

Investing in better drenches will pay off

With the favourable conditions this season has presented us with, many dairy farmers find themselves in the enviable position of drying off cattle in good body condition score (BCS). It is well established that BCS at calving is a vital influencer of milk production and reproductive performance in dairy cattle over the next season. Research has shown a cow that calves at BCS 5 will on average produce 15kg more milk solids and cycle 8 to 10 days earlier than a cow that calves at BCS 4. Good news for next season for the majority of farmers.

Unfortunately, the warm autumn has also been favourable to gut parasites meaning this year has seen high levels of challenge on pasture. Given the fact parasite numbers during autumn are often higher than at any other time of the year, appropriate drenching has a potentially critical role to play in order to maximise production next season. Eliminating parasites now ensures cows are able to use all available energy resources for foetal development and can also help them maintain body condition throughout the dry period. This is the primary aim of a drench at dry-off as there is minimal evidence that drenching at drying-off significantly increases milk production the following season. For this reason, we would recommend treating with **GENESIS®** or **REFLEX Pour-on** at this time of year. Gut parasites along with sucking and biting lice will be eliminated over the dry period with relatively little expense.

A drench at calving time is a different story. The aim of a drench at calving time is to maximise production and reproductive performance for the whole season. This is the time when money is better spent on **EPRINEX®**. This is because EPRINEX is the only drench in New Zealand that has shown in independent scientific research (not done by the drug company itself) to significantly increase milk solids for the whole season following one treatment and to improve reproductive performance. When just taking into consideration the increased milk production over one season following one drench with EPRINEX, the average farm could expect a net return of approximately \$50/head. CYDECTIN has only ever been able to show about half of this return and has no evidence that reproduction is improved. The other drenches that contain abamectin such as GENESIS® pour-on have no evidence that they can increase milk production or reproduction.

EPRINEX is unique as it is the only endectocide specifically formulated for use in adult dairy cattle and is a smart animal health investment at the right time of year with returns over the whole season and into the next.



Like Eprinex Icebreaker provides an extra layer of protection.
 Receive an Icebreaker Merino T with 2 x 5L Eprinex
 Receive an Icebreaker Long Sleeve half-zip + Explore Hat with 20L Eprinex



WIN 1 OF 2 \$1,000 TRAVEL VOUCHERS



Every \$500 spent on Alleva or Boehringer drenches between 1st March & 30th June qualifies for entry in draw
 Deferred Payment terms available



Think before you open your mouth

Wife: I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate

Husband: why not just throw them in the trash? That's a lot less hassle

Wife: but there are starving people who could really use these clothes

Husband: honey, if they can fit into your clothes, they're not starving

The husband is in hospital recovering from a severe head injury...



Like and follow us on Facebook



JUNE 2019

If anyone ever tells you it will be straightforward earthquake-strengthening a 120-year-old listed historic building, don't believe them. However, we've done it now and hopefully we've secured the future of the old courthouse for years to come and future-proofed it as the home of this vet practice for the next 50 years.

We hope you like what we've done and if you ever find yourself in the vicinity of the vet practice during a major earthquake, get inside because it will be the safest place to be in this town. You may be interested to note that as a result of this work the South Taranaki District Council have granted us 3 years rates relief and stumped up a few thousand dollars towards other costs so it's nice to know your rates dollars are being filtered back into the local economy.

Did you see that The Rugby channel is going to be unlocked in the next month & become part of your regular Sky Sports package? Brilliant; yet another reason to not get anything done at home. What a shame they don't have the World Cup though. I'm still tossing up whether to get the Spark package. With the new TV down in reception we're going to record matches on Duke & then replay them during the day so if you haven't seen a match and suddenly need to "pop into the clinic to pick something up" you'll need to come up with a convincing reason why it took you 2 hours to get a bag of Glucalpos.....

So, a new season beckons and we're gearing up for another spring. Your RVM authorities (annual prescriptions) for the 2019/20 season should have arrived by now and as always please take a look at them and get in touch if something doesn't look right – it wouldn't be the first time I've missed something out or got the numbers wrong so I rely on you to let me know if I need to fix anything. Welcome to new arrivals. By the time you receive this we should have made contact. If we haven't please call in and say giddyay and we'll get you sorted.

Keep those Vet Sheets! Recognise this?



You should. They come from those little green booklets that all the vets carry with them. Whenever a vet treats an animal or prescribes something for you to give it on the farm, he or she will leave you one of these treatment record sheets.

These are for things that wouldn't usually be on your annual prescription. You are supposed to keep these and file them safely so when you have your shed audit, the auditor can reconcile your drug treatment records by cross-referencing with your annual RVM authority (prescription) and these individual treatment record sheets.

We are getting too many clients ringing up in a panic after an audit asking us to put drugs that were clearly prescribed & dispensed using these individual sheets onto their annual prescription because they have lost the piece of paper the vet gave them. Remember these sheets are generally for stuff that wouldn't normally be on your

annual script because they were "Vet Only" drugs, or something you wouldn't use routinely. If the vet hasn't given you one of these sheets after a visit please make sure they do. Insist if you have to. If we can provide a copy of the sheet you were given and subsequently lost, then the auditor will probably reprimand you and give you a corrective action, ask to see that copy and remind you that you need to file these record sheets away and produce them at audit. We shouldn't be bailing you out by having to throw bottles of Engemycin, Draxxin or Exceed LA onto your annual script. That's not what your annual script is for. That's what those pieces of paper we gave you at the time we visited are for.

If we need to go back and dig up the vet's copy of those sheets to satisfy your audit, we will have to charge you for the time involved in doing so.

So, please hang onto them. Your auditor will thank you for it. And so will we.

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
 Andrew Weir BVSc, PGDip,PhD
 Jim Robins BVSc,BSc,DipPharm
 Polly Otterson BVSc,MSc,
 Teresa Carr BVSc
 Adrian Clark BVSc
 Lindsay Lash BVSc
 Leon Christensen BVSc
 Erika Pieper BVSc
 Michaela Abbott BVSc

Office

Joan Hughes Sue Morresey
 Jill Watson CVN/RAT
 Nicola Childs CVN/RAT
 Helen Snook Lisa Bartley



Jacob Pranker won the TV in this years Face-Guard promotion

Control Calf Scours before they control your life

As we approach another calving, it's worth reflecting on one of the challenges of rearing calves. Scours is something most dairy farmers have experienced at some stage, and anybody that has been through the unpleasant experience of a severe outbreak will know it is one of the worst experiences in farming. And it can happen to anybody – even the most careful farmers have experienced a scours outbreak.

For the first month of life, calves that encounter high levels of “bugs” (viruses, bacteria or protozoa such as rotavirus, coronavirus, *E. coli* or cryptosporidium) have an increased chance of going on to develop scours. With about 70% of farms positive for rotavirus alone, it's quite likely they will come into contact with at least some of these bugs.

When calf scours occur “damage control” is about all you can do in the midst of an outbreak, so it makes sense to focus on prevention. Good hygiene and facilities will help to limit the number of bugs calves are exposed to, but it's just as important that calves have good immunity to cope with what bugs they do encounter.

The most important factor in calf immunity is ensuring that calves receive timely, adequate, good quality colostrum containing important antibodies for protecting calves against common causes of calf scours such as rotavirus, coronavirus and *E. coli*.

Colostrum produced in the first milking contains the highest levels of protective antibodies. The milk from the following milkings until the cows join the milking herd, is called transition milk. Of course, this is still fed to growing calves, but it doesn't have the same level of antibodies and it should be stored separately from the ‘gold’, first milking colostrum.

Suckling on the dam cannot always be relied on to deliver the volumes and quality of colostrum that the calf needs, and it may be necessary to supplement this by additional feeding of colostrum in the first 24 hours of life. Every new-born calf should receive at least two 2-litre feeds of high-grade colostrum within its first 12-24 hours of life. This can be fed either via tube or teat, but tube is often less wasteful and ensures the calf gets the right quantity, quickly. The ability of calves to absorb the antibodies in colostrum declines very quickly during the first day of life. At 24 hours after birth they will no longer be absorbed, so those first hours are crucial.

The use of a Brix refractometer can be a useful tool for monitoring colostrum quality objectively. It's a simple and inexpensive tool, and an easy way to ensure the colostrum being fed is good enough. It takes only a few seconds to take a reading and it's easy to see whether a batch is above the 22 percent Brix threshold for Grade 1 colostrum or not.

To ensure that this colostrum gives the best protection against calf scours you can vaccinate the herd with a quality vaccine such as Rotavec® Corona or Scourguard. These vaccines stimulate the cows to produce extra antibodies to rotavirus, coronavirus and *E. coli* which are passed via the colostrum to calves. This provides far greater immunity to calves, increasing their chances of dealing with these common causes of calf scours in the first few weeks of life.

All cows and heifers should be vaccinated within 3 to 12 weeks of calving. The protocol is slightly different depending which vaccine you use but the principle is the same; boosting colostral immunity a few weeks before calving. Those animals then receive pre-calving booster shot in subsequent years.

In conjunction with good hygiene, housing and colostrum management, Rotavec Corona or Scourguard will significantly increase the protection your calves have against the major causes of scours. Talk to us about vaccinating to maximise your calf health and income and reduce the stress on you and your family.

Multimin in New-Born Calves



Last spring we introduced the idea of giving new-born calves an injection of Multimin on the day they came into the shed to reduce overall rates of sickness by nearly half.

That was based on early NZ trial data that showed the benefit to calves treated within the first 24 hours of life, despite their dams having access to mineralised water supplement prior to calving. Sickness and death rates due to diseases such as scours, navel ill or pneumonia were almost halved in supplemented calves. The primary effect on these results was from improved immunity associated with optimising the specific elements in Multimin® + Cu.

A number of our clients took up the challenge & when we contacted them about how it went it was almost unanimous that they would all definitely do it again this spring. Our results are of course anecdotal; we didn't run a trial. But we didn't have to because that trial was done for us last season in New Zealand and the results published in April this year.

They also found that sickness and death rates due to scours, navel infections and other diseases were halved. At around 80 cents per calf for an injection that seems like a pretty smart investment.

We've included a brochure with this newsletter. Take a look at it and if you're keen to try it, give us a call.

Local Anaesthetic for Disbudding Training

New rules around disbudding calves are coming into force this year. From 1st October 2019 Regulations 57 and 58 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 (relating to disbudding and dehorning of cattle beasts) require any cattle beast to be under the influence of an appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic throughout the disbudding/dehorning procedure.

We will be able to add local anaesthetic onto your RVM so you can purchase it for calf disbudding. As with all Restricted Veterinary Medicines we need to be certain those using it to disbud calves are doing it correctly.

We will be running training sessions this spring to train farmers and their workers in the correct use of local anaesthetic. This will involve an in-clinic theory training session and then an on-farm practical component. Please register your interest with the clinic reception



Tri-Solfen: A New Pain Relief for Disbudding

A new topical local anaesthetic and antiseptic gel spray has been released which can be used after disbudding with injectable local anaesthetic to provide longer lasting pain relief. It contains four active ingredients which offer three main benefits:

- 1) Pain relief: Lignocaine – works quickly
Bupivacaine – lasts longer
- 2) Haemorrhage control: Adrenaline restricts blood flow which helps minimise bleeding and prolong anaesthetic action
- 3) Antisepsis: Antiseptic to cleanse wounds and provide protection from bacterial contamination, thus facilitating wound healing

A New Zealand trial last spring used video footage to observe head shaking and ear flicking over the first 24 hours as a measure of pain after calf disbudding. This trial showed a 43% reduction in the rate of head shakes at 22 hours and 46% reduction in ear flicks when Tri-Solfen was used in combination with local anaesthetic in crate disbudding compared with local anaesthetic only. When calves were sedated as well, there was an 85% reduction in head shakes and 79% reduction in ear flicks compared with local anaesthetic only. These calves also put on an average of 1.68kg extra weight over 28 days following disbudding compared to the local only crate-control group.

Under the new disbudding regulations coming into force on October 1st all calves must receive an effective local anaesthetic before being disbudded. Tri-Solfen can be used as well as, not instead of, injectable local anaesthetic to provide calves with longer lasting pain relief. As Tri-Solfen is a Restricted Veterinary Medicine (RVM), talk to your vet if you would like it added to your RVM list.



Spring First Aid Seminar Thursday 11th July 9.30am-3.30pm

Spring First Aid topics include:

- Calving and related conditions
- Metabolics eg. milkfever and grass staggers
- Sick & downer cows
- Calf care and sick calves
- General procedures including injections, stomach tubing and drenching

This seminar is targeted at new entrants to dairy farming and anyone wishing to brush up on their knowledge. Cost is \$150. Please ring the clinic now to register.

