

PR Release:

Technology transfer over the fence

Farmers are spoilt for choice when it comes to keeping up with the latest developments in animal health management, but for Ed Sherriff of Pine Park Stud near Marton, some very useful information came to him through a decidedly low-tech channel.

He had watched – literally over the fence – as his neighbour Chris Turner introduced a vaccination programme with Covexin® 10 to protect dairy heifers and bull beef cattle from sudden death syndrome caused by clostridial organisms. It's been a successful move, and one that has now been followed by the Sherriffs on Pine Park.

The 330-hectare stud is on two blocks of mainly flat and cultivable land, close enough for stock to be able to commute on foot. About 60 hectares is devoted to fodder crops for the lambs, with kale and swedes grown for winter and Pasja and turnips for summer.

There are two sheep studs – Coopworth and black-faced terminals – each with about 700 ewes. The Coopworth stud was started in the 1960s by Ed's father, and the terminal stud in the early 1990s. Pine Park also has a 140-cow Angus stud.



Caption: Ed Sherriff, Pine Park Stud, now uses the Covexin 10 vaccine across all young stock and adult cattle.

Facial eczema is a perennial problem in the district, and the Coopworths are being bred for tolerance to the disease. But no amount of genetic selection will combat the unwelcome effects of clostridial disease.

Like their neighbours, the Sherriffs were concerned about the sudden and unexplained losses of otherwise healthy animals. The cattle had not been vaccinated against clostridial diseases, but the ewes had been receiving conventional five-in-one vaccines prior to lambing.

"We'd been losing animals especially in the autumn and winter," Ed recalls. "Each year we would lose seven or eight good ram hoggets."

After discussing the issue with their vet, they introduced a Covexin 10 vaccination programme for the stud sheep flocks about five years ago. The results were unequivocal.

"The sudden deaths have almost completely been eliminated."

The vaccine protects against the organisms that cause the "traditional" clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney, tetanus and blackleg that are covered by conventional five-in-one vaccines. But beyond this, Covexin 10 contains protection against a further five clostridial organisms, for example *Clostridium sordellii*, and *C. perfringens* Type A. These are known to cause sudden death in otherwise healthy and fast-growing animals being intensively raised – something typically seen on properties like Pine Park.

Ed says all lambs are given their first (sensitiser) shot at docking, followed by a booster at weaning. As extra insurance, the valuable ram lambs are given a further shot in the autumn. Once they are two-tooths and less vulnerable to sudden death, the sheep are changed over to a conventional five-in-one clostridial vaccination programme.

Encouraged by the success of Covexin 10 vaccination in the stud sheep, the Sherriffs have brought the stud Angus cattle into the programme. "We had been losing the occasional cattle beast for no good reason," Ed says, "so this provides some additional insurance."

Please turn over

If you're proud of your stock, only the best protection will do.

Covexin® 10: Superior protection for ALL clostridial diseases.



Covexin® 10 is a Prescription Animal Remedy (P.A.R) Class I. For use only under the authority or prescription of a veterinarian. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. A9028. Contains inactivated toxoids of *Clostridium perfringens* (types A, B, C and D), *C. novyi* (type B), *C. septicum*, *C. tetani*, *C. sordellii*, and *C. haemolyticum* and inactivated whole cell culture of *C. chauvoei*. ©Registered trademark. Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, 33 Whakatiki Street, Upper Hutt. Phone: 0800 800 543. COV-461-2009

Initially the weaner calves were switched from five-in-one vaccine to Covexin 10. Calves are brought in with their mothers in late January for a drench treatment and their first shot of vaccine, with the booster received at weaning. Now adult cows – which had not previously received any clostridial vaccination – are also covered with Covexin 10.

Ed Sherriff is satisfied that the seemingly random and unpredictable clostridia-related deaths among his valuable animals have now been brought well under control. No doubt his neighbours have noticed the change too.

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