

Sheep & Beef Talk

August 2018



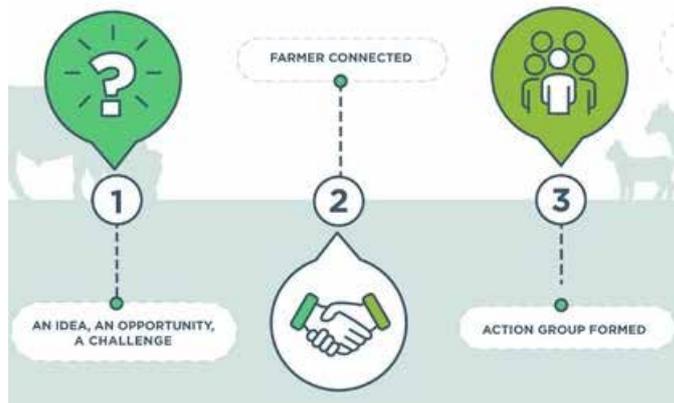
RMPP Action Network

You may have heard about, or be involved in, the RMPP Action Network. If you haven't, here is a rundown on what it is about.

The Red Meat Profit Partnership (RMPP) is a Primary Growth Partnership programme that is working to help the red meat sector increase productivity and profitability. One of their projects has been to look at how to help farmers make changes to their business. The outcome is the Action Network which is a network of farmer Action Groups across the country.

How to become involved?

The process starts with a challenge or opportunity on your farm such as increasing lambing percentage or calf weaning weights.



This forms the basis of your farm Action Plan which is a one page written plan you put together with the help of the group. It sets out what you want to achieve and also how that fits with the group's objective.

environmental sustainability, genetic selection or whatever else the group is interested in.

RMPP Action Network provides individual farmers with:

- Facilitated, supported and structured small groups of farm businesses working together (7-9 farm businesses).
- Trained and supported facilitators to guide their group and help identify opportunities.
- Tools and resources to support their group.
- A network of experts who can share new knowledge and ideas.
- Kick start funding of \$4,000 per farm business which is pooled for the group to bring in expertise and pay for facilitators.
- The knowledge that RMPP Action Network is built on research and international best practice.

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RMPP Action Network

What are the benefits to farm businesses by connecting in with RMPP Action Network?

As a farm business committed to RMPP Action Network they can expect:

- Professionally facilitated, results-focused small groups supporting their business through change.
- Less risk to their business through kick start funding and external support
- Help finding solutions to support their business in a changing world
- Connection to trusted, independent expertise
- To tap into the knowledge and experience of other farmers.

Will Cuttance from our Te Kuiti clinic is a group facilitator and is keen to get other groups going in the Waikato and King Country. If you would like to know more about it or join a group, check out www.actionnetwork.co.nz or call Will at the Te Kuiti clinic on 07 878 0020.



Why do we lose lambs?

In New Zealand it is common to lose 15%-18% of lambs before they are docked. The majority of these losses happen around the time of birth with many lambs being born alive. There are many reasons why we lose lambs. Southerly storms are obvious culprits, but diseases and deficiencies are harder to pick by eye.

To work out your level of losses use this formula:

$$\text{Lamb Wastage} = (\text{Scanning \%} - \text{Lambing \%}) \div \text{Scanning \%} \times 100$$

If your result is above 18%, then there is an opportunity to improve lamb survival. The key to capturing this opportunity is



finding out what factors are causing losses on your farm.

Your VetEnt clinic can help find out what is causing lamb deaths on your farm by carrying out post mortems of dead lambs found on lambing beats. The greater the number of dead lambs we get the greater the chance of diagnosing the cause of death and drawing useful conclusions for next year. The best time to collect these lambs is in the first 10 days of lambing.

The lambs should be brought to the clinic or seen on farm as fresh as possible. If there is placenta (birth sac) available then bring that into clinic too! It is also useful to know if the lamb was from the singles or multiples, and whether its mother was a hogget, 2 tooth or mixed age ewe.

By examining the dead lambs we can tell whether the lamb was alive or dead

when born, what its birth weight was, whether it died of exposure, starvation or dystocia or whether there were any signs of umbilical infection or other infections such as *Campylobacter* and *Toxoplasmosis*. Dissecting and weighing the thyroid glands of the lamb is the only way to find out if iodine deficiency is an issue on your farm or not.

If you want to reduce your lamb losses, we need to find out why they are dying. This is an important first easy step. Once we know the reason(s) why lambs are being lost we can work with you to make a plan to minimise losses for the future on your farm.

NORTH ISLAND CLINIC NEWS...

King Country

We would like to congratulate Kerri, Alan and Archie Blake on the arrival of the newest member of the family Finn Samuel Blake born on the 10th of July.

We will miss Shar Hannah who heads VetEnt Turangi as she heads off on maternity leave but we are excited to welcome Sarah Bengston who joined the team at the start of this month. Our lovely vet nurse from VetEnt King Country Atrades Manson will be heading over to Turangi once a week to give Sarah a hand.

We also would like to introduce another new face to our team, veterinarian Tara Gower. Some of you may have already met Tara but for those who haven't, she has been with us since the beginning of the year and is fitting in well, and finding her way round.

The conveyor season has kicked off for us and the days are filling up fast, remember to call Terrence or the clinic if you haven't already got your dates booked in.

Waipa

"Well here we are at August.... boy where is the year going?"

Sadly in May we said farewell to our receptionist Carly as she ventured off with her partner George to work on a farm up by Waiheke Island. But we'd like to welcome Maria McEwan-Jones to the team who has taken over the role as "face of the clinic" .

Maria is new to the role but is learning fast, she is more than happy to help with any enquires you may have, so if you haven't yet met Maria don't be shy pop in and say hello next time you're in town.

The conveyor is starting to crank up again so if you need to make a booking make sure to contact the clinic so you don't miss out!

