



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

January/February
2025

It's time for reflection and celebration. We would like to thank all our farming clients and community for supporting our business and the massive changes over the past year. Our structure aims to work clinically day-to-day as well as make business decisions. The benefit of this "boots on the ground" model is that we can be involved in the opportunities and challenges and respond quickly. Another advantage is that we work alongside all our staff and clients, resulting in shortened lines of communication, improved responsiveness, and better outcomes for all.

We have been planning a behind-the-scenes tune-up in the lifestyle farm area. Keep your eye out for information and plans in the coming months.

We look forward to working hard during our second year in business with all our farming clients and ensuring success for you and your livestock.

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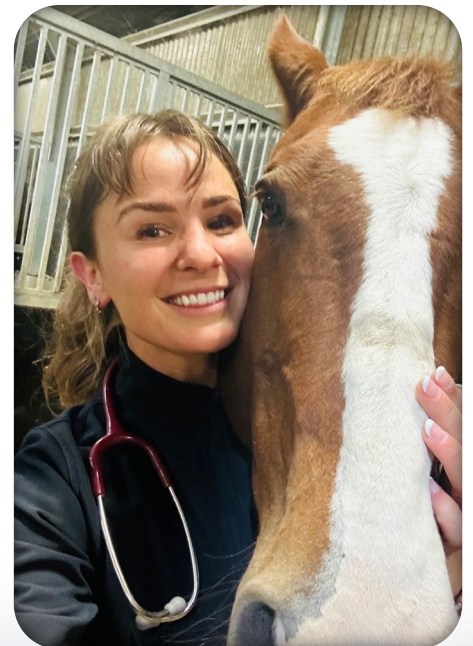
STAFF NEWS

New mixed Veterinarian – Chloe Rayner

Chloe grew up in West Auckland and graduated from Auckland University with a master's in biomedical science – neuroscience in 2018. Thereafter, she studied veterinary science at Massey University and graduated with distinction in 2023. After graduating, she travelled to Australia for a 13-month equine internship at West Vets Equine Hospital in Queensland in 2024.

This year, Chloe returned to New Zealand to join our Vet Centre team as a mixed animal veterinarian. Chloe is passionate about equine sports medicine, lifestyle block medicine (especially alpacas and goats), and small animal medicine.

Outside of work, Chloe enjoys hiking, triathlons, and spending time with her husband, cat, and dog.



When does
a horse talk?

ANSWER
ON PAGE 5



Lifestyle News – Lifestyle healthcare plans

We have come up with an inclusive healthcare package for our lifestyle farmers. No matter how many sheep, cows, goats, or alpacas you have, we have a plan to suit you. Led by our terrific vet tech team, they are here to service your animal's needs.

If you have a lifestyle farm and want to be part of this fantastic package, please get in touch with your local Vet Centre.



Everything you need to optimise health and prevent disease on your block.



Facial eczema

With diseases, prevention is far better than cure. Facial eczema causes liver damage, skin irritation, a decrease in production and sometimes death. This ugly disease affects cattle and sheep; it is easily prevented by ongoing zinc treatment – our clinics stock zinc bolus options for all sizes of cattle and sheep. Get in contact with your favourite vet to get a preventative facial eczema plan in place to help prevent liver damage.

Not all animals show clinical signs. You can prevent facial eczema by using a combination of spore count monitoring in the pasture, correct zinc dosing, pasture spraying, or breeding for facial eczema tolerance and blood testing. Benefits of individual animal treatment include:

- **LONGEVITY:** A single application lasts up to 6 weeks with the option of topping up to give additional cover for a longer period.
- **DURABILITY:** Face-Guard boluses are durable and resist breaking if dropped.



- **TARGETED TREATMENT:** Individual animal dosing is more reliable than any trough/pasture treatment.



Face-guard zinc for the 2025 season, first dose providing 6 weeks of protection.

\$2.87 per week for 250kg cattle using 90 – 250kg 60g bolus.

\$5.25 per week for 550kg cattle using 251 – 660 132g bolus.

\$1.04 per week for 40kg+ sheep using the sheep 25kg and over 30g bolus.



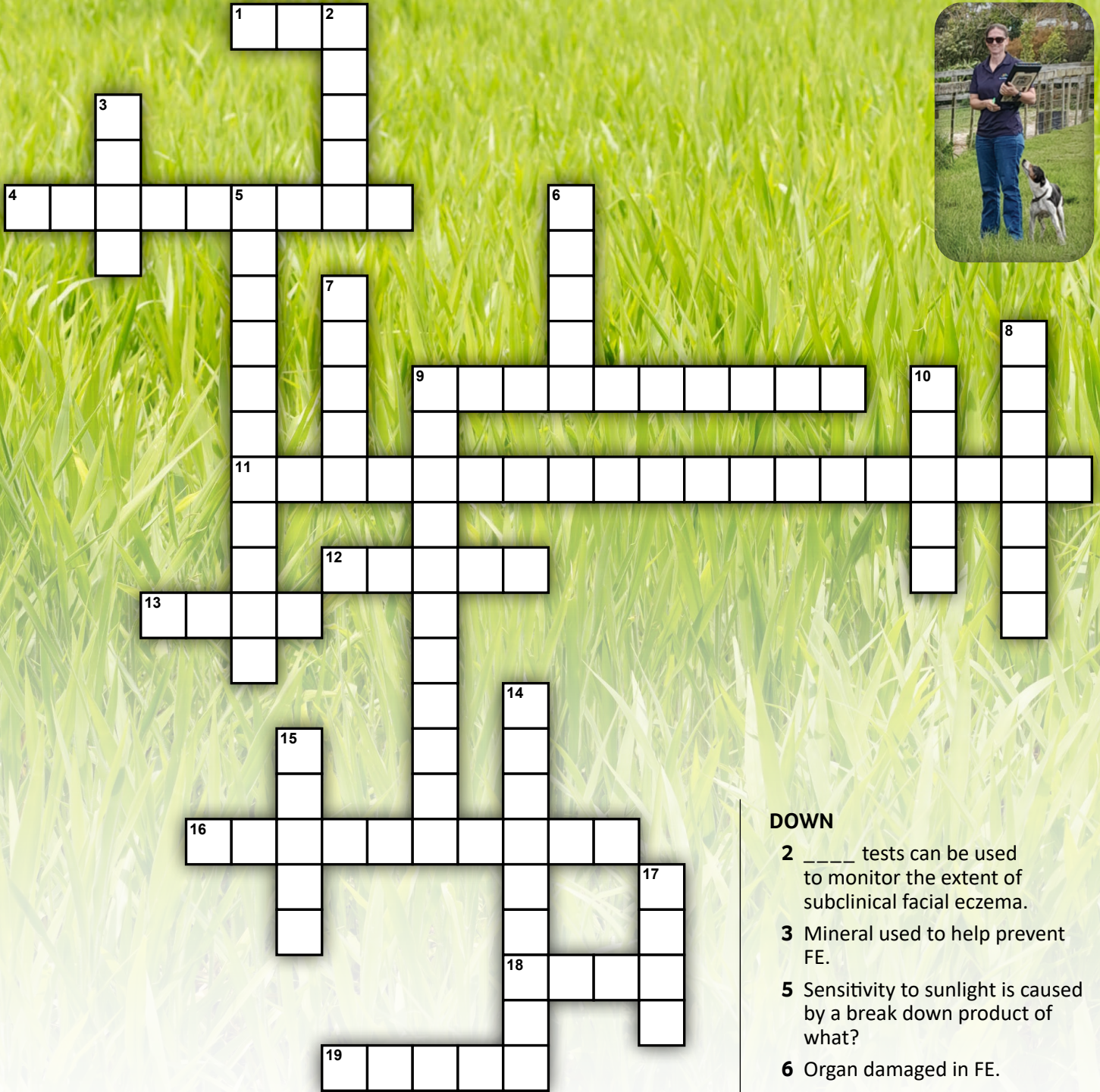
Dr Michelle Stodart
BVSc
Farm Vet

We have applicators for free hire when purchasing zinc and experienced vet techs who can administer the bolus for you. Ask about this option at your local Vet Centre clinic.

With the start of the facial eczema season upon us, Vet Michelle Stodart has put together a fun crossword puzzle. All the missing words are linked to facial eczema, including causes and treatments. Information and answers are referenced from the DairyNZ website.

If you want to go in the draw for the prize, please complete the crossword puzzle over the page and email it back to maungaturoto@thevetcentre.net.nz or drop it into your local clinic before 31st March 2025. All correct answers will be put into the draw. The winner will be announced on 7th April 2025.





Facial eczema crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Facial Eczema can be clinical and ___-clinical.
- 4 Product sprayed onto pastures to prevent fungal growth.
- 9 Test used to monitor the pasture levels of facial eczema.
- 11 Scientific name of the fungus which causes facial eczema.
- 12 Affected cows should be _____ off.

- 13 Facial Eczema can cause a reduction in _____ production.
- 16 _____ is better than treatment.
- 18 Fungus grows in the dead litter at the _____ of pasture.
- 19 Affected cows seek this.

DOWN

- 2 _____ tests can be used to monitor the extent of subclinical facial eczema.
- 3 Mineral used to help prevent FE.
- 5 Sensitivity to sunlight is caused by a break down product of what?
- 6 Organ damaged in FE.
- 7 Fungus requires warm and _____ conditions for growth.
- 8 Spores are produced in warm humid weather typically between _____ and May
- 9 Name of fungal toxin.
- 10 Chronic wasting and _____ may occur as a result of the damage at the time or months later when under stress.
- 14 Facial eczema tolerance is a _____ trait.
- 15 Zinc _____ can be used on affected areas of skin.
- 17 Unpigmented skin can burn, thicken and _____.



Barber's pole – blood-sucking parasite

Haemonchus contortus, commonly known as “barber’s pole” in the farming community, is the most significant internal worm threat to sheep and goats. The most critical period to consider *Haemonchus* treatment is now summer and into autumn. In Northland, we can sometimes see illness from this parasite all year round if conditions are suitable. These blood-sucking parasites can produce eggs rapidly;

therefore, the numbers of worms build up and can cause severe illness, anaemia, and even death if left untreated. Younger stock is the primary target for illness but less commonly can cause illness in older sheep and goats.

On the positive side, this worm is easily killed and is one of the last to develop resistance. The



signs of illness from barber’s pole in your stock may include being less energetic (due to the lack of blood), slower to be moved on or rounded up, or seeming just off; in more chronic cases, you may see ‘bottle-jaw’ due to loss of blood protein. In terms of control, gone are the days when we can just recommend drenches. And, as many people are aware, because of widespread parasite resistance, we all have a duty to use drenches responsibly. There are different management strategies on farms to manage worm challenges on pasture. Ensuring all animals have adequate nutrition, minerals and disease is managed well along with pasture management. If you would like further information, please have a yarn to your vet to make a plan.

Drenches for the season

Autumn is the high-risk period for worm burdens in grazing animals. If you are unsure if your grazers need drenching, then please bring in a poo sample for testing, and have a chat with one of our team.

Ideal drenches to use at this time of year:

- **Dairy cows and heifers** – Eprisure pour-on or injectable, easy to use at dry off. Nil milk withholds.
- **Beef and young stock** – Turbo pour-on, rain-resistant for peace of mind.
- **Sheep** – Clomax oral for persistent *Haemonchus* protection.

Ask in clinic for goat and alpaca drench options.

Northland is a high-risk region for liver fluke (along with facial eczema, which affects the liver also). At this part of the season, we should be thinking of controls for fluke parasites, reducing the rate at which they mature and reproduce.

For Liver fluke parasite control, we have three great options:



- **Flukecare + Se** – Oral option for cattle and sheep. It treats all 3 fluke stages, roundworm and lungworm, and includes Selenium for best cover.



- **Reflex F** – Pour on option for cattle. Highly effective treatment & control of internal parasites, including mature & immature liver fluke & lice in cattle



- **IconF** – Injectable option for cattle. Treatment and control of internal and external parasites of cattle, including adult liver flukes.

Please ask your local clinic if you want more information or want to discuss a drench plan for your stock.



**Whinny
wants to!**



Mel McKenzie
Veterinary
Technician



The Magic of Teat Spray

Teat spraying is the easiest defence mechanism against mastitis. Utilising it effectively, along with an appropriate milking technique, will majorly reduce the risk of mastitis. The cost of a good teat spraying practice is better than separating and treating high somatic cell counts or clinical mastitis cases. Ensuring you make up the spray correctly and apply it right is the key to success.

Essentials for a Good Teat Spray:

- Only use clean, drinkable water. You are trying to kill bacteria on the teat, so do not add more! You can use the water from your hot water cylinder, but if you wouldn't drink it don't use it in your teat spray.
- Stick to the label instructions. Suggested dilutions may be different depending on the

time of year. Incorrect dilutions may not make a spray that will kill enough bacteria to prevent mastitis.

- Add emollient during adverse weather. Cracked teats let bacteria in and allow dirt to stick more easily.
- Only use teat spray that is in date and within the broach life. Expired teat spray will not kill bacteria! Write the day you opened it on the container so that if the broach life is 18 months, you know to use it within that timeframe.

Ways to Check Your Technique:

1. Spray the cow normally, get clean paper towels (or equivalent) and wrap it around each teat. You are using enough spray if there is a solid pattern around every teat and the surrounding udder.

2. Check the spray nozzle by spraying the pit wall, paper towel, or piece of paper. Hold the nozzle around 10cm away and spray as you normally would. There should be a solid spray pattern. If there is a hollow pattern, the spray unit will need a service or to be replaced.

3. Grab a 20ml syringe, pull the plunger out and hold your finger over the end. Fill up the syringe with teat spray and count how long it takes for that sprayer to produce 20mls. This is the recommended amount each cow should receive immediately after every milking. If your sprayer took 5 seconds to produce 20mls, that is how long you should spray each cow. This can be double-checked by how much spray is being used at milking. A 250-cow herd should use 5 litres of teat spray per milking.

Happy teat spraying!

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 Hurdall 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