



What a lousy yarn.

On a fine autumn day a tiny egg was laid only half an inch from the skin.

Attached to a hair for ten days it stayed before hatching to join its next of kin.

From this wee egg emerged a larval louse who descended the hair to its base.

Its in the sheep's fleece the louse makes its house with dead skin cells it starts stuffing its face.

After three larval stages it becomes an adult moulting its skin in its coming of age.

A fully grown louse is the final result ready to go on a skin cell eating rampage.

It doesn't take long for the louse to mature only 3 weeks since leaving its egg.

In a few hours it'll be mating for sure and lay eggs from the sheep's head to its legs.

Over winter the numbers get out of control the sheep scrape their wool on the fence. Killing every last louse is the farmers goal so wool damage doesn't become an expense.

The dipping contractors arrive at the farmers request to attack the lice with some dip.

The growth of lice larvae is soon repressed lice development slows to a drip.

May dips leave adult lice unimpaired allowing them to live out their life.

The adults die out and the sheep's wool is spared, the farms almost done with this strife

For a few weeks dipped animals require protection from those who did not get dipped.

If this is not done they get reinfection and the dip may as well have been skipped.



GORILLA COMPLIMENTS.

Lice Science

Apparently, head lice have now become resistant to the drugs normally used to treat them.

The problem has scientists scratching their heads.

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Special Points of Interest:

- Dairy farmers please remember to book in your Leptowise, Drycow and RVM consults so you are sorted moving into next season (2017/18)

Dogs at Duck Shooting

Southlands most important day is fast approaching. Opening morning is full of excitement and anticipation for both shooter and canine companion. It is important to keep an eye on your trusty dog and make sure duck shooting doesn't put him under the weather.

One thing to watch out for is 'duck itch'. This is a condition that typically affects a dog about 3 days after duck shooting. It is a skin irritation caused by dirt and algae getting on to the skin. To prevent this a

hose off or bath at the end of the day is all that is required. Once they have duck itch usually they need medicated shampoo baths to prevent a skin infection setting in.

Another post opening day issue that catches dog owners out is limber tail syndrome, sometimes called broken wag. This is caused by spending long periods of time in cold water. The tail is usually limp in its bottom two thirds and extremely painful, it can easily fool you in to thinking the tail is

broken. This condition corrects itself with a few days rest however we would encourage you to get a vet consult and we can provide pain relief for your duck fetcher.



"I'M TELLIN' YA, JIMMY, WE'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT HERE!"

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Mastitis Prevention – Heifers

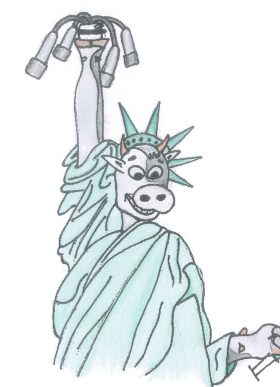
A heifers first calving is an incredibly stressful time for her. The day she calves is probably the hardest day of her life to date and is also the same day she starts her full time job. Anything we can do to make it easier on her is a welfare bonus. Mastitis prevention is a major favour we can do for her.

Heifer mastitis is costly in lost milk, cost of treatment, staff time, lost quarters, heifers being

culled and lost lifetime production for those affected.

Teatsealing heifers all but eliminates heifer mastitis. Teatsealed heifers typically have 0-1% mastitis in the first 6 weeks of lactation. That is a massive time saver. It also provides insurance, if your calving pad gets dirty (as they always do) or you are calving in a barn, the chance of getting life threatening mastitis is

slashed. We have a purpose built trailer and trained staff to teatseal heifers on your farm. Contact us to make a booking.



Dry Off

The end of the current dairy season is approaching and now is probably a good time to start collating your records in anticipation for drying off.

Important information to collect is cell count data from throughout the season as well as clinical mastitis data. If you have herd test data then this is invaluable for selecting targeted treatment for your animals.

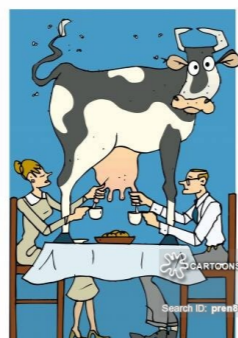
Prior to your dry cow consult it would be fantastic if you could gather

this information. Mark on your herd test sheets any cows that have been over 150,000 SCC or first calvers who have been over 120,000 at any point in the season. Also note down any cows that have had a case of clinical mastitis during the season. These are the 'infected cows' and if using a targeted dry cow approach, these are the cows that will get the long acting or high potency treatment.

Cows that aren't in this

group don't need curing, they just need protecting.

If you have these records available then you can work through a detailed dry off plan with your vet to establish what is best for your cows while minimising unnecessary antibiotic usage.



Antibiotic free.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association has announced a plan to maintain animal health and wellbeing without antibiotic use by 2030. What this means is a bit vague at this stage however any steps made to reduce antibiotic use will prepare you for any further changes made to drug laws.

Hairy, Lamé Horsies

Equine Cushing's disease is a major cause of laminitis (founder) in horses and in particular, ponies.

If you have a horse with a history of founder or perhaps it keeps its winter coat longer than usual you may have a cushingoid horse.

This is a malfunctioning in the part of the brain that controls the horse's internal annual rhythm, along with several other

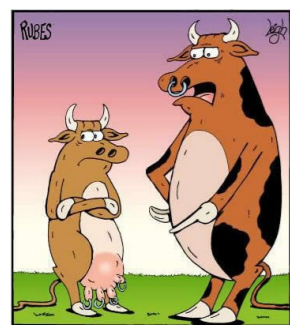
vital processes.

Cushing's is at its worst in autumn. As a consequence this is the best time to blood test for it. Blood test is simple and relatively cost effective.

A very effective treatment option is available for animals diagnosed with the disease. It requires feeding a pill to the horse daily which is usually easily done with a small amount of molasses or barley to help

the medicine go down.

If horses only have a mild case of cushings then they will often only require treatment through the autumn months.



Fodder Beet

Just a reminder that fodder beet is low in protein (7% crude protein) and low in phosphate. A recent case of Rickett's (bone deformities from low phosphate) in lambs occurred when their mothers were grazed on almost a solely fodder beet diet for three months. Feeding such an unbalanced diet for so long is clearly a bad idea but it is a timely reminder to provide phosphate in the form of DCP or licks and protein via baleage or hay when grazing fodder beet.

"Yes, I'm well aware that my nose is pierced, but those are different!"

Give them a break!

It's a busy time of year for diligent lads doing their job they often ignore the basic life necessity of eating, thus losing large amounts of weight. It has been claimed that individual rams can lose up to 30kg of body weight over a 3 cycle mating. Stags on the other hand can go from a front rower to a weedy halfback in a matter of weeks, with the attitude to boot!

Because these boys often

forget to look after themselves it is important for the farmer to keep an eye out. There isn't a great deal you can do with a lame or injured stag as their rutting temperament usually means getting too close to them at this time of year is a bad idea. For lame or injured rams and replacing them with a healthy compadre will help maintain your ram performance.

A healthy ram can tup around 30 ewes per day, a lame or ill ram won't come close to this. In effect this reduces your ram to ewe ratio which potentially means on heat ewes are getting missed by the rams.

Remember that your ram to ewe ratio refers to the number of rams in with the ewes at one time, it doesn't include rams that are still in the ram paddock not being used.



Wife Goes Hunting

It was Saturday morning and John, an avid hunter, woke up ready to go bag the first deer of the season. He walks down to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, and to his surprise he finds his wife, Mary, sitting there, fully dressed in camouflage. John asks her, "What are you up to?"

Mary smiles, "I'm going hunting with you!" John, though he has many reservations, reluctantly decides to take her along.

They arrive at the hunting site. John sets his wife safely up in the tree stand and tells her: "If you see a deer, take careful aim on it and I'll come running back as soon as I hear the shot."

John walks away with a smile on his face knowing that Mary couldn't bag an elephant -- much less a deer. But not 10 minutes pass when he is startled as he hears an array of gunshots. Quickly, John starts running back. As John gets closer to her stand, he hears Mary screaming, "Get away from my deer!"

Confused, John races faster towards his screaming wife. And again he hears her yell, "Get away from my deer!" followed by another volley of gunfire.

Now within sight of where he had left his wife, John is surprised to see a cowboy, with his hands high in the air. The cowboy, obviously distraught, says, "Okay, lady, okay! You can have your deer! Just let me get my saddle off it!"

Duck Lice

On opening day you may have noticed lice on your ducks, geese or swans.

Don't fret, they can't infest people or dogs. If they get on you they won't hang round long.