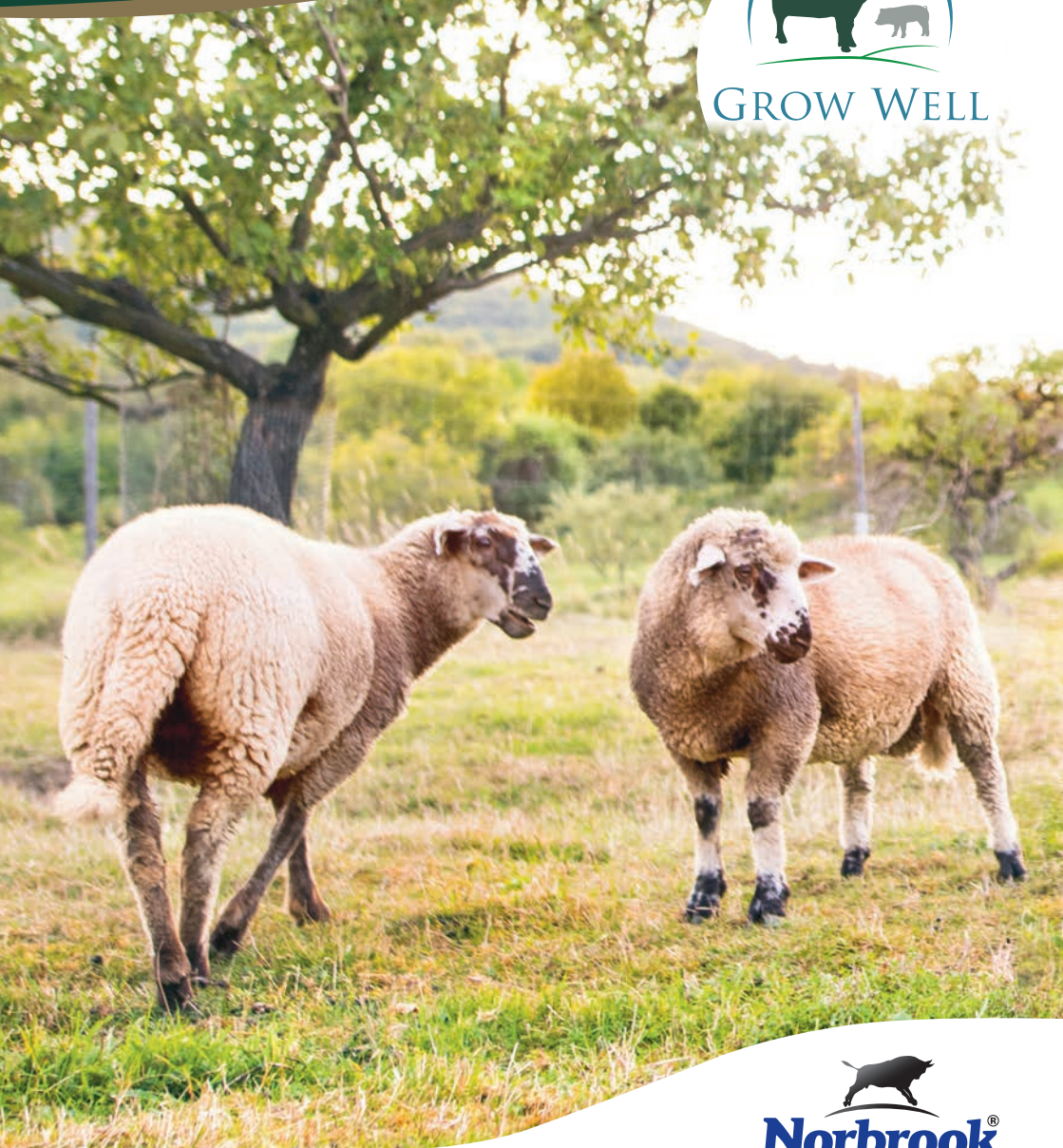


# Lifestyle Block Information Leaflet



The basics of animal husbandry are to provide adequate food, water, shelter and safety for the animals in our care. The fundamentals of farming are to provide facilities so that animals can be handled safely for both them and us, and that we observe them often enough that any problems can suitably be dealt with.

The key issue for mixed practice veterinarians on hobby farms is to ensure facilities allow restraint of the animal so it may be examined or treated. Access to suitable yards ensures that appropriate care can be safely administered, limits the time to restrain animals and even reduces the veterinary bill! Yards need to include a bail for restraint, lights to allow work in dim light, water nearby and a dry surface to make it safe to work.

Whether animals are kept either as companions or as a source of food, having a lifestyle block and caring for animals is a commitment. Developing a knowledge of what a particular species needs with planning and good veterinary advice drives a deeper understanding around the required amount of care. A good blog\* from experienced lifestyle blockers provides comment and advice for those beginning making it a useful resource.

\*<https://www.lifestyleblock.co.nz/forum>



Camelids – alpaca and llama, poultry, ostriches, ducks, aviary birds, rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs are some of the less commonly farmed species. Many veterinarians have experience and interest in these species and your local clinic will direct you towards the best person to speak to. There are good guides available\* on most species that provide the commonly used husbandry terms and what they mean, basic facts, the nutritional requirements and some tips for their care.

\*[https://www.farmlands.co.nz/Documents/Guides/Farmlands\\_Lifestyle\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.farmlands.co.nz/Documents/Guides/Farmlands_Lifestyle_Guide.pdf)



## Your animal health plan needs to consider:

- ▶ The number and breed of animals to keep on your block.
- ▶ Discuss behaviours of different species. If you have two will they cohabitate?
- ▶ Appropriate shelter.
- ▶ Appropriate water supply, diets and any required supplements i.e. trace elements or vitamin D.
- ▶ Vaccinations required particularly for clostridial diseases.
- ▶ Routine treatments required, especially in young animals e.g. parasite treatments.
- ▶ Do they require husbandry procedures i.e. shearing, hoof trimming, dental care and when should these be done?
- ▶ Are there routine veterinary health checks or tests needed for regulatory purposes - e.g. Tuberculosis testing of cattle and deer, brucella testing of rams.
- ▶ If breeding animals, discuss their reproductive patterns, pregnancy testing and how to rear an orphan should it be necessary.
- ▶ Diseases common to your species and region i.e. flystrike, liver fluke or ticks.
- ▶ Diseases that may be spread between species including to humans i.e. leptospirosis.

## National Animal Identification & Tracing:

- ▶ The National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) programme\* records the location and movement of individual animals and the contact details for the person in charge of an animal.  
\*<https://ospri.co.nz/our-programmes/nait/about-the-nait-programme/purpose>
- ▶ Do cattle and deer have their NAIT ear tags and records up to date?
- ▶ It's a good idea to get photographs of valuable animals annually for insurance purposes.

## Looking after your workforce:

- ▶ Do dogs have their council registration tags and are they on a programme to control tapeworms?
- ▶ Contact your practice to discuss local recommendations for parasite prevention of your dog.

Lastly health and safety is an important topic for those entering lifestyle blocks and a significant problem on farms with machinery. Get professional help with learning any new piece of equipment until you become confident with it. Likewise with animals – ask your local veterinarian for help especially with less domesticated species like deer or ostriches because they may cause serious harm. Commonly this is a consequence from not completely understanding their behaviour, particularly around the breeding season.



Begin by contacting your local veterinarian to build an animal health plan around a calendar of preventative health treatments. They are best placed to consider local knowledge in the veterinary sense, your local conditions that determine the feed availability, the environment in which animals live, the type of microbes that live and the local risk of disease in any given species.



At Norbrook we provide a range of animal health solutions that improve the care of animals. We manufacture animal health products including parasiticides which enhance the health of animals. Speak to your veterinarian about Eprizero, an anthelmintic to treat internal parasites in cattle. A pour-on drench makes it simple to apply, it's effective on a wide range of internal parasites of cattle and available in a 250mL pack which is suitable for treating a small number of cattle. Eprizero has zero milk withholding making it safe to use in milking cows where you are drinking the milk each day. Work with your local veterinarian for parasite control as part of your animal health plan.





## Grow Well

Grow Well aims to develop tools for veterinarians and their clients which may be used in practical situation.

Your veterinarian is the trusted professional with local knowledge to best meet your farm's needs. Combining science with practical considerations, your veterinarian can tailor a preventative health plan to fit your situation, aiding you in optimizing the enjoyment you and your animals find from your lifestyle block.

## Review

### Does your Lifestyle Block plan consider:

- Appropriate facilities for restraining animals.
- Contacting your local veterinarian.
- Developing an animal health plan.
- Prioritizing health and safety for you, your animals and your veterinarian.

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