



Animal WOFs Newsletter
– January 2013 –
– Facial eczema update –



Spore counts are on the rise...

Protect your livestock now!

Have you thought about Facial Eczema prevention for your livestock yet?

Here are three reasons why you should:

- 1. Fungal spores cause severe liver disease.**
- 2. Severe liver disease predisposes to painful skin burns and peeling of all white or hairless areas.**
- 3. Irreversible liver disease can cause illthrift or death this season or in years to come.**



Did you know that 100 days at a spore count of 5,000 can be just as damaging as one day at 500,000? As the damage is cumulative, chronic exposure to low spore levels can be dangerous too!

What can I do to prevent Facial Eczema in my stock?

Zinc rumen boluses (Time Capsules/ Faceguard)

Time capsules and Faceguard boluses are long-acting ruminal zinc boluses for cattle and sheep that are given orally into the rumen, where they are absorbed slowly to provide several weeks of protection for Facial Eczema (FE). Time capsules should be given every 6 weeks in sheep and 5 weeks in cattle and Faceguard for cattle every 6 weeks, throughout FE season, with no more than 3 applications per year.



These capsules come in different sizes so knowing the weight of an animal is important to avoid under or overdosing.

How do I get these boluses into my animals?



We can come out and do it for you, all you need to do is have the animals in the yards ready for the vet. We can use weighbands on cattle and estimate sheeps weight also to ensure accurate dosing. At the same time we can drench or vaccinate your animals if needed.

You can administer these boluses yourself if you have done it before, and we can hire you an appropriate applicator, however incorrect application of these boluses can result in damage to the throat, toxicity or if underdosed, no protection for FE. So get our experienced vets to insert capsules for you!

If we have several people in the same area to visit on that day, reduced mileage charges will apply.

Zinc sulphate through the water trough



This is only suitable for cattle as sheep will not drink enough water during the day to ensure adequate zinc levels for FE protection (they get most of their daily moisture requirements from pasture).

Direct addition of zinc sulphate to the water trough without using a dispenser is not recommended but in-line dispensers, adding zinc to the tank supplying the water reticulation system, and floating in-trough dispensers are all effective means of water treatment.

Water treatment is only suitable for long term dosing NOT crisis dosing during danger periods.



You need to ensure that ALL stock on the property are included in your calculations, and that all stock are getting access to sufficient daily water intakes for this method to be effective.

Zinc water treatments should have started already or will need to start now, to provide adequate protection once sporecounts rise.

Water treatment is not suitable where stock have access to alternative water sources such as streams or drains. Introduce zinc sulphate slowly over several weeks to allow stock to get used to the taste. The use of flavourants, especially apple or caramel flavoured products, can enhance the intake of water and zinc during the summer.

For dose rates and more information, please contact us at the clinic on 368 2891 or email animalwof@lhvc.co.nz.

Daily oral drenching with zinc oxide

Daily or every second day dosing is possible in dairy cows, however as zinc can interfere with calcium absorption, less frequent dosing using higher rates can result in reduced production and milk fever. Young stock and dry cattle can be dosed at weekly intervals, but this only gives 60-70% protection.

Long-acting boluses like Time capsules and Faceguard are much more effective and less time-intensive.

Zinc feed additives

There are several different feed additives available. These can be used in Alpacas but no studies have been done on dosage and efficacy in this species.

Zinmol is a molasses based liquid feed containing zinc oxide. It comes in 2 different concentrations for Friesian and for Jersey cows (different adult weights), so each cow should be fed 1kg of Zinmol daily. Care needs to be taken to avoid overdosing as this can be toxic.

Zinc oxide can also be added to feed, fresh or in premixed pellets at a dose rate of 2.3 - 3g/100kg of liveweight/day. Take care with dose rates as overdosing can be toxic and underdosing won't give adequate protection.

Fungicide spraying of pasture

Spraying can be effective to produce protected areas either for grazing over the danger period, or to feed out supplements during hot spore periods. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully, and monitor spore counts to check if the spray has worked and if it's still effective.

If you are not receiving our emailed or faxed spore counts, please let us know so we can add you to the list.



We also have spore counting kits available for purchase at the clinic so you can get your own pastures checked. These include a courier bag and instructions on how to sample pasture, get sent to the lab and will return accurate spore counts to you.

Pasture management

Feeding longer pasture avoids animals grazing the dead matter at the bottom, where the spores are hidden.

Avoid topping pastures during or immediately before the FE risk period as spores build up in dead matter.

Spore counts can vary between different paddocks on the same farm as the Facial Eczema fungus thrives in warm shady moist areas.

Don't overstock as this will cause animals to graze down to ground level also.

Feed safe hay or other safe supplements in addition to pasture. Use improved ryegrass cultivars or other species of grass that don't carry the fungus.

If you need any further information or would like to make an appointment for time capsuling/ Faceguarding your animals, please contact us at the clinic.

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

Stef of the team
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