

# Sheep & Beef Talk

August 2018



## TRIPLE DRENCH RESISTANCE



Dr Rebecca Smith  
Veterinarian

Imagine a day when you have worms in your lambs, they are dying and you have no way to treat it... it's happening... and it poses a huge threat to farming as we know it.

It's been spoken about for a long time and a lot of us have buried our heads in the sand and denied that it could ever happen to us. It's happening in the Maniototo and after speaking with vets from all over the country at the NZVA conference I am assured that it is happening nationwide, in much higher numbers of flocks than we expected, in ALL sheep breeds, and to "good" farmers. This is a big deal, and we need to start being proactive now to prevent this from ruining the future of sheep farming in the Maniototo.

### Why is this happening?

Every time we drench an animal, some super-worms may survive, it's natural selection. Those worms are now resistant to that drench and will continue to produce eggs which will then go out onto the pasture in the faeces and create a resistant worm population on your farm.

Chances of a worm being resistant to a triple active drench are much lower than to a single active drench – BUT these super-worms do exist!

The amount of exposure to a certain drench a worm population has will also affect the chances of resistance, this is why new "novel" active drench families (eg. Zolvix Plus) work so well at the beginning...BUT as time goes on and more worms are exposed to these actives, super-worms will survive.

So resistance happens, and when it does that drench will not kill all the worms anymore.

### What can we do about it?

Know your enemy. We cannot manage what we don't measure.

- Check your drenches.
- Get a FEC done 10 days post-drench, every time you drench, to ensure no worms are surviving
- Get a FECRT done.
- Only 2% of our sheep farming clients in Ranfurly got a FECRT done this season and this is a consistent figure over the last 3 years. This is not good enough, every farm needs to get one done.
- Repeat your FECRT at least every 3 years
- It is not enough to have done it once, you need to monitor. Don't become complacent.
- Drench appropriately and effectively
- Don't drench if you don't need to, and if you do drench, then do it right!
- Don't rely on drench.
- Utilise other worm management strategies in your farming practice e.g. nutrition, refugia, cross-grazing, genetics and feeding crops

Bottom line is triple drench resistance is here! You need to know what resistance you have on your farm – please don't bury your head and think this won't happen to you!

Capsule season is coming up; these products are very high risk for developing drench resistance – all capsule decisions should be made after discussions with your vet. Let us help you reduce the risk on your farm! Talk to your vets, monitor your farm and improve your drenching.

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# Why do we lose lambs?



Dr William Cuttance  
Veterinarian

In New Zealand it is common to lose 15% - 18% of lambs before they are tailed...

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.

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 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.

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 things 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

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.

## OTAGO CLINIC NEWS...

We are now over halfway through winter – and “touch wood” it has been relatively mild so far!

For those of you in the Wanaka region, you may have had the pleasure of meeting either or both of our new veterinarians to the area. Rhiannon Cassidy joins us from Putaruru, but hails originally from the Queenstown Lakes district. Rhiannon and her husband Simon relocated south in April, and both are loving the challenges that the Wanaka region brings. Rebecca Barnett joined us later in April, arriving from the Canterbury region, and she is also enjoying the challenges of her new role. Both ladies will be out and about in the coming months as we progress into spring – We know you will welcome them both, and they look forward to working with you.

In Alexandra, we are searching for a suitable replacement for veterinarian Mark Ross, who left us back in April to continue travelling around New Zealand. We currently have the very capable Nicky Kennedy helping out Mark McGinley in the interim.

In the winter months we regularly have vets taking a much deserved holiday. This has been the case with some of our vets recently from the Ranfurly clinic – David has recently been to the UK, Nina has had a few weeks in Scotland, and Amy has just returned from Canada. But rest assured – they are all back on deck this month, raring to go!!

