

## iPad winner



You may remember us telling you that all clients who treated their anoestrus cows before or on the start of mating got 3 entries into our iPad prize draw, while people who treated cows before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> round of AB got one entry. No? Oh well, I'm telling you now. So, with regard to the above we put all the names of people who qualified into a hat and drew out a name. **Congratulations to Craig & Sharee Johnson** who have won themselves a fancy new iPad 2. These cool little things have all sorts of applications and I imagine plenty of useful applications for your on-farm management. If not, it will make a terrific Xmas present for some lucky family member. *Craig & Sharee are pictured here receiving their iPad2 from CEO Al McDougall.*

## Congratulations

to our scanner David Lloyd and his fiancé Lynwen who welcomed little Nanci Mererid Lloyd into the world a few weeks ago. Both mother and baby are doing very well and Nanci's arrival has delighted her dad and also softened the blow of Wales' cruel elimination from the World Cup at the hands of a certain French referee. We look forward to meeting both Lynwen and little Nanci next year when they come out to Taranaki with David in June for scanning.



### Exclusive to EDVS Angus Pure Scotch Fillet Cube Roll

With following drenches:

Eclipse P/O 5 & 10 litre  
Genesis P/O 5 & 10 litre  
Matrix Hi-Mineral 20 & 50 litre  
Startech 15 litre  
Switch Hi Mineral 50 litre (limited stocks)

## Mamyzin Milk Quality Award Winner for 2011

This season the good people who make Mamyzin, Boehringer Ingelheim, put up a 'milk quality award' to the client who had the lowest daily bulk somatic cell count average from the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> November. The winner received a certificate and a \$1000 credit on their account at Eltham Vets. To qualify for consideration all you had to do was grant us 3<sup>rd</sup> party access to your milk quality & production figures on the Fonterra Website and you were entered automatically. We have 51 clients who granted us 3<sup>rd</sup> party access this season and some of them had some pretty spectacular results and wonderfully low bulk counts. No-one however could match this season's Mamyzin Milk Quality Award Winners, **Kathy & Gary Rowlands**, who had a daily SCC average for that 4 month period of 47,000! That is a phenomenal effort. Kathy puts their results down to hard work, good systems, attention to detail and good breeding (she didn't say if she meant her or the cows there but I'm picking a bit of both). She credits Gary with paying great attention to checking cows before the cups go on, pre-spraying all colostrum cows and making sure all cows are fully milked out at every milking. She also says that even with such a low bulk count they treat all cows with Dry Cow Therapy each year and also changed their inflations a couple of seasons ago because they were a bit worried about teat end damage. They also teat spray all season. So really you could say their success is down to good old-fashioned hard work, observation and attention to detail. Nothing too dramatic; just getting all the little things right. Their progress has been enviable in the last few years with their bulk count dropping steadily from 64,000 average in 09/10 when they ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the country to 61,000 last season when they ranked 13<sup>th</sup>. If they stay at 47,000 for this season you would have to think they would be top 10, maybe even top 5. Congratulations to them both. The certificate hadn't arrived by the time we went to print so a photo will appear in our next newsletter. To qualify for next year's award all you need to do is go into your Fonterra page, follow the links and grant us 3<sup>rd</sup> party access to your SCC and Milk Quality records. Our user name is "Prolapse"

## CHRISTMAS HAM



Purchase selected  
Merial Ancare  
products during this  
festive season and  
we'll serve you up a  
quality kiwi ham!  
(promo concludes 22nd Dec)

## More Winners

**Bill & Sharon Coomey and  
Marc & Tayna Jackson**  
won an  
**iPod Touch**  
after purchasing  
Multimin  
injection



# Eltham Vet Services



## DECEMBER 2011

What an exciting few months we've had! First, Taranaki win and hold onto the Shield for the summer and thanks to Leo for bringing in the Log 'o Wood for us to admire a few weeks back. I take back anything nasty I've ever said about Taranaki Leo; you are a beautiful man and we love you dearly.

Then of course, we finally win the World Cup although did it have to be so damn close?! Thankfully that meant that for the next few weeks when I visited farms we could talk about something warm and fuzzy instead of the usual moans about the weather (in fact even in the face of bad weather for a few weeks every day was a good one). Incredible how 1 solitary point can improve our moods so much! As a result Graham Henry goes down in history as one of our greatest coaches instead of that useless sod who lost 2 World Cups. And then this weekend we had the riveting excitement of a General Election that promised to go down to the wire. Not. Even New Plymouth ended up being one-sided so really by about 9.30 I was channel flicking constantly. Anyway, congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers. We get to do it all again in 3 years' time. I can't wait.

On the clinic front we have been keeping active. Nicola, Jill, Joan, Sue & myself all did the Daily News Half Marathon a month or so back. Nicola ran it (!) and the rest of us walked. Well Jill practically ran it based on her astonishing time (and word is she was looking pretty ragged when she crossed the finish line). Joan & Sue powered home in just over 3 hours while I limped home (ingrown toenail and all) 26 seconds under my personal target of 3 1/2 hours. It was the most boring 3 1/2 hours of my life (except maybe for the time I went to the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden with my sister and slept through the whole thing) so don't expect me to do another one - thank goodness for iPods.

Meanwhile Leon, John & Jim have all grown moustaches for "Movember" with varying degrees of success. John looks the spitting image of unhappy French rugby coach Mark Lievrement; Jim looks quite distinguished with his upper lip thatch and Leon just looks like a boy trying to grow a mo. Of course Frank has already got one and it puts the rest to shame. John also completed the round the mountain cycle race last month and last weekend did the round Lake Taupo race in 5 hours and 1 minute, which given the appalling wind conditions was a meritorious effort. Time to put some weight on now John, you are fading away.

On farm we did the usual non-cycling cows in October & November. It was gratifying to see more of you choosing to treat your non-cyclers at the front end of mating and hopefully you will see the results of that intervention next season. Certainly when you look at how our calving graph goes nowadays it is clear that we are moving the curve well and truly into the early spring stage and that means more days in milk for you as a result. With only 4% inductions next season it is even more important to treat your non-cyclers early and also to remember not to leave the bull in for too long.

So, with a blink another year has shot by. It's been a traumatic year nationally especially for anyone from Christchurch and we all hope that 2012 brings a far more settled and happy year for you all.

We look forward to seeing you at our Xmas barbie in a few weeks where we will celebrate our glorious shield win and of course the Webb Ellis Cup. Merry Christmas to you all and all the best for 2012.

Join us at the clinic for an end of year  
celebration



Thursday 22 December  
late afternoon/evening



**Clinic & Farm Supplies**  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Ph. (06) 764 8196  
[www.elthamvetservice.co.nz](http://www.elthamvetservice.co.nz)  
**Trading Depot**  
Hollard Engineering,  
Victoria Street, Kaponga  
Ph. (06) 764 6686  
**J Larkin** 0274 482 585

## Veterinarians

Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO  
Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS  
Andrew Weir BVSc, PGDip (Epi)  
Jim Robins BVSc, BSc, DipPharm  
Polly Otterson BVSc, MSc,  
Teresa Carr BVSc  
Adrian Clark BVSc  
Linley Gilling BVSc  
Lindsay Lash BVSc  
James Bruce BVSc  
Leon Christensen BVSc

## Office

Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS  
Jill Watson Sue Morresey  
Nicola Duthie Frank Suter



Without the mo John may have gained that elusive extra minute to complete the Round Lake Taupo ride in under 5 hours!



### Before you come to Christmas Drinks...

As the mating season continues and bulls are starting to go in, it is soon time when you will need to think about preparing a list of cows for probable inductions or special management. We did this on a large farm last year, and it worked out very well so there were no nasty surprises come calving time, and scanning was a lot easier. Remember, you can only induce 4% of your herd next spring.

Firstly decide on the cut-off date for inductions (ie. anything calving after this date needs to be induced): the most common one is October 1<sup>st</sup>, which translates into December 22<sup>nd</sup> mating dates (the day of the clinic's BBQ).

So, for the above-mentioned farm, on December 22<sup>nd</sup> the entire herd was tail painted, and then every fortnight the rubbed cows were repainted a different colour and recorded. This was repeated every two weeks until the bulls were taken out. Then, come pregnancy testing time, the scanning was made easier for all concerned, since when different colours came round the pregnancies were aged and confirmed. With the different colours, it was also easier to batch up the induction mobs. Other dates of use:

If cut-off date to induce on your farm is September 25 then paint December 17<sup>th</sup> or for farms up the mountain that might induce anything calving after October 10<sup>th</sup> they should tail paint January 1<sup>st</sup>... (assuming the head is clear...)



Giles



### SAFE DISPOSAL OF NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

We are getting more requests as to what farmers can do with used needles and syringes. The problem is getting worse as more drug companies include freebies with the packaging. Once you have finished with syringes, take the needle off and put it in a container - a Marmite bottle with a hole cut in the plastic lid is just right, or any similar container or bottle that can be sealed when full - and dispose of the syringe with your rubbish burn up. Once full, put a proper lid on the pot and drop off your 'sharps' container to the clinic. We have a professional service that disposes of these products.

### Want to be a Vet?

A few of you will have kids who have expressed a desire to be vets but aren't really sure what is required, what they need to do, etc. The New Zealand Vet Association has put together a really good information pack including a DVD that we have at the clinic. It tells you just about everything you would need to know about what it takes to join this profession.

If you have a school-aged kid who is serious about becoming a vet, give us a call and we will put the pack aside for him or her to borrow.



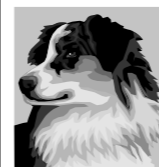
### Ram Testing time

Summer is generally the time we get on to breeding soundness exams for rams. This includes palpating and bleeding for brucellosis which is the most common infectious cause of infertility in rams and can have a huge affect on lambing percentages. **Last season two flocks in our area had Brucella abortions.**



This summer we have a very keen young vet with a soft spot for sheep, James Bruce who, with the help of his equally enthusiastic young colleague (Leon) is going to take this task in hand and make sure your rams are fit, ready and tested clear well before mating starts next autumn.

This also presents an opportunity to chat to your vet about issues that are important to you such as drench performance and general flock health.



Expect a call from one of the office staff to book in your ram testing. Dogs can be vaccinated on farm at the same time.

### Ewe Vaccination

For protection against **Toxoplasmosis** abortion

- Ewe hoggets and two-tooths most susceptible
- 2ml of Toxovax into the muscle of the neck once only
- One injection lasts a lifetime
- At least 4 weeks before teaser introduction if using teasers
- At least 4 weeks before ram introduction if not using teasers
- Given before the end of February
- Consider giving a booster to two-tooths if vaccinated as hoggets

**It is important that you order your vaccine 3-4 weeks in advance of requirement. Toxovax is a live vaccine that has a very short shelf-life (10 days).**

For protection against **Campylobacteriosis** abortion

- Ewe hoggets and two-tooths most susceptible
- Campyvax 4 gives protection against Campylobacter fetus plus C. jejuni
- Campylobacter species account for about 36% of sheep abortions in NZ and C. jejuni is responsible for up to 40% of these abortion cases
- Campyvax 4 - 1ml under the skin in the front half of the neck; require 2 injections 4-8 weeks apart
- We recommend that 2 injections are given pre-mating
- Should give a pre-mating booster to two-tooth ewes if vaccinated as hoggets
- Can be given with Toxovax

### Faceguard for Facial Eczema Protection

We are coming up to that season again, and if the last few years are anything to go by, facial eczema may be upon us earlier than we expect.

Facial eczema is caused by the ingestion of spores from the pasture fungus *Pithomyces chartarum*, which is most prevalent in the leaf litter at the base of the pasture. The fungus proliferates during warm moist conditions coming into autumn in both the North Island and the northern and warmer coastal areas of the South Island. Generally, 2-3 consecutive nights of pasture temperatures around 15-16 degrees Celsius, combined with humidity or light rain creates perfect conditions for the fungus to produce spores which contain the liver toxin Sporidesmin. Most areas will have access to local and regional spore counts. While these can be helpful in alerting to potentially risky conditions in the area, they should always be treated with caution as vast differences may be seen across farms, and even across paddocks on the same farm due to differences in topography and aspect. We will continue to take spore counts from monitor farms in our district this summer but as always these results should be viewed as a trend only. These spores can rapidly reach danger levels that can potentially harm animals grazing that pasture, damaging the liver and leading to serious animal health and welfare issues. The sporidesmin damages the liver, eventually obstructing the vital bile duct system and allowing a build-up of the toxic metabolites which are normally filtered and eliminated from the body. Affected animals show varying degrees of emaciation, ill-thrift, poor reproductive performance and milk production. Phylloerythrin, which is one of the breakdown products of chlorophyll in plants, accumulates after the biliary system shuts down. A build-up of phylloerythrin in the tissues leads to photosensitivity and causes the skin to become inflamed and 'sunburnt', giving the characteristic and graphic skin lesions seen with facial eczema. Zinc has been shown to protect the liver through forming bonds with the sporidesmin, rendering it inactive and incapable of causing bile duct damage. There are a number of ways that zinc can be administered to animals. One of the simplest and most effective of these is administration of an intra-ruminal zinc bolus, such as Faceguard. This is a particularly useful method when grazing young stock away from the home farm where you may not have the opportunity to treat the water supply or drench daily. It's certainly much more convenient. Faceguard zinc boluses have an innovative bolus design offering flexible treatment options depending on the weight of the cattle and the length of the risk period. Only one pack size is required to cover cattle from 90-250kg and top-up treatments may be tailored to fit a longer or shorter season. The first dose of Faceguard will last up to six weeks, which is longer than other zinc bolus products available on the market. The durable design of these boluses ensures that they will not crack or break, even when dropped. This makes them very safe in terms of the potential for toxicity and cost-effective in terms of reduced wastage. Faceguard boluses will completely dissolve over the treatment period, leaving no residues and there is no milk or meat with-holding.

Don't gamble with your animal health this season and get in early with prevention, knowing that if the season turns out to be a long one there is the flexibility to top up as required with Faceguard.



### Selenium Fertiliser Rates

This season almost without exception we have found that selenium levels on farm have been lower than we would prefer going into mating. In some cases we have found genuine selenium deficiency. Most people say they get selenium added to their annual fertiliser and we have tended to believe that an application of selenium in the autumn fertiliser at recommended rates would leave the majority of farms with selenium levels requiring no further supplementation prior to mating.

The key word here is "recommended"

We were always told that 1% selenium prills should be added to the annual fertiliser at 1kg per hectare.

These days many selenium prills are double strength (2%) so the recommended rate would be ½ kg per hectare.

It's very important that you know whether the prills being applied are 1% or 2%.

From what I can find it looks like Ballance use a 1% prill while Ravensdown use a 2% prill.

The next complication seems to be that when the truck arrives they apply your selenium at a rate of 1kg per tonne. That's fine if you are applying your fertiliser at 1 tonne per hectare but if not your rate of selenium applied is immediately below the recommended rate. It can't be that hard surely; if you are fertilising 27 hectares you throw in 27 or 13 ½ kgs of selenium depending on which one you are using.

So, key points here are:

1. Check with your fertiliser company whether they are using 1% or 2% selenium prills
2. Make sure they are adding it to your fertiliser (it used to get added for free but not any more so don't just assume it has been added. Ask)
3. Make sure it is being applied at ½ or 1 kg (1% or 2%) per hectare and not per tonne
4. Get cows bled at least 4 weeks prior to the start of mating to check levels are adequate. The good news is that an injection of B12 + selenium is a relatively easy fix for most farms

If your fertiliser company can't or won't apply selenium at the recommended rates per hectare find one that will. It can't be that hard.