



TOPVETS

Moosletter

February 2013

Animal Health Plans

TopVets is currently using a web based Animal Health plan with local farmers which has been developed by NZ vets in conjunction with Merial Ancare.



It is designed for the Vet and Farmer to be able to work together to achieve "best practice" in animal and farm management, thereby increasing productivity and reducing risk. While this application has an annual health plan calendar function, it is more focused on a shared task and reminder based philosophy for animal groups as well as individual animals.

After sitting down and formulating a year's plan for the farm, individual tasks can be automatically emailed/texted out prior to needing to be done, throughout the year.

Both Vet and Farmer have access to the plan via the internet, and the plan is flexible and can be modified as the year goes on.

Individual products are allocated for each procedure during the year, meaning the right product is used at the right time.

Batch numbers of Animal health products can be recorded with the various tasks on completion which is great for the compliance requirements that we are all subject to these days.

The Animal Health plan can be viewed at <http://www.animalhealthplan.com>

While the Animal Health Plan is obviously beneficial to the larger beef, Sheep and Dairy operations, it would also provide considerable value to smaller operations.

For further details give us a call.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014. We hope you all had a safe and happy festive season and the New Year's resolutions are going well!

This newsletter we have articles on topics relevant at this time of year. We look at Theileria and tick management, animal health plans, fly and lice treatments and foaling as well as an update on the local TB situation so read on.....

I N S I D E

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Fly and Lice Treatments Explained

We have had some enquiries lately about fly, lice and tick treatment for sheep and it has reminded me of just how complicated it can all be. There are literally dozens of products available and what product you need depends on: What system you use to apply it? How long the fleece is? Whether you want fly cover on its own or fly and lice cover? And how much protection you need?

To help I will explain firstly the 3 different families of drugs and how they work and then I've attached a chart with the products we supply and how they're used.

Organophosphates

Control both lice and flystrike

Work on the adult only and rapidly knocks down maggots

Only gives SHORT acting protection

Toxic to humans and sheepdogs especially Collie breeds

Synthetic Pyrethroids

Primarily control lice, some give short acting fly protection

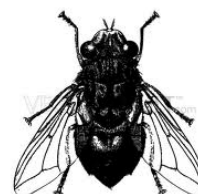
Toxic to Fish, care needed for disposal

Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs)

Some Fly only (Cyrazin) others Fly and Lice

Works on Larvae only, DO NOT kill adults

Give LONG Acting protection



The following is a chart of products that we sell:

Product	Family	Active ingredient	Main Use	Fly	Lice	Ticks	Method of Application	Cover (weeks)	WHP
Seraphos	OP	Propetamphos 360g/l	Fly, lice and tick treatment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Plunge	2-4	60d wool 14d meat
Maggo	OP	Propetamphos 16g/l	Immediate knock down of maggots and adult fly	Yes	No	No	Spray	1-2	60d wool 14d meat
Cypercare	SP	Cypermethrin 25g/L	Lice	No	Yes	No	Pour on	Up to 24	60d wool (1ml/5kg) 90d wool (2ml/5kg) 14d meat
Fleecemaster	IGR	diflubenzuron	Mid Term fly and Lice	Yes	Yes	No	Plunge & shower Jetting	Up to 12	60d wool Nil meat
Flypel	SP & OP	Cypermethrin Chlorpyrifos	Short to Mid term fly &	Yes	Yes	No	Plunge & shower	Up to 6	60d wool 14d meat
Cyrazin Liquid	IGR	Cyromazine	Short term fly & Mid	Yes	Yes	No	Plunge & shower	Up to 14	60d wool 7d meat
Cyrazin spray On	IGR	Cyromazine	Short term fly & Mid term Lice	Yes	Yes	No	Pour On	Up to 14	60d wool 21d meat
Extinosad	SP	Spinosad 20g/L	Lice off shear and long wool	No	Yes	No	Plunge & Shower	Up to 20	Nil Wool 14d meat

Finally the other most common question asked is can you mix treatments to get the best of different types? The answer is yes: Extinosad and Cyrazin liquid are a common mixture giving knock down of adult flies and lice while giving long term lice protection and some fly protection.

Theileria orientalis “ikeda”

Theileria orientalis “ikeda” associated bovine anaemia was first reported in New South Wales in 2006 and has since spread by cattle movements down the coast to SE Victoria and overland to Western Australia. This is the same strain as in our NZ outbreak.

T. orientalis was first identified in NZ in 1982 in a dairy farm near Wellsford. It was believed to be imported into NZ with subclinically infected cattle. From 2000 to 2012 there had been only 12 notifications to MPI. Since 2012 there have been more than 200 notifications of Theileria “ikeda” associated bovine anaemia. The level of mortality has been far greater than ever before.

The clinical signs of the “ikeda” strain are a result of the anaemia—these include: lethargy, inappetance, pale udders, exercise intolerance, pale gums, jaundice and death (especially at times of stress e.g. at calving or early lactation).

In one severely affected herd that was studied the anaemia persisted for 8 months. This herd had a 25% empty rate and a milk solid production of 80kg less per cow per year resulting in a huge economic loss.

The problem for Far North farmers will arise if they bring naïve cattle into their herd, i.e. cattle that have not experienced ticks carrying “ikeda” theileria. Modelling has shown that there is a significant local spread of infection for up to 5km and within 30 days of a farm being infected. Spread of the disease by stable flies and tick infested rabbits and hares is being investigated.

At this point in time we feel the best way to reduce Theileria on our farms is to keep the ticks under control.

Tick Management—Time For a Re-Think

The major outbreak of ticks this summer and the Theileria outbreak have forced us to re-think our tick management strategies for next season. The NZ cattle tick is a 3 host tick which means it jumps on and feeds on 3 cattle in it's lifetime.

The first stage tick is evident around June, and the second and third stages developing over the late winter, spring months.

Therefore, our recommendation for controlling ticks (with Flumethrin or Pouracide) on high risk farms for 2014 is;

- Treat cattle late June to target the first stage ticks.
- Treat again late September / early October to target the early adult ticks.
- A late December / early January treatment can be done if required, to catch larvae that have hatched from eggs laid by any residual females.



STAGES OF FOALING

Gestation

Gestation length is variable in the mare and can be anywhere from 315 – 400 days. The average is 342 days, hence the following signs associated with the imminent arrival of your foal may be useful.

Before foaling

Filling of the teats: As the udder enlarges, the upper portion of the teat is stretched in a manner that is difficult to distinguish it from the rest of the udder. The lower portion of the teat remains small but as foaling gets nearer the teat enlarges and is reflected outward by the increasing pressure from within the udder. During the early stages of udder enlargement the udder may shrink during the day and enlarge at night but when foaling gets nearer the udder will remain enlarged through the day.

Relaxation of the muscles of the pelvic area: Relaxation of this region usually occurs about 3 weeks prior to foaling. These changes allow the foal to pass through the birth canal with greater ease. This process is gradual and may not be seen on all mares. A hollow develops on either side of the root of the tail as muscles of the hip and buttock area start to relax.

Waxing and milk flow: 95% of mares will produce wax like beads at the end of each teat (droplets of colostrum) usually between 6-48 hours prior to foaling. In the odd mare waxing may appear a week or two before foaling, and sometimes may fail to occur in some mares. Some mares drip or stream milk for several days prior to foaling.



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Facial Eczema - don't be complacent

The Facial Eczema is upon us again and while the last 4 -5 years have been mild, we still need to remain vigilant.

Early spore counts from the Far North and further south are higher than usual so please monitor local spore counts and be prepared to take preventative measures.

Topvets are doing weekly spore counts from around the district which will be reported in the Northland Age as well as the national monitoring service.

Preventative measures vary from farm to farm; give one of our vets a call to discuss what's best for your farm.



Tuberculosis update – things are looking promising

The primary infected farm at Awanui tested **clear** in November, and hopefully will become a clear herd after February and May 2014 testing.

The other 6 flow on herds are all now **clear**.

Over 1200 possums had been killed and sent for testing from October to December 2013. Over 90% of the possums have been post mortemed and cultured for Tb and their results are **negative**, but there are still more possums to be examined.

Equipment for hire

- Cattle Scales, load bars and 2 piece aluminium platforms - We have 2 sets on hand
- Dehorning gear (for use on animals less than 9 months of age)
- Ezi Castrator applicators.
- Freeze Branding irons – (for dairy cow branding)

Stages of Foaling continued.....

Unfortunately, mares that stream milk prior to foaling lose large amounts of colostrum, the vital first milk that contains antibodies and a laxative. Mares showing spontaneous milk flow should be closely watched, not only for the onset of foaling but also to determine how much colostrum is lost. If the mare is losing a significant quantity it should be collected and frozen. Colostrum can be thawed and fed to the new born foal at birth.

Relaxation of the vulva - Within the last 24-48 hours before foaling the mares vulva can be observed to swell and relax in preparation to stretching several times it's normal size to allow passage of the foal.

Restlessness- Many mares exhibit behaviour changes-during the last few weeks of gestation a mare can become cranky, restless and as she enters the 1st stage of labour. The mare usually wants to be left alone. She may walk continually, switch her tail, look at her sides, kick at her abdomen. These signs are also indicative of colic, but if the mare eats, drinks, defecates, urinates frequently then the first stage of labour is probably in progress.

Sweating -As labour approaches the mare often breaks into a sweat. The mare's neck, flanks may feel warm and damp or a general sweat over all the body may occur.

Parturition, or the process of foaling

The progression of the physical changes that occur in foaling are divided in to three distinct stages. 86 % of mares will foal at night.

-Stage one – positioning of the foal (5 mins – 3 hours)

-Stage two – delivery of the foal (less than 20 minutes). 99% delivered head and feet first

-Stage three – expulsion of the placenta (10 mins – 3 hours)

The ability to recognise each stage and to follow the normal chain of events allows the attendant of the mare to be able to assess whether that mare needs assistance. If the second or third stage of labour is delayed or altered in some way from the normal expectations, veterinary intervention is required immediately. Fortunately ~ 90% of mares foal normally.

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