

GENERIC HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN FOR SHEEP.

Prepared for: Clients of Bernard Matthews New Zealand

By Veterinary Services (HB) Ltd, Waipukurau, April 2006.

Preamble:

This animal health plan is designed to provide an “example only” of the spectrum of management and therapeutic procedures required by New Zealand best practice and clients/consumers of Bernard Matthews New Zealand products.

Whilst every attempt has been made to include current sheep farming management re. animal health in a one year format, it should not be read as recipe for your farm as local area, stock policy, seasonal and individual variations will dictate specific requirements. This will, however, provide a base format upon which you can overlay your farm and production systems and as a tool for your individual annual health advisor/veterinarian. (Feedback to compiling source welcome).

For simplicity the beginning of the production year is taken as “lambing” on/about mid August (20th March joining date – adjust accordingly). No specific animal health products are detailed but use is made of generic recommendations as many options exist. Specific products included where there are no options i.e. only one exists.

Where +/- is detailed this means that this practice is totally discretionary and for the sake of this document, these practices should be based on “designated need” as assessed by you and your veterinarian. Best practice principles require an increased level of monitoring, diagnosis and selective treatment c.f. carte blanche recommendations, however this is underpinned by two corollaries, firstly adequate nutrition, secondly maintenance of animal welfare.

Hogget mating is not included in this schedule, routine preventative treatments are.

Welfare considerations to accompanying year plan:

1. Basic Nutrition.

At all times this Health and Welfare Plan hinges on the continued provision (via feed budgeting and group/individual animal monitoring plan) of sufficient nutrition, quality drinking water, shade and shelter when required. The assessment of “sufficient nutrition” should involve an animal Body Condition Score (BCS) and/or bodyweight monitoring schedule as included. At all times those individuals that fall below group average should

be drafted, appropriately treated and managed and reassessed before being returned to their mob of origin.

2. Prelamb.

- Ensure provision for minimisation of metabolic disease risk to pregnant ewes e.g. milk fever (Ca def), sleepy sickness (pregnancy toxemia)
- Ensure pasture covers and ewe BCS (body condition score) are conducive to welfare and productivity requirements. Adjust with strategic inputs (e.g. Nitrogen as necessary or supplements) or stocking rate adjustments.
- Ensure adequate preparation to treat individually affected animals over lambing. (Medical and Surgical Issues).

3. Lambing.

- Ensure prior minimisation of risk of vaginal prolapse (bearings).
- Ensure desired/adequate level of lambing intervention.

4. Shearing Management.

As an adjunct to accepted shearing practices and management, winter shearing of sheep should incorporate the following:

- Daily shearing totals that can be managed in the event of post shearing inclement weather.
- Use of covercombs and lifters to leave a higher residual wool cover.
- Provision of sufficient feed post shearing before nightfall.
- Provision of sufficient shelter post shearing.

5. Surgical Procedures.

All surgical procedures should be carried out as follows:

- In keeping with industry “best practice” accepted norms.
- Fully in line with legislated requirements re. minimum ages and use of analgesics.
- By proficient experienced farm staff.
- Using efficient well maintained equipment and animal handling devices.

All surgical procedures should be able to withstand assessment by:

- An experienced production animal veterinarian.
- Your peers.

6. Treatment of Sick Animals.

Any/all “sick” or “injured” animals should be handled in a manner which:

- Protects individual animal welfare first and foremost.
- Is timely with no unnecessary delays.

- Is based on veterinary consultation and appropriate use of Prescription Animal Remedies incorporating full documentation and cognisance of meat/tissue withholding periods.

7. Quarantine Procedures.

The maintenance of individual farm Biosecurity must be considered and incorporated into day to day management. With respect to sheep – issues of importance are:

Contagious and infectious diseases: e.g. FMD, Leptospirosis, footrot, lice, enzootic pneumonia.

Zoonotic disease:e.g. Leptospirosis, Orf.

Production limiting issues: e.g. Anthelmintic resistance, sheep measles.

8. Veterinary Involvement.

Bernard Matthews New Zealand and their veterinary consultants, Veterinary Services (HB) Ltd strongly advise the inclusion of your individual veterinary advisor in the compilation and documentation of your properties Health and Welfare Plan. Whilst this is forwarded as a working example only both parties re-iterate that it must be adapted to your specific policies, practices and property.

Further assistance is available by contacting Bernard Matthews New Zealand or Veterinary Services (HB) Ltd, Waipukurau: vet@xtra.co.nz.

Bernard Matthews New Zealand
Health & Welfare Plan – Sheep Only.

Month	Week	Action	Drug
July	1	Are pasture covers adequate for lambing? Y/N Adjust/manage accordingly	
	2		
	3	Revisit – reassess Health and Welfare Plan.	Farmer and Vet.
	4	Set stock for lambing. Guidelines 1. 10-12 su/ha single bearing ewes @ 1200kg DM/ha 2. 7-9 su/ha twin bearing ewes @ 1400 kg DM/ha Organise lambing kit.	Clostridial (5-in-1) vaccination +/- pre-lamb drench *
August	1		
	2	Lambing begins.	
	3		
	4		
September	1		
	2		
	3	2 nd cycle of lambing completed. Docking begins. Detail, earmark.	+/- docking drench to ewes +/- Fly control +/- Scabby mouth +/- Vit B12 e.g. LA product.
	4		
October	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		+/- pre-wean drench to lambs.
November	1	Palpate/vet test all rams.	
	2		
	3	Weaning 1 st lamb draft. Optigrow @ slaughter (vit B12,	Weaning drench +/- fly control

		Selenium) Be aware of lamb enzootic pneumonia risk factors. 1 st Clostridial vaccination to all lambs.	+/- Vit B12
	4		
December	1	Drencheck 10 days post wean	FEC lambs.
	2	Udder ewes 2 weeks post wean - cull ewes with bad teats, udders. +/- shear ewes.	
	3	2 nd lamb draft.	2 nd lamb drench.
	4		
January	1		
	2	Order Toxovax 2ths.	
	3	3 rd lamb draft. Reassess Trace Element Status (Vit B12, Sel) Revaccinate ewe lambs Clostridial vaccination (2 nd booster).	+/- 3 rd lamb drench (leave some (?) undrenched for Feb FECRT = seek advice).
	4	Fly control ewes – minimum 6 weeks post shear. - consider lice treatment inclusion. Shear 2ths. Salmonella vaccinate 2ths – sensitiser.	Salvexin + B.
February	1	Check rams pretup – wool length, feet, clostridial + salmonella vaccinated, fly control, BCS, +/- drench.	
	2	Vaccinate 2ths Toxovax, Campylobacteriosis (1 st).	Toxovax Campylobacter vaccine.
	3		
	4	Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test Lambs – check drench efficacy. Salmonella vaccinate 2ths – booster.	FECRT Salvexin + B
March	1	Assess necessity for pre-tup worm treatment – esp 2th and lighter MA ewes, +/- Se, Iodine supplementation. Fly control 2ths – no closer than 10 days prejoin.	FEC
	2	2 nd vaccination Campylobacteriosis.	Campylobacter vaccine.
	3	Join ram @ 1:100 or less, rapid rotation – 2 day shifts. +/- Ram harness, crayon @ 10 day intervals.	
	4		
April	1		
	2		

	3	3 rd cycle begins – ewe mating. +/- harness on – ram ratio 1:500. +/- Rams out.	
	4	Ewes into slower rotation.	
May	1		
	2	Tupping finished. Rams out.	
	3		
	4		
June	1	Shear ewes. +/- lice treatment.	Lice treatment.
	2		
	3	Pregnancy diagnosis – scan ewes Assess requirement for iodine.	
	4		

POLICY ON DOGS ENTERING/ON YOUR PROPERTY

Background

Dogs in rural conditions present risks to other dogs (via communicable diseases), people- (via unacceptable aggression) and the farm health status of other animals e.g. cysticercus ovis or sheep measles transmission to lambs.

As such you should stipulate that the following conditions must be met for:

- a) All dogs entering any of your properties
- b) All dogs resident in any house/dwelling on your properties.

SHEEP MEASLES

Sheep measles is the common name given to a lesion found in the muscle of sheep or goats. These are most often seen as hard white cysts at slaughter resulting in possible loss of income by carcass rejection or trimming and damage to New Zealand's reputation and export markets from overseas consumers unpleasant eating experiences. This is "our" problem hence we ask you to do your bit. The dog is an intermediate host of this disease. Up to 250,000 eggs per day may be shed by one dog onto pasture via faeces daily. These eggs in turn infect sheep/lambs to cause the disease. Dogs are infected by eating raw sheep and goat meat.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

1. Register all dogs (pets and working dogs) on Vet Services Waipukurau (ph 8589060) **Dog Dosing Mail Out Programme.**
i.e. all your staff, house dwellers
 - Monthly C Ovis mail out treatment
 - Twice yearly complete wormer mail out treatment
 - You organise this. Dogs require treatment within 48 hours of entry onto property or before!
2. **Feed all dogs as follows**
 - Frozen mutton. -10°C for minimum 7 days, including offal, **or**
 - Cooked mutton. Meat must reach 72°C
 - Offal must be boiled for 30 minutes at least, **or**
 - Feed commercial dog foods.
 - No on-farm killing of sheep at all unless designated by you. (i.e. for dog food or human consumption)
 - Rabbits, hares, possums, horse meat and beef OK.
 - All dogs to be fed in accordance with individual feed/energy requirements.
 - Consider use of high protein/energy specific working dog propriety diets eg. Eukanuba.

3. Other

- Dispose of all sheep carcasses ASAP to covered offal hole (or burn).

4. No Visiting dogs at all

B. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- All dogs should be vaccinated annually for:
 - Canine **Parvovirus**
 - Canine **Distemper**
 - Canine **Hepatitis**
- And evidence documented that this has been carried out.
- Dog owners are required to keep this documented evidence themselves (i.e. you get vaccination certification)

C. DOG BEHAVIOUR

- All dogs must be kept to areas designated as “suitable” by discussion between you and owners.
- No unrestricted or unsupervised exercise.
- No dogs showing unprovoked aggression will be tolerated.

D. CONSENSUS

- Don't do things then read this and wonder why there are problems.
- Read these first.
- If person bringing dog onto property disagrees or wishes to modify then please speak to you/management before the dog comes onto property.

Prepared with assistance from:

**Vet Services (HB) Ltd
Waipukurau**

LAMBING TIME

Medical and Surgical Issues.

Ewes

Milk fever

- **Down or very wobbly before lambing**
- Usually have snotty nose
- Usually after “stress” e.g. fresh paddock, cold snap, crutching.
- Treatment: 50ml 25% Calcium Borogluconate (e.g.: Calcimag/ CBG/ Calpromag) or 50ml Sheep Calcium under skin.
- Identify with aerosol over back or rump for easy identification over next few days
- Leave alone, revisit in ½-1 hour.

Bearing

- At or around lambing
- May need to lift bearing to allow ewe to urinate first to make replacement easier.
- Tip upside down and replace gently using lube, keeping fingers together.
- Retainers: (a) two pairs of button ear tags across fanny 1/3 and 2/3 the way down or (b) plastic bearing retainer if wool long enough or (c) safety pins across fanny
- Identify with aerosol over back or rump for easy identification over next few days
- Place cull mark in ewe ear
- 7ml Intracillin LA into neck muscle
- Retainers may need removal when lambing – observe closely.

Lambing:

- Use lube on all lambings
- Use gloves on dead/rotten lambings
- 7ml Intracillin LA to any ewe that gets a hand inside her (unless very quick)
- Place cull mark in ewe ear if lambs are dead.

Sleepy Sickness:

- Very uncommon now – more likely to be milk fever.
- In twin or triplet ewes only
- Dopey, sleepy ewe prelambing only
- No response to Calcium treatment for milk fever.
- Usually die
- Treat with oral Ketol if attended early, leave in sight of grazing flock mates.

Mastitis:

- Usually in very well fed ewes feeding twins/triplets.
- No treatment works fast enough to allow lambs to stay on ewe.
- Remove and foster lambs
- Apply cull mark to ewe ear
- +/- treat with 7 ml Intracillin LA (usually unnecessary).

SHEEP QUARANTINE DRENCHING PROTOCOL

Prepared by Veterinary Services (HB) Ltd.

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL LAMB DRENCHING

1. Organize guns/drench/back packs BEFORE bringing sheep to yards, ie. don't keep sheep (esp. lambs) waiting in yards BE PREPARED/ORGANISED.
 2. Ensure drench type is appropriate/recommended. Check with management or Vet.
 3. Check all guns BEFORE using:
 - Calibrate dose and check with measuring cylinder (eg. 5ml dose – squirt 10 x into measuring cylinder. Must be 50mls).
 - Also once calibrated put finger over nozzle and squeeze gun to see if drench flowing past valves (ie. you shouldn't be able to squeeze trigger handle unless valves are leaking.) If they are, fix or bring to vet clinic for repair..
 - Ensure nozzles are not rough – likely to damage mouths.
 4. Actual drenching:
 - Weigh a sample (at least 40 of mob) and calibrate gun to heaviest in mob
 - It's not a race – it's an essential job that takes time.
 - Go carefully, gently, as fast as facilities and sheep allow.
 - Ensure drench goes over the back of the tongue.
 - If in doubt about missing one – then repeat drench.
 - Never under dose.
 - Never drench hot panting dehydrated or stressed lambs. Go home, have a break and let them settle down (or do another day if too bad).
 5. Drenches to use:
 - A. Quarantine = all incoming lambs x sources other than your property, use triple combination.
 - B. All other drenching for that year, refer to your plan.
 6. When finished:
 - Empty backpacks into original drench container.
 - Fill backpack with water and wash out.
 - Wash out/squirt through tubing and drench guns.
 - Anything broken or not working – Get it fixed.
 - Fill in all farm Animal Health Documentation.
- If at any time you are UNSURE WHAT TO DO then please ASK.