



### KNOCKOUT DRENCHES

With autumn now well upon us and the nights closing in, the autumn larval challenge is just around the corner. Now is the perfect time to be considering a KNOCKOUT drench for the lambs left on your property. By substituting your normal worm drench for one with a novel active (Startect or Zolvix plus) you can reduce the speed at which resistance develops and extend the life of the drenches on your farm.

Early autumn is the perfect time for a

knockout drench as it cleans out the resistant worms that have survived your routine summer drenches. This avoids these resistant worms contributing to the autumn larval flush. Hopefully by now you have finished the majority of your lambs and therefore the number of lambs requiring this drench shouldn't be high. If you still have a lot of lambs on farm, then this knockout drench is arguably even more important.

With the incidence of drench resistance in New Zealand increasing by the day, don't be left wishing you did more to prevent it developing on your property.



### New product



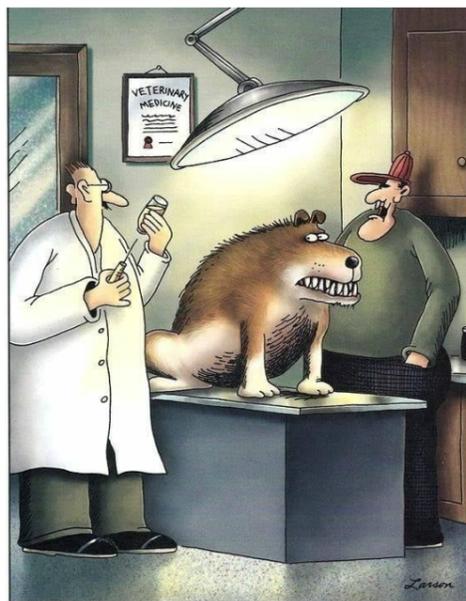
For the first time in NZ the new MARKS-MIN range provides the trace minerals zinc, manganese, selenium

and copper with vitamin B12 in one convenient rapidly absorbed injection.

**MARKS-MIN ZMSC with B12 injection** provides all the essential trace minerals to support growth, reproduction and immune defense, along with the energy from vitamin B12 for optimum health and performance in New Zealand cattle.

Available in 500ml pack.

**MARKS-MIN ZMS with B12 injection** provides essential trace minerals, minus copper, to support growth, reproduction and immune defense, along with the energy from vitamin B12 for optimum health and performance in New Zealand sheep and cattle. Available in 500ml pack.



### Before we start Dry Cow Therapy:



### After:



Like and follow us on Facebook



### APRIL 2021

Welcome to our annual "drying off edition" of the newsletter.

It's that time of year again folks when you're starting to think about your winter holiday on the Gold Coast (bubble permitting) or somewhere more local in case we get locked down again. Wherever you choose to go in our beautiful country or elsewhere let's hope you can actually get away for a while to recharge the batteries & prepare for another season. Talking about preparation, much of this newsletter addresses issues around drying off - a very important date on the dairy farming calendar, which requires a fair bit of planning and preparation if you're going to do it properly.

Here's an interesting fact to get you thinking about how you dry off your cows - Cows that dry themselves off early hardly ever get dry season mastitis. The vast majority of dry season mastitis occurs in cows that were dried off in the last mob on the last day of milking. And, if they were older cows (6 or older) and were still producing over 10L of milk per day at drying off, they're even more at risk, even if they were treated with DCT or a Teat Sealant. Think about that as you start planning your last day of milking this season.

Hopefully, you'll find something in here that will help you do the job successfully. If you want more, there are plenty of terrific online resources to help you with everything from selection to feeding levels (before and after) and application of the products themselves. Dairy NZ has heaps of material on their website. Go to [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz) and simply type "drying off" in the search box to find a huge amount of up-to-date advice and information.

You'll also find a bunch of really good videos and articles at: [www.zoetis.co.nz/livestocksolutions/dairywellness](http://www.zoetis.co.nz/livestocksolutions/dairywellness)

Now we're in April it's also RVM consult time, where we set you up with your Restricted Veterinary Medicines for the new season. As was the case last year, this now requires a consultation, so we'll be ringing you to book in a time either at the clinic or on-farm, depending on what suits you. If you are a proactive sort of person, feel free to get in early and make a booking. You don't have to wait for us to give you a call.

I was chatting to a farm manager this morning who was genuinely surprised to find out that we can't use Mastalone routinely anymore. When I told him that this happened last year and we've been talking about this for the last 3 years (Antimicrobial Resistance, not using so called redlight antibiotics on farm animals & so on) he was equally non-plussed. I suspect he's never seen one of our newsletters. If you have people working on your farms who need to make critical decisions, it might be worth handing them our newsletters from time to time so they can keep up to date. Or encourage them to let us know that we should send them one. It's always good to be informed.

### DRY COW SEASON IS UPON US

To ensure you can pick up your dry cow therapy treatments (DCT) when you require them **please remember to fill in and return your dry cow form well ahead of drying off.** We cannot dispense dry cow treatments before a vet has looked at your form and made a recommendation on the information you have provided. Please try to answer the questions fully. The more information we have the better.

This year we are adding a dry cow treatment release form which you will receive when you get your recommendation form. **This release form must be signed and returned before you can collect any dry cow treatments.**

If you or your workers require more training around dry cow therapy treatment administration please contact the clinic to register your interest. There is also an excellent website with loads of useful information on drying off and administration of DCT and Teatseal.

You'll find it at [www.zoetis.co.nz/dairywellness](http://www.zoetis.co.nz/dairywellness)

If you then click on the "preventing mastitis" tab, then "best practice administration" you'll find a whole bunch of short videos reminding you of the correct technique for putting in DCT and Teatseal.

**Clinic & Farm Supplies**  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Ph . (06) 764 8196  
info@elthamvetservice.co.nz  
**Trading Depot**  
Hollard Engineering,  
Victoria Street, Kaponga  
Ph. (06) 764 6686  
**J Larkin BBS 0274 482 585**  
**D Kidd 0275 479 261**

### Veterinarians

Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO  
Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS  
Jim Robins BVSc, BSc, DipPharm  
Polly Otterson BVSc, MSc,  
Teresa Carr BVSc  
Adrian Clark BVSc  
Lindsay Lash BVSc  
Leon Christensen BVSc  
Michaela Abbott BVSc  
Ash Mellow BVSc  
Lily Chin BVSc

### Office

Joan Hughes Helen Snook  
Jill Watson CVN/RAT  
Michelle Mcleod  
Alex Rowlands



### Proudly NZ owned 10 Year Anniversary Promotional Giveaway

Eprinomectin is the most potent molecule ever developed for worm control in cattle. It's now combined with levamisole to create new **TURBO Pour-on** offering the potency and productivity you would expect from an eprinomectin pour-on with the resistance fighting power of a combination.

Receive a **HIKOKI BRUSHLESS 2 PIECE DRILL AND IMPACT DRIVER KIT WITH 2 X LI-ION BATTERIES & CHARGER** with every 5L of **TURBO Pour-on** purchased (retail value of around \$600)



### Farmers Golf Day Thursday 10th June



Join us at  
Eltham Golf Course  
for a fun day of golf,  
food, drink & great prizes  
as we say goodbye to one  
season and hello to the  
new one.

Entry Fee \$10.00.

Entries limited.

**Entries to the clinic  
by 4th June**

**Ambrose format  
- teams of three**

## SHOULD YOU BE VACCINATING FOR SALMONELLA?

Once upon a time Salmonella was the reason you did not eat your mates chicken kebabs he picked up on sale or, if you were unlucky enough, the reason your vet gave you for the one scouring cow you had. Salmonella is now nearly 4 times more prevalent than in 2013 and on average more likely to affect many in your herd than one off cases. On average an outbreak of the enteric (gut affecting) form of Salmonella will cause 10% of cows to become sick and approximately 1% will die. An outbreak on a 400 cow herd is estimated to cost over \$27,000! Salmonella can also cause huge losses in young stock. Nationally in calves, on average 58% of a mob is affected with 27% dying. Taranaki is a real hotspot for Salmonella, being amongst the highest incidence rates of all of NZ for both the common enteric forms. Salmonella is brought onto the farm by way of 'healthy' carrier animals (cattle or sheep) which are asymptomatic but continue to shed the bacteria into the environment. These animals can shed bacteria for months or even years without detection.

Higher risk practices for the introduction of Salmonella include:

- Off-farm grazing
- Intensive feeding
- Purchasing/leasing stock
- Shared boundaries/stock yards

The strains of Salmonella which affect cattle and sheep will also infect people. Symptoms of a Salmonella outbreak in humans are as expected with severe vomiting and diarrhoea and abdominal cramps. It's an effective (but very unpleasant) way to loose weight! Milking cows that are shedding Salmonella bacteria is obviously risky for human infection as is drinking raw milk from the vat and being in calf sheds with calves with Salmonella.

There is a silver lining to all this doom and gloom though - vaccination is cheap and effective! The use of **Salvexin+B** helps protect against several forms of Salmonella, reduces shedding so reduces spread between stock and reduces risk of infecting your staff or your family. Unvaccinated animals need two shots 4-6 weeks apart. The best time to vaccinate is dry off so if you are interested in salmonella vaccination please contact the clinic today!

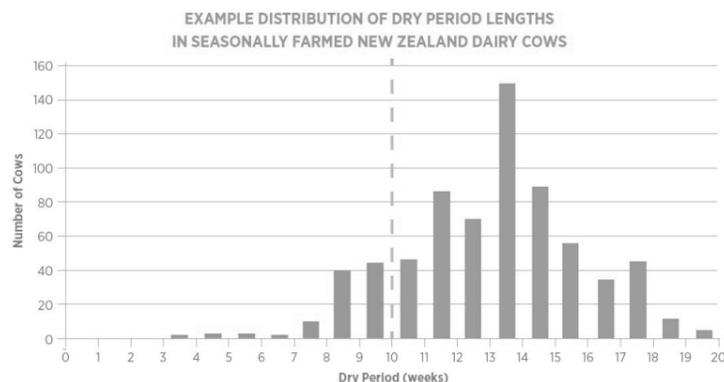
## TEAT SEALING vs DCT

As you will be aware we are being encouraged to decrease our antibiotic usage to try to help stop resistance continuing to develop. NZ dairy farmers' biggest use of antibiotics is Dry Cow Therapy (DCT). The majority of cows on most NZ dairy farms do not have an infection at drying off so the main purpose of dry cow therapy is shifting from cure to prevention. Research has demonstrated that internal teat sealants are at least as effective as antibiotic dry cow therapy at preventing new dry period mastitis infections. The blanket use of antibiotic dry cow therapy, in which all cows in a herd are treated with antibiotic dry cow therapy regardless of their infection status, is therefore becoming difficult to justify. So it makes sense for us to only treat cows that need to receive antibiotics at drying off, ie. those that have had clinical mastitis during the season, or those with a subclinical infection detected at herd test or by rapid mastitis test (RMT).

What do we then do with cows that do not qualify for DCT? The options are to leave them unprotected which is fine if you do not have a problem with pericalving mastitis or plan to graze off or have a crop for winter grazing. For herds with these increased risks teatsealants are a great option.

**Teatsealants are non-antibiotic and form a physical barrier immediately on insertion, blocking the entry of bacteria into the udder throughout the dry period. Teatseal is the only sealant that is proven to last for at least 20 weeks.** Because they last so long in the teat, teatsealants are the best product we can use to help combat a herd mastitis problem that occurs at calving.

Large numbers of cows in New Zealand have dry periods that are longer than the protective period of any dry cow antibiotic. The graph below shows an example distribution of dry period lengths on a New Zealand farm. New Zealand studies have shown an average dry period length of approximately 13 weeks. The dotted line shows the protective period of the longest acting dry cow antibiotic.



**If you think that teatsealants would be appropriate in you herd please contact the clinic to talk to a vet or arrange to have a chat about it with your DCT consult.**

## MANAGEMENT OF COWS AT DRYING OFF

How cows are managed around drying off can have a large impact on udder health during the dry period and in the following lactation. This article provides information that applies to all cows being dried off regardless of the dry cow therapy they receive but also discusses the management of cows being treated with Teatseal®

### General Management Advice

The benefit of dry cow therapy can be undermined by other factors that increase the risk of mastitis. Management practices around drying off should aim to minimise milk leakage and exposure to environmental risk factors (e.g. wet/soiled pasture) in the early dry period, regardless of the dry cow therapy being used. Plan drying off dates well in advance. Allow leeway for bad weather and the recommended stand-down time between drying off and transportation of cows. Avoid drying cows off on the very last day of the season if cows need to be transported or continuity of care may be compromised due to staff changes. Dry cows off in small enough groups to ensure the process is methodical and not rushed. Carefully choose paddocks for cows that have just been dried off (clean, no bare dirt, no lying water).

In the week before drying off:

- Cows that leak milk after drying off have a fourfold higher risk of dry period clinical mastitis. In New Zealand dairy systems, the proportion of cows leaking milk and/or developing new Streptococcus uberis intramammary infections in the early dry period can be reduced by manipulating feed intake in the lead up to drying off.
- Cows producing <10L/day can be dried off immediately without reducing milk yield. For cows producing ≥ 10L/day, reduce intake in the seven days before drying off by 30-50% and remove any concentrates.
- Reducing milking frequency (e.g. changing to once-a-day or skip-a-day milking) has been shown to reduce milk yield but not the incidence of milk leakage or new dry period intramammary infection with Streptococcus uberis on New Zealand dairy farms. So the general advice is that you should not practice skip-a-day milking as it is a risk factor for early dry period mastitis.

### Never withhold water from cows.

### Early dry period management

Avoid drying cows off in wet weather. Do not let cows lie on bare ground or expose them to wet conditions or surfaces contaminated with manure/effluent in the first two weeks of the dry period, especially the first four days. This applies regardless of the farm system since any management system has the potential to expose cows to excessive environmental challenge (e.g. pasture, crop feeding or use of feed pads).

In the first 10-14 days of the dry period, reduce intake to maintenance requirements for cows producing >5L at drying off and avoid transporting cows, since transportation may expose cows to heavier environmental contamination and the cows may be more likely to lie on contaminated surfaces. It is essential that transported cows are not leaking milk.

### Cows Treated With Teatseal

Aside from the dry cow therapy administration protocol, the late lactation and early dry period management of cows dried off with Teatseal is no different to cows not dried off with Teatseal. Teatseal reduces the incidence of new intramammary infections but does not prevent 100% of them. Therefore, farmers should still manage other risk factors for environmental mastitis. Cows can still leak milk in the early dry period even when treated with Teatseal but milk leakage is not thought to affect Teatseal retention, though this has not been formally tested and leakage should still be minimized through careful drying off management.

## COWS THAT PROBABLY SHOULDN'T GET TEATSEALANT ALONE

By far the biggest risk factor for mastitis in cows dried off with teatsealant alone is poor hygiene at insertion. I hope everybody knows that proper training and scrupulous hygiene are fundamental to successful teatsealing. The dairy industry in NZ is under huge pressure from our overseas customers to reduce antibiotic usage and Eltham Vets are committed to helping you negotiate this change. Increasing use of teatsealants is an integral part of this process but not every cow is suitable for teatseal alone.

There are other, less obvious, risk factors:

- Recent change in milking interval – you should wait at least 14 days between going from TAD to 16 hours or OAD and drying off with teatseal alone
- Teat end sores
- Age - cows 6 years and over are more likely to develop mastitis after dry off
- Poor udder conformation – big pendulous udders swinging from side to side and banging on the legs can force out the teatsealant
- Cows giving more than 10L/day production at dry off are more likely to develop mastitis after dry off.

With cows milking so well I can see this being a problem this year.

## No DCT Returns Reminder

A reminder that we no longer accept returns of unused dry cow therapy tubes. Once a product has left the clinic we have no control over how it is looked after or where it has been stored so can't guarantee that it is still fit for use if it is returned. Over the years our relaxed approach to returns has been abused by the few at the expense of many. When we get tubes returned that are wet, dirty and in some cases contaminated by cow shit we are left having to throw them away. I don't imagine any of you would be keen to receive tubes from us that have clearly been elsewhere. And you certainly wouldn't be happy to be charged the same amount as a fresh, unadulterated tube. The days of taking back unused dry cow therapy tubes are over. **Make sure you know how many tubes you need when purchasing your DCT because once it's left the clinic it's not coming back.**