

## New Staff Member



Hi, I'm Sue Morresey, born and bred in the Naki on a dairy farm. I am married to Tony and we have 4 grown up sons and four wonderful grandies.

We have spent the last 18 months in Southland spending time with two of our sons and their families. We have another son working in the States and one in Auckland. While in Winton I worked at Vetsouth as an Outpatients Services Supervisor which was another new challenge and great experience for me. Its amazing working at Eltham Vets now as this is where I used to come with my Dad as a young girl when he required his animal health goodies. Who would of thought I would work here one day. I look forward to meeting or talking to you over the next 12months.

## They did what?!

Apparently the practice of putting rubber rings on cows' teats to turn them into 3-titters is reasonably common in big herds down south. Recently it was brought to my attention that the same practice may be happening here. My message to anyone doing this or contemplating doing this is simple; don't! Applying a rubber ring to the teat of a cow is classified as an unacceptable practice under the Animal Welfare Act and anyone found doing this is potentially liable to a fine of up to \$50,000 or 3 years in prison under the Act.

So even if you have a foreign worker (apparently this is one of the reasons why it's happening down south) who will put cups on a teat regardless of whether it is painted bright red or you have told him until you are blue in the face not to milk that quarter and you've got to the point where you think removing the teat is the only way to stop him DO NOT use a rubber ring to remove the teat. If you are having problems curing a problem quarter talk to us before contemplating anything this drastic.

## Expressions of Interest for Winter Seminars

What seminars are you interested in us running this winter? We have five options but don't have the time to do all 5 so thought we would ask those of you who want to attend seminars to tell us which ones would be the most value to you in the run up to spring.

The choices are:

- **Spring First Aid** - aimed at new entrants to farming and anyone wanting to brush up
- **Lameness** - aimed at anyone who wants to know how to treat their own lame cows and/or when to call in the vet with a special emphasis on prevention/things you can do to help
- **Rearing Replacements** – slightly more advanced; helping you grow better replacements
- **Mating Management** – if you want to make a living milking cows you need to be able to get them in calf first
- **Practical Mastitis Management.** A bit more advanced, not really for new entrants

Let us know what you think by telling the vets when we are on farm, telling the girls in the clinic or by e-mail & we'll see what we can do.



## Stroppy Bulls? We might have the answer with Bopriva.

This isn't going to apply to anyone rearing breeding bulls but for those of you who raise bulls for slaughter and face the same old issues each winter when it comes to mobbing them up, read on. How would you like to be able, for a few months over winter, to give your bulls an injection that effectively turns them into steers? Instead of big angry bulls that spend all winter fighting, smashing gates and fences and turning paddocks into mud heaps you could put them all into one or two mobs and set-stock or break-feed nice, relaxed, placid animals over a time when feed is tight. Or, perhaps you are going on holiday over the winter and someone is minding the farm and you want things to go easy for them.

Pfizer have recently launched a vaccine, "Bopriva" that when given to entire bulls, does just that. It turns them into "agreeabulls" by shutting down the production of testosterone for about 3 months and reduces the following behaviour traits that make bulls so difficult: fighting, mounting, damage to fences and gates, pawing, digging and pasture damage, bellowing and dominant and territorial behaviour. The benefits include: reduced labour, more and better grazing management options, better pasture (less damage, pugging, faster regrowth), fewer injuries and deaths from fighting and riding and less damage to fences and infrastructure. It involves two vaccinations 3 to 8 weeks apart, depending on how long you want them to remain placid and costs about \$4.50 a shot + visit fees. Farmers who trialled the vaccine last season found that they were able to run mobs of up to 100 or more bulls (in some cases 150-200) with no issues, resulting in considerable savings in time, labour and pasture.

Like I said it won't apply to anyone rearing breeding bulls but for those of you who are simply raising them for slaughter this could be the solution to a whole lot of bull related problems over the winter. Give us a call

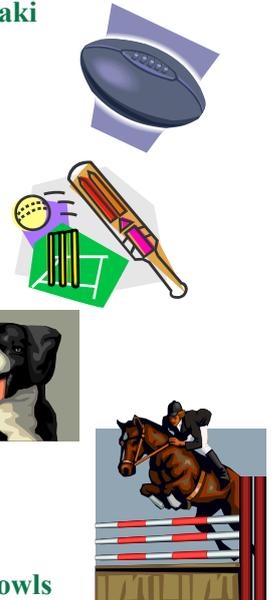
## What we sponsored in 2009/2010

To give you an idea of where our sponsorship money goes each year, below is a list of *some* of the groups, teams and organisations we sponsored in the last financial year:

Eltham Soccer Club  
 Eltham Rugby Football Club  
 Eltham Golf Club  
 Eltham Indoor Bowls Club  
 Eltham Squash Club  
 Eltham Young Farmers Club  
 Eltham-Takou Dog Trial Club  
 Taranaki Purebred Jersey Breeds Club  
 Taranaki Holstein Friesian Association  
 Taranaki Western Riding Club  
 Kohuratahi Endurance Riding Club  
 Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust  
 The Village Gallery  
 Ngaere Primary School  
 Rawhitiroa Primary School  
 Matapu Primary School  
 Kaponga Primary School  
 St Joseph's Primary, Stratford  
 St Patrick's Primary, Kaponga  
 St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls  
 Eltham Netball Club  
 Kaponga Rugby Club  
 Hawera Dog Training Association  
 Eltham Pony Club  
 Eltham Primary School



Stratford Trotting Club  
 Maata Hall Society  
 Stratford High School  
 Eltham Free Kindergarten  
 Taranaki Ayrshire Association  
 Taranaki Arabian Horse Club  
 Barnardos  
 Eagles Golfing Society of Taranaki  
 Police Managers' Guild  
 Kaponga Bowling Club  
 Toko Primary Rugby Club  
 Taranaki Junior Rugby  
 Pukengahu Social Club  
 Dressage Taranaki  
 Taranaki Cricket Association  
 National Sheep Dog Trials  
 Mangamingi Hall Society  
 Auroa School  
 Idea Services (IHC)  
 Egmont Lions Club  
 Pembroke School  
 Whangamomona Dog Trials  
 Alzheimers New Zealand  
 Taranaki Show Jumping Club  
 Central Districts Deaf Indoor Bowls



### An Underused Test

We can test vat milk for the antibodies which cows produce when they are infected with worms. The higher the worm infestation, the higher the antibody levels in the milk and the greater the returns from drenching are likely to be. Herds with very low antibody levels won't profit from being wormed. Herds with moderate levels should profit from worming the younger and lighter cows and herds with high antibody levels should profit from worming the whole herd.

It surprises me that more farmers don't use this test. It costs \$50. Even a moderate worm burden reduces milk production by 100g MS/day. That is worth 50c/day. Drenching a 450kg cow with Eprinex, for example, costs \$3.50. So if your herd *does* have a moderate worm burden, you should recover your drenching costs in a week.

The best times to use this test are:

- at drying off – to see if the whole herd needs a pour on drench or if they only need a cheaper, lice only option like Tempor (\$1.52/450kg cow) or Niltime (\$2.08/450kg cow).
  - Around calving - when the cows are under greatest nutritional stress and can least afford to have worms.
- So next time you wonder if your herd needs worming or not, bring us a cupful of **cold, well mixed vat milk** and we can tell you.

### Stunning furniture to be won by an Eltham Vet client



'One in 50' chance to win  
 this indoor/outdoor furniture  
 with qualifying purchases of  
 Merial Ancare products

