

Special points of interest:

- If you are concerned about drench resistance, please talk to a vet about a drench check
- Please remember if you have rams to vasectomise, they will need at least 6 weeks rest before putting them out with the ewes
- Ensure hoggets are fully vaccinated with clostridial (5in1) vaccine
- As usual we will be open between Christmas and New Year, from the 29th to the 31st, and start back the 2nd of January
- We wish you and your family all a happy, healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

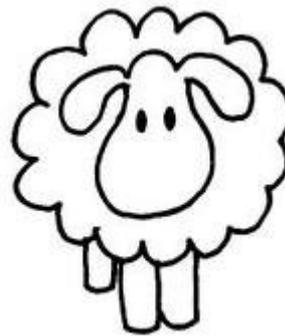
Ram Care

Rams are often forgotten in the day to day running of the farm, and only checked on when its time for them to work. It is important to remember that rams need to be well looked after throughout the year, since they have a major impact on your in lamb percentage and profitability.

Adverse health events such as lameness, eye problems or wounds can have a long lasting impact on the rams if not treated early, and may have a profound impact on reproductive performance.

One of the most important factors is ram nutrition. In order to maintain condition, rams require good quality feed. This is particularly important in the few months leading up to mating, as ram condition pre-mating can have an impact on not only stamina, but sperm quality and quantity.

There are several areas to check



when examining rams, and these should be done regularly.

Feet can be a major problem, and foot rot, if left untreated, can develop into a painful and debilitating bone infection in relatively short order (ie within a few days.) This may cause irreversible damage to the joint and may prevent mounting behavior, especially on a back foot.

Teeth can also be a problem, just like in a ewe. Although the rams will be less likely to lose condition quickly, due to less output than a lactating ewe, rams are often on farm for a longer span

and on sandy or rough soils, teeth are worn down quickly.

The scrotum of the ram should be examined throughout the year. We often find rams with evidence of frostbite on the bottom of the scrotum at palpation time; if this is too severe it can cause the testes to be held closer to the body wall, increasing their temperature and decreasing sperm production. Alternatively, the inflammation from frostbite or damage to the scrotum can cause the testicles to become stuck in the scrotum, not allowing them to be lifted in future if it is cold. Scrotal mange will also cause problems with fertility, as will heavy wool on the scrotum, for the reasons above.

Ram health is important and rams should be watched carefully throughout the year—after all they are a major on farm investment.

New Drench Capsule

There is a new drench capsule on the market designed to take calves from weaning for 9 months.

It is called i-Pulse, and is different from previous drench capsules, which release drench continuously for an extended period. This capsule is full of disks, some of which are drench, and some of which are space holders, which

will be released at a steady rate, depending on the make-up of that particular calf's rumen microbes. This means that not all calves will be drenched at the same time, and they will not be drenched continuously, which will allow refugia to develop and help prevent resistance.

Of course, the main advantage to this new product is that once the

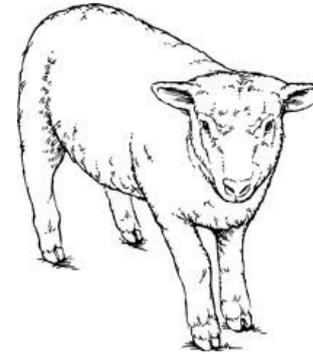
capsule is put in, the calf will not require drenching until after the winter (depending on management.) Unfortunately, the capsule does not yet incorporate copper, selenium and cobalt as well, or they would not require yarding at all!

If you have any questions about this product or are interested in using it, please ring us.

Uddering Ewes

Survey data from New Zealand has shown that between 2-6% of ewes have defective udders at weaning. Some of these may resolve with time but a number will have permanent damage, leading to trouble feeding lambs in the following spring. Some farms seem to have more trouble with mastitis (udder infections), leading to damaged and scarred udders, than others. The reason for this is the large number of factors that contribute to mastitis such as ewe condition, amount of milk being produced, type of feed, nutritional or cold stress and/or paddock conditions.

Uddering ewes is a way to help identify those defective udders. The aim is to identify ewes that have ongoing infection or scarring in the udder, that are not



going to heal. The best time to udder ewes is no sooner than 4 weeks after weaning, when the milk secretions have dried up. Obviously, the closer to weaning you do it, the more milk is in the udder. Doing it too early means that the swollen udder can hide some of the lumps and bumps, not to mention increasing the risk of ewes getting mastitis due to yarding for longer. Also the percentage that are pulled out is

a lot higher the closer to weaning you do it as some of the problems do self cure with time.

Ewes to mark and cull are those with huge swollen quarters, any quarters with large golfball+ size lumps or pus. If you are unsure about whether to keep them or send them on their way, mark them and we can check them out for you.

There has been more black udder around this year when conditions were a bit colder and wetter. However, the month after weaning is another period of significant risk for mastitis. Keep an eye out at this time for low grade infections that have been smouldering along and might come to a head.



One enterprising farmer in Germany found alternative income sources.....



Oddspot

One of our farmers brought us in the lamb, the last one born VERY late in the season. He had to lamb her, and it was born dead.

With six legs and two heads, this could be the future of sheep farming - able to eat twice as much, and 6 roasts in the end! We look forward to palpating rams with six legs and two heads in future –they’ve got two heads to bunt us with but they probably won’t walk in a straight line!

We are always interested in the weird and wonderful things you find on your farm –if you get something odd, ring us!



RAMbo!

