

# Sheep & Beef Talk

April 2020



## COVID-19 Update

This has been a testing time for us all. The good news is we have processes in place to keep our teams and you safe as we continue to provide essential services. Some of these services may look a bit different but do bear with us as we navigate our way through what is our "new" normal during lock down. We have been doing more consultations over the phone, Skype or Zoom with reports and instructions going out over email as follow ups and for record keeping. We appreciate that you have been phoning ahead to pre-plan our jobs on farm or product pick up, as well as taking the time to talk to us as we plan the next couple of months in your animal health plan. Finally thank you (from a socially acceptable distance) for your support during this time.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Drench Testing Results
- Winter Feeding Plans

## Reminders for April

- Book in your cattle and deer scanning if you haven't already.
- Lepto boosters for cattle and deer.
- Watch out for worms (including Barbers Pole) in all stock classes.
- Keep an eye on our website to check where spore counts are sitting.
- Check mobs of sheep every two weeks after dipping for flystrike, especially if we get heavy rain.
- Organise pre-winter trace element testing and supplements.
- Exit drench for lambs – use Zolvix Plus or Startect.



William Cuttance,  
Veterinarian

## Drench Testing Results

We have a look at the drench testing results of three drenches for 2020 so far.

Around the country there are many reports of drenches failing to work effectively and the Waikato/King Country regions are no exception. Here are a few results from our farms tested in the last couple of months. The figures give an indication of the overall percentage of worms killed by each drench. The results

for double combination, triple combination and moxidectin are shown. Results between 95 and 100% indicate emerging resistance, while results below 90% are poor. We have a range of good, bad, and ugly results on our farms! (See Figure 1.)

When we dig deeper into

*Continued on the next page...*

## Drench Testing Results (continued)

the results and look at each worm species we have seen:

- 100% kill of Barbers Pole on all farms with combination drenches and moxidectin. This is most likely due to Barbers Pole worms sucking blood and therefore getting a higher dose of the drench compared to the other worms, which feed on the gut mucus.
- Exodus (moxidectin single active, same as cydectin) really struggling on almost all farms to kill *Trichostrongylus* and *Ostertagia* (also called *Teladorsagia*) species worms. Both of these species can cause severe production loss, weight loss, and death in sheep, especially in young lambs. Infection of lambs with these worms in high numbers can look like a typical Barbers Pole outbreak.
- The main resistant

worm species are *Trichostrongylus* and *Ostertagia*. Some farms have drench resistance in only one species and some farms have drench resistance in both of these species.

### What about the “new” drenches?

Zolvix Plus and Startect have both been on the market for about 10 years now. On farms where triple combination drench resistance was identified 2-3 years ago and a change to a new drench was made, we are now finding low level resistance popping up to the “new” drenches.

This should not come as a surprise as these farms had some highly resistant worms on them before the “new” drenches were used. Each time a drench is used, we kill off the susceptible worms and leave the resistant worms to breed and contribute to the next generation of worms on the

farm. The “new” drenches are no exception to this and continued use gives the opportunity for resistance selection in the worm population.

### So what can we do?

Option 1 – Bury your head in the sand.

Option 2 – If you haven’t already, get a drench test done. The simple place to start is by collecting ten dung samples from lambs ten days after they are drenched. Or to get the best information, organise a drench test with your vet.

Option 3 – Have a chat to one of our vets about your drench use and how you manage worms on your farm.

We can help you work through the year and make a plan for your farm to help reduce the impact of worms on your business. The plan will cover drench options for different stock classes, but also importantly, how to use tools other than drench to manage worms. This discussion is best done after a drench test so we know what works and what doesn’t, but it is not essential to get things started.

Overall Worm Kill Percentage on 5 Farms Tested			
Farm	Arrest/Double Combination (BZ + Lev)	Matrix/Triple Combination (BZ+Lev+Aba)	Exodus (Moxi)
A	99%	99%	93%
B	99%	97%	94%
C	Not Tested	87%	82%
D	67%	92%	91%
E	90%	87%	84%

Figure 1.

## Winter Feeding Plans

With some relief from rain in most districts we should see a boost to pasture growth. However, many of you will be heading into winter with less feed than you want. With COVID-19 affecting meat processing speeds you may also have extra stock on for longer than you want. As the saying goes: “we always come out of winter with less feed than we have going into winter”. If you would like some help putting together a feed plan for the winter or condition scoring sheep, cattle or deer let us know.

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