



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

December 2025
January 2026

Welcome to the December/January issue

We would like to say a massive thank you to our loyal farming clients and wider community for the support you have given us over the past year. Your kind feedback, trust and encouragement towards our team mean so much to us. Every visit, every chat, every smile makes us proud to be a part of this farming community and reminds us why we love what we do. Thank you from our team to yours. With so many things to remember and get done on the farm, we are pleased to be part of the everyday grind farmers face and help work through processes together.

Some of the things the dairy herds are doing now may include:

Animal health monitoring – parasite control, drenching, lameness, mastitis, flystrike, and heat stress prevention, focus shifts to milk production, mating management – pregnancy testing, fertility checks, biosecurity and welfare checks – pre-transport inspections, body condition scoring, teat scoring mid lactation, NAIT compliance, and welfare audits, crop and horticulture harvest, and irrigation management.

Sheep and beef farms – Lambing and calving are mostly complete, with weaning and shearing underway, along with drenching and vaccinations. Don't forget to bring in your faecal samples for testing before drenching.

Maintenance on farm – fencing, machinery servicing, shed cleaning, yard upkeep, staff and roster planning – managing holidays and workloads.

REMINDERS

Manage heat stress for animals and people.
Encourage rest breaks and hydration during long summer days.
Stay alert for fire risks when using machinery.

Dry cow season; time to start thinking about booking in time to see your favourite vet for a chat to promote your milk quality.

Flystrike

What is it?

Flystrike is a condition caused by the infestation of fly larvae (maggots) under the skin of a live animal, most commonly seen in sheep. The flies are most commonly attracted to damp, daggy wool but are also attracted to wounds. The flies lay eggs, which hatch into maggots that burrow into the host's flesh, releasing toxins and causing infections that can ultimately lead to death.

This happens when the weather starts to warm up and the flies become more active, most notably during the summer, which can be long in Northland.

What to look out for?

Early stages of flystrike can be quite hard to notice, especially from a distance.

Early signs include:

- Itching and rubbing the affected areas
- Stomping
- A reduction in tail twitching. →



Kallum Green
VetTech



What do you call a goat that is an expert in mixed martial arts?

ANSWER
ON PAGE 6

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Pregnancy scanning

The pregnancy scanning season is coming up soon. Recommended timing: 6–10 weeks after the end of the breeding period or 30–80 days after AI.

What to prepare:

- Drafting and yarding plan
- MINDA for recording, Cow ID/ recording sheets or EID reader ready
- Notes on AI/bull-in and bull-out dates

Benefits:

- Identify empties early
- Plan efficiently for drying off
- Manage feed allocation
- Plan calving groups
- Improve reproductive performance

Action Point:

Book in with your favourite vet and confirm the date and time. Ensure you have a reproduction review discussion with your vet on the day to identify areas for improvement.

If you would like more information or a flystrike prevention plan, please get in touch with your clinic today.

More progressive signs include:

- Shade seeking
- A yellowing of the wool over the affected areas
- A lethargic/depressed demeanour
- Death.



How to prevent

The best way to deal with flystrike is to prevent it. Shearing can reduce the amount of moisture and faeces that attract flies, making it easier to spot early signs of flystrike. Additionally, flystrike pour-ons, jettings, and dips can be used to protect during the risk period.

The options we have in store are:

Cyrex – a concentrate used in jetting and dipping, which provides 6–12 weeks protection when used as a dip and 3–8 weeks protection when used in jetting.

Click extra spray-on – a pour on providing a more extended period of 14–26 weeks protection from flystrike.



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Thinking about buying a horse?

Here's why a Pre-Purchase Exam matters.



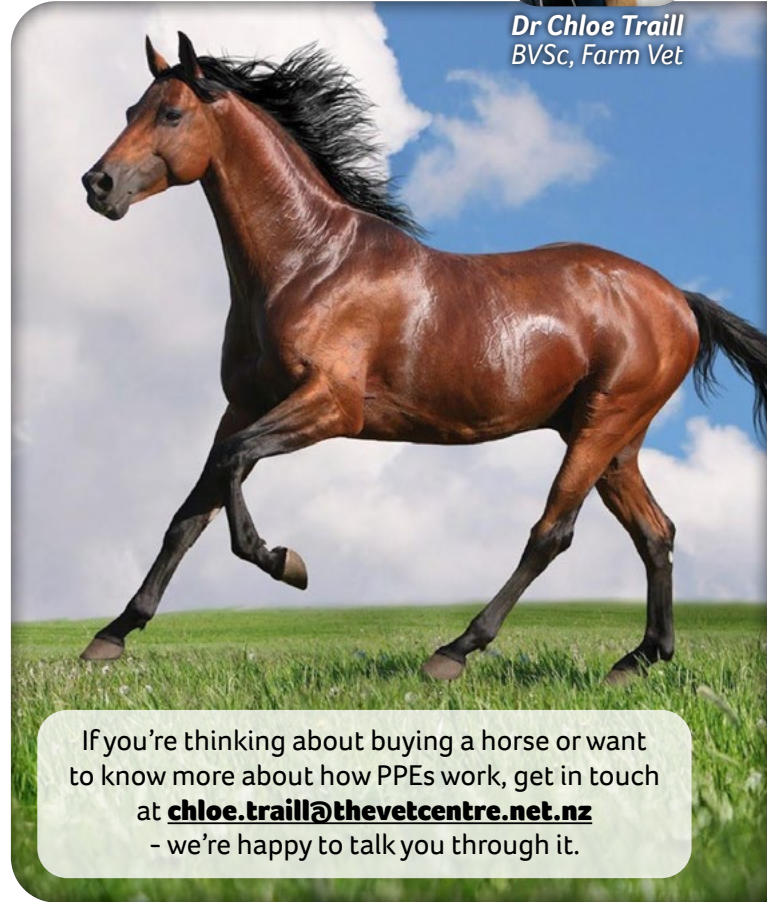
Dr Chloe Traill
BVSc, Farm Vet

Buying a horse is an exciting venture – whether it's your first pony, a new competition mount, or a trusted partner for hacking, hunting, and farm work. Before you sign the papers, it's worth taking the time to really get to know the horse from a veterinary point of view. That's where a Pre-Purchase Examination (PPE) comes in.

A PPE is a thorough clinical assessment that's now standard practice across the equine industry. It's also a legal document, meaning it's taken very seriously and held to strict professional standards. During a PPE, your vet will carefully check everything from the anatomy and function of the horse's eyes, heart, skin, and conformation through to any nicks, scars, or lumps, as well as lameness, radiographs, and blood tests if needed.

Gone are the days of a simple "pass or fail." Instead, the goal is to identify all findings and explain what they could mean for you and your plans - whether that's eventing, trekking, or pleasure riding. The idea is to give you a realistic, honest picture of the horse's current health and future suitability so you can make a confident, informed decision.

At *The Vet Centre*, we're proud to offer PPEs to our equine clients now. It's a fantastic step forward for our large animal team, and we're excited to support our community in making smarter, safer horse purchases.



If you're thinking about buying a horse or want to know more about how PPEs work, get in touch at chloe.trail@thevetcentre.net.nz - we're happy to talk you through it.



The CLiK range controls flystrike for care-free flocks



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Friendly Safety Reminder for All Farmers

Sheds, yards and run-offs

We kindly ask everyone to take a moment to look over their regular maintenance routines and yard runoff areas. Proper upkeep isn't just about keeping things tidy – it directly affects the safety of your family, employees, livestock, and equipment.

Why this matters:

- Runoff management helps prevent slippery surfaces, washouts, and unexpected ruts that can cause vehicle or machinery accidents.
- Clean, well-maintained yards reduce the risk of trips, falls, and equipment hazards.
- Regular equipment and building maintenance help avoid breakdowns, fires, and injuries related to worn or unsafe conditions.

What we are asking:

- Check and clear ditches, drains, and runoff pathways to ensure water flows safely away from work areas.
- Keep laneways, shop yards, and workspaces free of debris, mould buildup, and obstacles.
- Inspect equipment, back rails, and head bails for any maintenance needs before they become safety risks.
- Be sure that manure and waste piles are managed so they don't contaminate runoff areas or create unsafe footing around the yard.



This is a friendly reminder that we simply want to ensure everyone stays safe, productive, and protected throughout the season.

A little attention now can prevent serious issues later.

Thank you for your cooperation and for the care you put into your farms every day.

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ON EVERY FIELD
THIS SEASON**

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Lifestyle Info



Goats – Shade and shelter are essential. The hot summer heat in Northland can be harsh on goats; ensure they have a house, a shelter belt, or trees to get out of the sun. Goats love to browse on all sorts of plants, however, keep an eye out for toxic plants and prevent them from consuming them. If ingestion is observed or suspected, remove the goat from the source and contact the clinic immediately.

Sheep – Sheep require clean, fresh drinking water—about four litres per day for an adult sheep and one litre for a lamb. Ensure the trough is at an adequate height for all sizes of sheep to reach happily, and that the size of the trough can keep up with the demand, ideally a self-filling one. As with goats, sheep require shelter and shade from the heat of summer. Ensure to provide a shelter belt, trees, or a shade cloth in their paddock. The article by Vet Tech Kallum on preventing flystrike in sheep is worth reading to understand that prevention is always better than cure.

Cattle – Cattle can be at risk of head and eye diseases. Common head and eye problems we see include; Pinkeye, a highly contagious infection of the eye with a specific type of bacteria. Flies can spread this severe disease. If you notice anything abnormal with your cow's eyes, even if it's just weeping, call your vet to have it checked.

Another common head disease is Woody tongue, an infection of the tongue and mouth caused by environmental bacteria. It causes swelling, pain, and drooling. This will continue to worsen if not treated. Untreated, the cows will eventually be unable to eat and sometimes unable to breathe. Vet assistance is essential in this instance for treatment.

Alpaca – Alpacas need good yards/facilities to make handling and caring for them easier. Good yards should include holding pens and a small race to make close handling of the animals easy. Shearing of alpacas annually in the spring is a must. This will minimise heat stress and skin issues, and help with the absorption of essential vitamin D.

Rural Events in the region

Dairy NZ

Thursday 4th December. Growing Farm Efficiency and profit. 11am – 1pm, bring clean boots.

Mark Croucher, Simons Road, Poroti. SN13606.

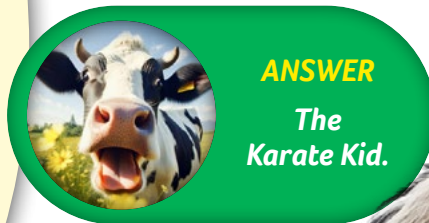
Beef and Lamb NZ

Wednesday 3rd Dec 2025. 10.30-2pm. B+LNZ and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Making your Fertiliser Count Workshop. Register online.

Arapohue Hall, 3338 Mitiwai Road, Arapohue.

Rural Support Trust – Community events.

Thursday 11th Dec 2025. 6pm, Free Community BBQ – Ruawai hall. Register online.



Cow fun fact:

Cows have nearly 360-degree panoramic vision.

Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre
Waipu
P 09 432 0693

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am-5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am-12.30pm

Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road
Ruawai
P 09 439 2506

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St
Mangawhai
P 09 431 4535

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am - 12:30pm

Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St
Maungaturoto
P 09 431 8318

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road
Ruakākā
P 09 433 4916

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED