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could go
here!!!**



Animal WOFs Newsletter – March/April 2011 -



Welcome to the first ever *Animal WOFs for Lifestyle Blocks* newsletter.

Each issue we are covering important animal health issues relevant for that time of year. Please feel free to give us feedback or ideas for the next issue, with any topics you would like to see covered.

In the future we are planning feature articles on some of your small holding blocks, so if you are keen to present your piece of paradise to the other readers, contact Stef at the clinic for details.

In this issue:

Animal Health Diary – things to watch out for at this time of year

Facial Eczema – the hidden dangers of fungal spores

Design a Logo competition

Cutting costs for vet visits...



Animal Health Diary March/April



The five 'F's of summer animal husbandry

1. **Feed, Water and Shade:**

- ensure you have plenty of feed available to feed up lean animals in preparation for winter. Supplementary feeds may be needed.
- have plenty of water available for stock as water intakes often rise with the hot weather
- ensure animals have shady places to hide away from the sun. In the hot summer weather animals are prone to heat stress.

2. **Flystrike:**

- dag or shear sheep in the summer months to avoid flystrike around the bottom

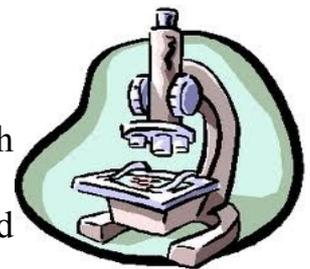


3. **Facial eczema:**

- spore counts are currently very high in the Levin district
- continue zinc treatment with intraruminal boluses for your sheep and cattle or other forms of zinc for alpacas
- call the vet for help if you notice any signs of facial eczema in your stock

4. **Faecal egg counts (FEC):**

- gastrointestinal worm burdens can rise at this time of year
- watch for weight loss, diarrhoea and pale gums and drench as appropriate
- Faecal worm egg counts can be done to see if animals need drenching or if drenches have been effective



5. **Fertility:**

- check rams for lameness before they go out with the ewes
- put rams with the ewes in March for August born lambs
- sows can also be mated in March to have piglets due in September
- take the sow to the boar to avoid territory issues and ensure boars are the same size as sows

Facial Eczema – the hidden dangers of fungal spores

Facial Eczema (or FE for short) is a disease caused by a toxin called Sporidesmin, produced by a fungus in ryegrass pastures. It thrives in moist, warm and humid conditions and is often a problem in summer and autumn.

When ingested the toxin damages the liver, causing a build up of other toxins like chlorophyll in the body. Chlorophyll reacts with UV light in the skin and causes the sunburn like signs often seen in affected animals.

Grazing ruminants like sheep and cattle are mainly affected as are Alpacas as they often graze ryegrass pastures. Goats are rarely affected as they are browsers and don't ingest the same amount of grass as sheep do. Pigs also are not grazers, so are not affected by FE.



Cow with facial eczema – note the peeling skin

In cattle clinical disease presents as shade-seeking, kicking at the flanks, redness and peeling of unpigmented skin like the udder and can cause death in severe cases.

Affected sheep and alpacas are also seeking shade and have droopy, red and swollen ears, redness and skin peeling, kicking at the flanks, loss of appetite and in severe cases death.



Sheep with facial eczema – note the droopy ears and red skin

It is an extremely painful condition and affected animals need to be seen by the vet, to provide appropriate treatment and pain relief. The liver damage is often irreversible, but supportive treatment can be given. Providing shade and moving animals to a non-toxic pasture is essential to stop progression of the disease.

A zinc cream is available for use as a sunscreen on affected body parts and an oral nutritional supplement called Manderson's Mix, containing a combination of oils that can help the body in times of stress, can be given in addition to drugs prescribed by your vet.

Prevention starts with monitoring of pasture spore counts to indicate when FE season

is starting. This information is available at the vet clinic in the form of weekly emails or faxes.

To sign up for these tick the box on the registration form and specify if you would like to receive fax or emailed results.



Fungal spores as seen under the microscope

For cattle and sheep the best protection is provided by intra-ruminal slow-release zinc boluses that protect your pets for 5 - 6 weeks when given at the start of the high risk period. After 6 weeks the boluses can be repeated. There are different sizes available for lambs and adult sheep and cattle of different sizes, ranging from calves to adult animals.

FE is less of a problem in goats as they are browsers and don't ingest the same quantities of affected ryegrass as sheep do. Make sure they are going onto long grass though to decrease risk and supplement with willow or poplar trimmings that can be hung from the fence.

Do not feed goats garden waste or clippings as many garden plants are toxic, especially oleander, yew, rhododendron, azalea, tomato and potato vines, stone fruits, delphiniums, lilies and avocados.

Alpacas can be affected but are not suitable for the boluses. Zinc oxide feed additives or zinc sulphate in the water can be used instead.

Supplementing all your stock with hay from safe pastures can also help reduce spore intakes.

To save you time and effort, we are happy to come out to your property and administer the zinc boluses for you. This can be combined with vaccination or other procedures for your convenience.

Please call the clinic on 368 2891 to arrange this.

Design a Logo competition

We are currently without a Logo for the Animal WOFs programme and are looking for creative ideas for a fantastic logo to feature on the front page of our newsletters.

The winning entry will receive a prize in the form of a free personalised animal health plan for your farm.

You can use the computer, paint, draw or otherwise create your version of a Logo for the 'Animal WOFs for Lifestyle Blocks' programme, then either hand a papercopy in to the clinic (Attention Stef) or email it to animalwof@lhvc.co.nz.

**Your logo
could be on
the front
page...**

Cutting costs for vet visits...

We all know vet visits can be expensive. They are mainly based on mileage (distance to your property from the clinic), time the vet spends on your property and any drugs used.

To reduce costs to you we are offering “Animal WOF runs”, which means we'll organise a “run” of visits to properties in the same area on the same day, reducing the cost of mileage for you as it will be shared among all the properties visited that day. Also this allows us to use fresh packets of vaccine each day that haven't been sitting in your fridge from the last time you vaccinated some stock, saving you money on otherwise wasted vaccines.

During these visits we can also drench animals for you, administer boluses, trim feet or tend to other animal health problems you have.

To reduce the amount of time the vet spends on your property, please make sure animals to be treated are confined to yards already.

Talk to us about suggestions for inexpensive but effective yard design to make stock handling safe and straight forward.

Also if you have a fantastic set of yards you would like to tell other small block holders about, get some photos and a description to Stef at the vets to go into the newsletter.



So, to finish off with, get out there and enjoy some time with your animals while summer is still here.

Looking forward to see you at the clinic or at your place,

Stef of the team
@ LHUC.