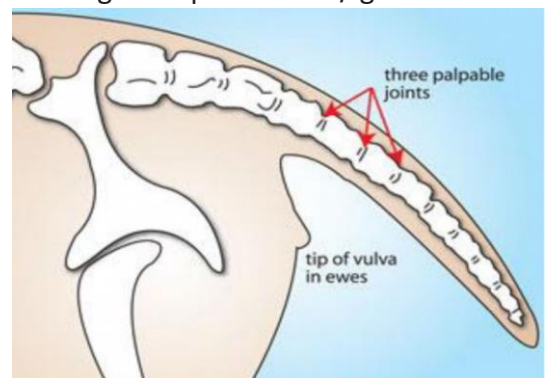
Picking up pregnancy toxaemia/sick ewes quickly!

We have had a lot of success with producers who have picked up on ewes not acting normally with the mob when doing daily/ 2 x daily lambing paddock checks. These ewes either have been diagnosed with hypocalcaemia (low calcium) or pregnancy toxaemia (low energy reserves) or a combination of both. If the ewe is treated promptly she will usually respond well. However if the ewe has been recumbent for a few days, sadly the prognosis is poor. If you are having some similar concerns with your mob do not hesitate to get in touch with us today for a discussion so we can help formulate a treatment and prevention plan for your farm.

Lamb marking time – think tail length!

Tails have been a big topic lately because they are being made too short at lamb marking time! Make sure to be extra vigilant about this especially if the ewes are to be retained as breeders. Having a too shorter tail can lead to concerns such as vaginal prolapses close to lambing time and vulva skin cancers in ewes. It can also lead to a higher incidence of rectal prolapses in fedlot lambs suffering from pneumonia/ gastro-intestinal parasites/acidosis. When deciding the correct length, make sure the tail length reaches just past the vulva or is three - four coccygeal vertebrae long. Self shedding producers have even elected to leave tails and have had good results – reduced prolapses and fly related concerns minimal. Do you have self shedders? Why not give this a go in a percent of your mob and monitor the response. For more information please visit:

<https://flyboss.com.au/management/tail-length/>



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<<https://flyboss.com.au/management/tail-length/>>

Home made beauties!!

Do you have any home made beauties you would like to share? Feel free to send them through to admin@rochyvet.com.au so that we can feature them in the next edition



Thanks to Daryl Jensen for this great idea!



Thanks to Gary Blake for this great idea!

Sheltered loose lick feed out containers

This loose lick feed out container has been made from a plastic bulk container and aligator straps. It has the benefit of being water proof and offers a moderate amount of product requiring less replenishing. This idea recycles farm equipment and has been proved and tested – the sheep love it!

Paddock maternity pens

There are many different designs but this in paddock maternity pen offers some extra benefits. There is a wind barrier provided by the green tarp offering the ewe and lambs protection. It is made out of sturdy fencing material making it less likely for any lamb/ewe escape. This ewe was on an outblock (not close to the shearing shed) and required daily medicating and monitoring. This set up made it possible for her.

Towards 90 or T90 Program is all about sheep reproduction best practice. In simple terms, implementing the management to sustainably generate more lambs to sell. The T90 brand reflects the targets of achieving 90% and beyond in lamb survival across single and twin-bearing ewes. There are many modules covering different topics such as weaning management, carry over production, joining ewe lambs. Jump online: <https://towards90.com.au/t90-modules/> have a look and lets get a group up and running soon!



Lambing first aid kit

below is a list of important must have pieces of equipment for lambing time. Don't forget to stock up!

- Lube
- Water and soap/disinfectant
- 4-in-1 (can be used to treat ewes with low calcium)
- Acetol/pink drench (can be used to treat ewes with pregnancy toxemia)
- Medication (have a talk to us about anti-inflammatories and antibiotics that may be helpful with mastitis, dirty/dead lambings etc)
- Lamb feeding tube kit if needing to feed orphans

