



Jockey Club
College of Veterinary Medicine
and Life Sciences
in collaboration with Cornell University

Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health

**A Journey: from 'Farm Kid' to Clinical Veterinarian
to Academic**

By
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Date: 29 January 2019 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Venue: Room 2-130, 1/F, Block 2, To Yuen Building

Abstract

I will begin this talk by outlining my journey from 'farm kid', to clinical veterinarian, to academic, highlighting skills I have developed along the way and their application to the role in Production Animal Health at CityU. I will then focus on two key areas of research, both related to my PhD. While outlining relevance, methodology and results, I will also discuss skills that I have developed and opportunities for further studies and future collaboration.

1. Reduced productive longevity and increased wastage of commercial ewes poses a significant cost to both New Zealand farmers and the wider sheep industry. However,

there was a lack of research and data related to longevity and wastage rates in New Zealand sheep flocks. This led to the development of a study designed to investigate this issue.

2. Lambs are solely dependent on their dams for milk for survival and growth in early life, with milk remaining an important source of digestible energy and protein to weaning in late lactation. Ideally, farmers would select ewes to keep or cull based on the predicted performance of their lambs. At present, approximately 80% of New Zealand farmers examine ewe's udders as a means of identifying which to cull or keep. However, there is currently no standardised scoring system that relates lamb survival and growth to ewe udder and teat scores. Non-dairy breed ewes had a range of udder and teat scores measured in a prospective observational study to investigate associations between lamb survival and growth to weaning and dam udder and teat scores.

Biography

After graduating in 2012 from Massey University with a BVSc (Distinction) Kate worked in mixed clinical practice in rural New Zealand before returning to Massey's School of Veterinary Science in 2015 as a Lecturer in Pastoral Livestock. As a Massey Lecturer, her primary role involves teaching and course coordination, in combination with research and industry extension. Kate's primary areas of focus are sheep, beef cattle and deer health and production, and she is part of the international sheep research group based at Massey University. She is currently completing her PhD, investigating longevity and wastage in New Zealand commercial ewes. This initial longevity project has resulted in a number of additional projects including a long-term project investigating udder health in non-dairy breed ewes, and another that aims to improve understanding of timing and cause of on-farm commercial ewe mortality. Her background of family farming on a New Zealand sheep and beef farm, combined with clinical veterinary experience stimulated her initial interest in teaching and research within the Production Animal sector and it is one she remains passionate about.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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