



# TOPVETS

## Moosletter

December 2012

### Brief News

#### Toxovax and Campvax Orders

We need to get our orders in for these vaccines ahead of time. Sam will be ringing round those of you who got vaccine last year to get numbers. If you didn't order vaccine last year but need to this year, please phone us at the clinic.



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#### Early Pregnancy Testing

If you are interested in identifying cows in-calf to AB we can check them 5 weeks after breeding.

To give a more accurate idea of calving date we can age pregnancies between 5-12 weeks. Knowing the expected calving date helps management decisions especially around the transition period.

If all you need is an in-calf/empty, 5 weeks after removing the bulls is a good time to pregnancy test.

Please give us a ring at the clinic to book in. Pregnancy scanning is a busy time so please book early if you have a specific day or time in mind.

Don't forget we now also have our handheld MINDA device so we can directly enter pregnancy testing data on farm as we go. This will save you the time and effort of having to record the results twice.

Summer is officially here and Christmas is just around the corner...it's hard to believe another year has gone by.

In November we farewelled one of our vets, Francois. We wish him well on his future endeavours.

This month, vet Michelle Beard has rejoined the TopVets team after several years away.

Welcome back Michelle.

### I N S I D E

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- Theileria in Northland
- Face Guard
- Fitness for Transport
- Sheep Reproduction
- Christmas Ham Promo
- Living Longer



## Theileria in Northland

Recently, there have been an increased number of cases of clinical Theileriosis in Northern New Zealand. The Ministry of Primary Industries is monitoring the situation.

Theileria was first reported in NZ cattle in the early 80's, it is an organism that lives in the red blood cells of cattle and is transmitted via ticks. Mostly the infection is benign, that is we don't see any clinical signs of disease, however it can also cause severe disease and anaemia. Previously, occasional clinical cases have been noted particularly in cattle that have moved to Northland from further South, but recently there appear to have been a larger number of cases of clinical disease on Northland farms that haven't had recent stock movements. Recently our clinic dealt with a case of a sick calf that had Theileriosis in conjunction with a Yersinia infection. Concurrent disease or debilitation could be a contributing factor.



The signs that may be seen with Theileriosis include lethargy, weakness and anaemia. If you have any unexplained deaths or stock showing suspicious signs let us know.

## Face-Guard - Zinc Facial Eczema Protection for Cattle

Face-Guard zinc boluses are now available for cattle from 90-660kg. Face-Guard offers extended protection with a single bolus lasting up to 6 weeks. A top-up dose can also be given 6 weeks after the initial dose which will extend the protection time up to another 4 weeks.

Face-Guard is proven effective, the boluses are durable so will not break if they're dropped and each animal receives an individual dose so treatment is more reliable than trough or pasture treatment.

 <b>Face-Guard</b> 90 – 250kg 48 x 60g boluses	Weight Range	Desired Protection Period	1st Treatment	Top-up Treatment 6 weeks later
	90 – 130kg		for 6 weeks protection	
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 
131 – 200kg		for 6 weeks protection		—
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 
201 – 250kg		for 6 weeks protection		—
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 

 <b>Face-Guard</b> 251 – 660kg 24 x 132g boluses	Weight Range	Desired Protection Period	1st Treatment	Top-up Treatment 6 weeks later
	251 – 330kg		for 6 weeks protection	
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 
331 – 440kg		for 6 weeks protection		—
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 
441 – 550kg		for 6 weeks protection		—
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 
551 – 660kg		for 6 weeks protection		—
		for 10 weeks protection		+ 

Where 5 or 6 132g boluses are to be given they should be administered in two applications.

Innovative bolus design offers **flexible retreatment options** depending on weight of the animal and length of risk period.

 = 2 BOLUSES  
(132g boluses)  
 = 1 BOLUS

## Fitness For Transport Certificates

Animals must not be transported if they display injuries, signs of disease, abnormal behaviour or physical abnormalities that could compromise their welfare during the journey, unless a veterinary declaration of fitness for transport has been completed.

Effectively, when we certify an animal for transport, we are taking responsibility for its welfare. There will be cases when an animal does not meet the criteria for certification, for example a cow with cancer eye that has spread to the lymph nodes or a lame animal that is not weight-bearing adequately on the affected limb. Alternative arrangements for treatment or other humane destruction need to be made for animals that do not meet the requirements for suitability for transport.



Recently, new guidelines have been put in place in regards to issuing transport certificates.

Animals that are certified as fit for transport must be transported to the *nearest* slaughter premises within 7 days of the examination.

Please remember to call ahead to the slaughter premises to let them know you have a certified animal coming and also inform the transport company.

## Sheep Reproduction—The Ram Effect

It is well known that teaser rams will stimulate a synchronised oestrus in ewes early in the breeding season. The stimulus from the ram is from pheromones present in the ram's wool and wool wax.

For the response to be seen, ewes need to be isolated from rams for at least 21 days prior to the teasers being introduced. Usually within 3-4 days most of the ewes will have a silent heat, that is a heat with no behavioural signs. Following this about 40-60% of ewes will have full heat at the normal oestrous interval (about 17 days) The remaining ewes may have a second silent heat before coming on properly for their next heat. Multiple ovulations are more likely in these subsequent heats so the ram effect can be used to get more ewes to have multiple births.

Once the ewes have started their cycles, the ram effect will have no further influence.

### Guidelines for Using Teaser Rams

Ratio of teaser rams to ewes 1:200 ewes or 1:100 hoggets.

Join with ewes 17 days prior to the planned start of mating.

Swap with the entire rams on the day of the PSM.

Vasectomise teaser rams at least 60 days before they are needed.

Use mature rams

Ensure rams and teasers are Brucellosis free.

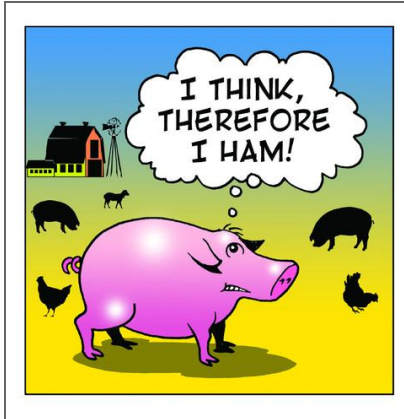
Ram health is essential if you are to achieve top lambing %. They need to be in good body condition with no disease or lameness. Sexual health is critical and breeding rams should be palpated and blood tested.



## Merial Ancare Christmas Ham Promotion

Purchase selected Merial Ancare drench products this festive season and receive a Christmas ham.

While stocks last.



The Team at TopVets wishes  
you a  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.

Thank you for your  
continued support.



## Living Longer

Researchers at the Institute for Aging at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the U.S. questioned 243 people aged 100 or older.

In addition to genetic factors, they found that centenarians tend to share certain personality traits. In general, these long lived people are:

- Outgoing
- Positive minded about other people
- Full of laughter
- Open with their emotions
- Conscientious and disciplined
- Unlikely to obsess about anxieties or guilt

The scientists point out these characteristics don't necessarily represent a cause and effect relationship. They did notice however, that in many cases the personality traits they observed weren't necessarily life long tendencies, but behaviours their subjects learned as they grew older. Focusing on the good and not worrying about negatives may have a positive impact on overall life expectancy.

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