



VET LSD®

VETERINARY LIVESTOCK SURVIVAL DRENCH

**HIGH on performance,
survivability, and profit!**





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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Why was the product developed and by whom?

VetLSD® was developed by Peter Anderson and The Vet Centre (Marlborough) to allow farmers to give their ewes a 'one-shot' product pre-lamb that provided all the trace elements and vitamins that were found to affect lamb survival. Further work showed it was also useful for sheep and other species at other times as well.

Why does VetLSD® contain the particular actives-Vitamin C,E,A,D, iodine, selenium and chromium?

LSD was designed to take care of those vitamins and trace elements proved to be deficient in many ewes in late pregnancy and confirmed as a cause of poor early lamb survival. It was also developed so that it provided the essential elements required for stock of any class to overcome stress periods. The principal components being: Vitamin E, selenium and Iodine. These were not available at sufficient levels in any 'one shot' product. The other actives are either important anti-oxidants as well, or work in synergy with the principal ones.

Why is VetLSD® a liquid concentrate and not a cheaper powder like other 'lookalikes'?

LSD was originally a powder but right from the beginning we knew powders had some major drawbacks. The main issue is their stability. All powders containing water soluble vitamins are inherently unstable and LSD powder was no exception. Thus any leftover product not used on the day of mixing was worthless the next day. Its instability also meant that when part containers only were used any product left in the container once opened was prone to attracting moisture and rapidly deteriorating. We needed a product that was very stable as the concentrate once the container was opened, as well as once it was mixed. VetLSD® does this – no powder does. We also wanted a product that was much easier to mix and less messy than a powder. VetLSD® liquid concentrate fulfils those requirements.

Is the product stable once mixed with water?

We have done several trials investigating the stability of VetLSD® and unlike other vitamin-mineral products VetLSD® is stable once mixed with water. Diluted product left in a back pack still retained its potency when tested after 40 days. Product left in a water trough exposed to the elements still retained the strength of the components tested for 3 days. Tests were not continued longer than these time periods so we are unsure how much longer diluted product is still stable. Because VetLSD® does tend to settle out with time any diluted product should be well shaken after standing and before using.

What are the key production benefits when used pre-lamb?

Vitamin E given to ewes prior to lambing has been shown to reduce perinatal lamb deaths and improve both ewe and lamb vigour – reduced time to standing and suckling by the lamb and mothering by the ewe. The main production benefit is improved lamb survival.

Other than improved lamb survival what other benefits does VetLSD® have for sheep?

Some work has shown that given to ewes pre-tup it has improved the conception rate to first service and an improved scanning result has been shown with the analysis of OptiLamb data. It is also a useful means of providing a full ewe dose of Iodine to ewes at the critical scanning time. The benefits of supplementing lambs on crop with extra Vitamins AD and E are well known and it is a useful supplement for stressed lambs around the weaning period when vitamin E requirements are high and deficiencies have been confirmed.

What are PUFAs and what is the significance of them?

PUFAs are polyunsaturated fatty acids and can be high in grains and young fast growing plant material. Although they are essential components of the diet they have a propensity to oxidise in the body and be a source of tissue damaging free radicals. Vitamin E is an essential antioxidant that stops this oxidation. Therefore stock consuming diets containing low levels of vitamin E such as stored supplements – hay, silage, grain, and root crops, and high levels of PUFAs – fast growing annuals, grains, crops etc are the ones most likely to benefit from VetLSD® supplementation. (There is an argument that saturated fats from ruminants are safer than those from vegetable oils!)

What is the mixing rate for sheep?

When drenching sheep it was made so that a ewe dose was a convenient 10mls when diluted 1:4 with water. i.e One 1L VetLSD® container can be added to a 5L drench back pack and topped up with 4L of water.

How soon prior to lambing should I treat?

Trial work we have done suggests that in most situations the benefits of supplementing with Vit E tend to run out after about 40 days. However they are almost immediate once a ewe is drenched so drenching should be done as close to lambing as is practical.

Can I mix VetLSD® with oral sheep drenches?

VetLSD® mixes readily with some anthelmintics, but users mix VetLSD® with any drench at their own risk and any mixed product should be used in one session and not stored. Do NOT mix with Closantel containing drenches.

VetLSD® should be mixed 1:1 with water before mixing with the drench. Just remember that a ewe dose for example is 2ml concentrate, so that when mixed with a drench she will need 4mls of diluted VetLSD® plus the required volume of drench.

Does the concentrate have to be mixed 4:1 ?

No it can be mixed with water at any dilution.
We recommend with cattle that it is diluted 1:1.

Why do you need vitamin C in VetLSD®?

While animals, except for primates and guinea pigs, synthesise their own Vitamin C, it is an important component of the product. Vitamin C is an essential element for maintaining the effectiveness of vitamin E and regenerating vitamin E in the body.

What is the benefit of chromium?

Chromium is involved in glucose metabolism and assists in the uptake of glucose and in partitioning glucose to fat or muscle. It has been used as a supplement to increase protein deposition and reduce fat in both humans and animals. It has also been shown to improve the immune response of animals to certain diseases.

Is there enough Iodine in VetLSD®?

A 10ml dose of diluted VetLSD® contains enough elemental iodine equivalent to the recommended dose of potassium iodide.

What size containers does VetLSD® come in and how many doses in the pack?

VetLSD® comes in 1L containers. This provides 500 ewe doses, 800 hoggets doses, and 1000 lamb doses.

Is VetLSD® safe to give with other selenised products?

VetLSD® was developed with a low dose of selenium knowing that in many cases stock would be given it at the same time they were likely to be receiving a selenised vaccine or drench. Hence it is most unlikely that overdosing is going to be an issue when given with another selenised product.

Can VetLSD® be used in any other way apart from an oral drench?

It can only be given orally but there are many possible ways of doing this. It can be added to hard feed or diluted and poured over hay or baleage. It can be added to the water source via a dosatron or peta dispenser or added directly to the water trough. However because it will settle out with time the water in the trough may need periodically agitating.

Can VetLSD® be mixed with hot water?

The potency of VetLSD® is not affected by mixing with warm water. Because the concentrate can become quite thick when really cold, standing the container in hot water before diluting will make mixing much easier.

What benefits are deer likely to get from VetLSD®?

One investigation found that hinds can become depleted of vitamin E reserves and uptake was low during the winter. Iodine uptake was also very low. It is highly likely that supplementation with VetLSD® would enable hinds to cope better with the high stress period they experience during the winter period. i.e high stocking rates, poor feed quality and quantity, and inclement weather.

What benefits do dairy cattle get from supplementing with VetLSD®?

A trial repeated two years running found that cows supplemented monthly from prior to calving until mating had a significantly increased final pregnancy rate (92.6% treated v 80.8% controls) and the interval from the start of the seasonal breeding programme to conception was shorter for treatment than control cows (19 versus 26 days). Bobby calves fed milk replacers grew faster when given VetLSD® every two weeks in the milk.

Farmer Testimonials – VetLSD®

Howie Gardner started using Vet LSD® on recommendation from his vet John Smart of Clutha Vets over 10 years ago when he noticed problems around lamb survivability.

"Iodine had never been a major problem here, but when we started using Vet LSD® it certainly appeared to have a great result."

Howie notes that his experience has been more subjective than objectively measured. "However the research on Vet LSD® appears to back up our experience with it."

He appreciates the easily mixed solution, compared to the early powdered blend first developed and drenches his 8500 head ewe breeding flock three weeks prior to lambing with VET LSD®.

"The best recommendation I can make about Vet LSD® is we are not going to stop using it."

Howie Gardner – South Otago.

Farm Manager for Castlepoint station Stu Neal has had a long association with Vet LSD®. Stu was closely involved in the development of the product with Peter Anderson while farming in the Marlborough region. He had noticed a problem with lamb survivability for no apparent reason.

"Peter advised me to try this product, and after reluctantly putting the ewes through drenching at that time of the year (pre-lambing), I noticed a difference that lambing, the problem was fixed very quickly."

Since moving to the North Island and managing Castlepoint, Stu was aware of an Iodine deficiency on the property and uses Vet LSD® to help correct that.

"I use it knowing full well it has a positive effect on lamb survivability. We had a problem with around 20% losses from birth to tailing, that would be well down under 15% now after using VetLSD®, and a number of those seasons have been far from favourable."

Typically he will administer an iodine supplement at mating, and then combine Vet LSD® with drench two weeks prior to lambing.

"We know we are getting the vitamin E and Iodine into the lambs at birth and keeping the levels correct with it."

Five years on VetLSD® is "just part of the programme here" at Castlepoint.

"It is a very easy product to use, you just mix it up with your drench or water, and you have 30 days to use it once it's mixed."

Stuart Neal – Castlepoint Station, Wairarapa.

Peter McNab has been a regular user of Vet LSD® since it was first developed in its powder form over 10 years ago. On recommendation from Clutha Vets, he decided to try Vet LSD® to address the low iodine and selenium levels, common on farms in the area.

"Since it was put into a liquid it became far easier to use, and we now use it regularly, every ewe will get a drench with it pre-lambing, and we will occasionally use it at other times."

Being in a marginal area for iodine and selenium levels, Peter views Vet LSD® as an insurance treatment to help boost ewe health heading into lambing.

"I put the Vet LSD® down as one of several things we did some years ago to improve performance, and that mix has led to a significant improvement in lambing percentages."

"When lambs are worth what they are now, you do not need to save too many to pay for the treatment."

Occasionally Peter will also administer Vet LSD® to hoggets he sees that are off colour, particularly after a period of prolonged dull weather.

"It could be any one of the elements in Vet LSD® that make a difference, either the selenium, iodine or Vitamin E, but whichever one it is, we do notice them pick up."

Viral pneumonia can be a problem in Otago over winter, and a dose of Vet LSD® appears to help reduce its incidence in the flock.

Typically Peter will administer it on its own, but has mixed it with drench to administer it to hoggets on occasion.

"Vet LSD® is not all that expensive, and you do not have to gain much to make it well and truly worthwhile using."

Peter McNab – Lochindorb Station, South Otago.



VETLSD®
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Your local Vet LSD® supplier:

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