



### RVM Consultations & Facial Eczema

#### RVM Consultations

We are coming around again to the yearly Restricted Veterinary Medications (RVM) revision of the blanket-prescribing program.

This is required by law, but also makes the picking up of RVM products far easier than going through the same process at the clinic counter each time a RVM is required.

To streamline this process and save some cost we will be in touch to make an appointment with those of you that need RVM renewals, these will be held at our Pukekohe or Waiuku Clinics.

We would like to offer an easy to follow animal health calendar so individual farmers requirements can be better understood. This might take just a bit longer depending on the detail and complexity of the farm system.

Any other animal health issues may be discussed at this consultation.

#### Facial Eczema season is back, start prevention now.

Every year we have to euthanize animals, mostly sheep due to the horrific effects of fungal induced photosensitivity mostly causing skin loss over the face and eyes. Cattle are also susceptible but exhibit slightly less skin lesions but still experience liver damage effecting long-term performance.

Treatment once symptoms appear is relatively ineffective, but some anti-inflammatory medication, oral mix combined with a topical sun block may help.

Spores produced by the fungus in pasture are weather sensitive and can be predicted but pasture spore counts are more reliable as a large variation between areas and paddocks are a common outcome. Seasons where extended summer dry, low grazing and warm autumn rain are often associated with a high spore intake and subsequent disease.

Treating calves and sheep with Face Guard a slow releasing (six weeks) zinc bolus is extremely effective when given at least 10 days prior to spore intake due to an accurate amount of Zn released daily. Topping us six weeks after the initial treatment can give another 4 weeks protection, if the risk period is extended.

For your animals sake prevention in this case is much, much better than a cure.

*Written by Dr. Richard Porter, BVSc*



“ Hi there, I am from Western Australia and recently graduated from Murdoch University. Besides my investment in production animals, I have interest in Hiking, photography, and honey bee medicine. I live locally and I am enjoying getting to know the people and beautiful countryside. ”

**Dr. Rachel Lane DVM**