



Eltham Vet Services

MAY 2014

I'm confused - The Hurricanes are finally playing some decent rugby just as we are told we are supposed to be Chiefs supporters. My heart lies with the Hurricanes but I also know that they will probably flirt with me, tease me & get me all excited & then let me down badly while The Chiefs, while less sexy are more reliable & less likely to break my heart. What to do?

It's the same with eczema this season; it's not sexy at all but totally unreliable & unpredictable. Every time I've thought I could pick what was happening I found I was wrong & the recent rains coupled with continuing warm weather (at the time of writing) means the threat is still there. Mind you by the time this goes to press it will probably have snowed, spore counts will plummet & I'll be made to look a fool once again. I reckon from your perspective, whatever I recommend with regard to eczema this season, do the opposite.

You may also be wondering "when is that new building at the clinic going to be finished"? Me too. It was supposed to be finished in March & was on track right up until the end date & then it's just dragged on indefinitely. We have been waiting for the parking areas to be sealed and ironically that's been delayed by the weather. Given that we had perfect weather for months during this project but couldn't get contractors to come & finish the job because the councils had them all tied up sealing roads endlessly, completion has become a source of increasing frustration. However it will be finished soon (he says with fingers crossed) & when it does we will have an open day so you can all come in and take a peek.

On the clinic front by the time you get this young Jimmy will be away on a 2 month sabbatical following in the footsteps of Dan Carter & Ritchie McCaw and will be back early July after surfing his way around South America. Good luck Jimmy & take care! I will also be away in June & July on a big trip with my wife seeing family & friends overseas so while I'm away Adrian will be sitting in for me with the support & assistance of Joan (who let's face it is the real boss anyway) & the other senior vets. Go easy on him; he's just filling in!

Before he went away Jimmy stumbled upon a case of Digital Dermatitis in one of our herds. This is the disease Neil Chesterton from Inglewood was warning us about last year in the Thursday Farmer & other rural publications. Jimmy has written a good article on this new disease. I urge you to have a read. Finally, dry cow season is upon us. Thanks to the vast majority who fill in their forms & get them back to us with sufficient time to actually read them, think about them & make a considered recommendation. To those of you who drop or fax the form in the morning expecting to get your product in the afternoon, or even worse turn up with form in hand expecting product then & there - thanks a bunch; you really make our task so much easier by forcing us to make a rushed decision without time to have a decent think

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Victoria Street, Kaponga
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Lindsay Lash BVSc
James Bruce BVSc
Leon Christensen BVSc

Office

Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS

Our Terms of Trade

include payment of account by 20th of the following month. Interest will be charged on all overdue balances unless arrangements for deferred payments have been made with our Office Manager. Payments can be made by **Direct Debit** - please contact the office and a form will be



Special Day for former Chairman

Congratulations to our former chairman, Alistair Abbott, who was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace recently at the Hawera District Court. Current & former board members along with senior management from the Vet Clinic were in attendance to see "Abbo" take the oath in front of very proud family



Farmers Golf Day at Eltham Golf Club Thursday 5th June

Entry Fee \$10.00. Entries limited.

Entries to the clinic by 29th May

Note - new Ambrose format;

New Cefamaster Easi-dose system - it's the future

Have you seen the Cefamaster Easi-dose applicator on the counter along with the little video clip running on the TV? If not and you're a Cefamaster user, next time you're in take a look & have a play with it. This system spells the end of "Dry Cow thumb disease"; you know what I'm talking about. Initially it looks a bit scary & so far most people have said "I'll stick with the tubes thanks". But actually it's really easy & comfortable to use & pretty soon we're going to run out of tubes & there will be no more because there's a shortage this year so you will have no choice but to use the strips instead. One of the things putting people off initially was the price (45 cents per tube more expensive than the traditional tube) & we think that Merial probably got that wrong so we've decided to make it easier for you by biting the bullet & dropping the price of the strips down to the same as the tubes. That way you will be encouraged to give it a go & won't be penalised if we've run out of tubes. Ironically we believe that once you've used the applicator you won't ever want to go back to tubes anyway so this season you win either way.

Look forward to another year of healthy calves

Last season we faced a unique situation due to a delayed supply of calf scours vaccine that caused a market wide shortage. Zoetis was able to supply a large volume of ScourGuard® 4(K) at very short notice to fill much of the market requirement over the short seasonal period.

As a result, many of you will have used ScourGuard 4(K) for the first time and will be enjoying the benefits of broad spectrum protection from scours and fewer, if any, lumps on your cows.

This season the benefits continue as you start to save using this cost effective scour vaccine. Your previously vaccinated cows will require only one shot of ScourGuard 4(K) regardless of whether they were vaccinated with ScourGuard 4(K) or Rotavec Corona®*.

Previously unvaccinated heifers / cows require two shots of ScourGuard 4(K), followed by a single annual booster. Due to flexible vaccination intervals the first shot could be administered up to 9 weeks prior to the second shot. This would allow the first shot to be administered at dry off and the second up to 2 weeks before planned start of calving. For further clarification please discuss with your vet.

Booster vaccinations are given 2-12 weeks before calving. In seasonal calving systems, a booster given 2 weeks before the planned start of calving will cover all calves born in the first 10 weeks of calving.

Contact us today about how you can have another great year with healthy calves, fewer lumps and more money in your pocket.

For more information please contact us or visit www.scourguard.co.nz

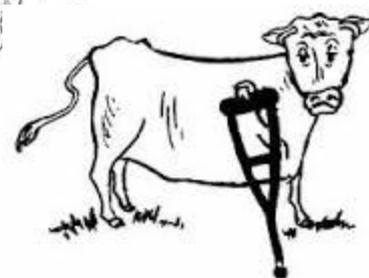
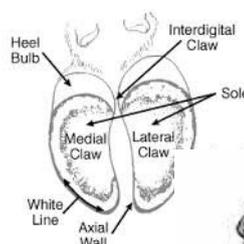
Lameness Seminar

We are running our popular lameness seminar again **Wednesday the 14th of May.**

This seminar is targeted at the person/s milking the dairy herd and in particular those responsible for treating lame cows. It would be an ideal opportunity for new and/or inexperienced farm workers to learn the aspects of lameness treatment and prevention in a small-group situation.

The seminar will include:

- Costs of lameness
- Hoof anatomy, weight distribution and locomotion
- Examining the foot – practical session
- Diseases of the foot and how to treat them
- Management of the lame cow
- Bull lameness
- Applying cow slips
- Prevention of lameness – including an on farm practical session.
 - Race construction, maintenance and problems
 - Shed, farmer and dog influence on lameness
 - Footbaths and footmats



Bring your knives with you and we will sharpen them for you.

Bulk Tank BVD Reminder

The results are in. Spending money on BVD control is, on average, much more cost effective than ignoring BVD.

Bulk tank testing is a simple and important part of any control strategy and we strongly recommend everyone to do bulk tank BVD testing every year - even if you do nothing else about BVD.

It's time to book your bulk tank testing for next season.

If you book through us, the testing costs you the same as LIC and we provide a detailed report for no extra charge.

If you book direct with LIC we can still provide our more detailed report but will charge you for it.

If you haven't signed up with us for repeat annual bulk tank testing **give us a ring and book it in now** for next season.

If you have booked with us for next season, don't book direct with LIC as well - you could end up being charged twice. Tell your LIC rep it's already sorted when they ask.

Theileria Update & Reminder

From our point of view there is nothing to update with regards to this tick-borne disease. Other than one case late last year we haven't seen a thing. However the disease continues to cause problems in the far North & has maintained its spread down the North Island & is becoming well established in the Waikato & King Country.

So from our point of view it's welcome to stay there. To help keep it that way this is a reminder to make sure all stock away grazing that are due to come home in the next month or two from areas outside of our region (including Waverley/Patea & North Taranaki) is treated with Flumethrin or Bayticol before they come home. This will also apply to pregnant cows at winter grazing. Make sure they get treated before they come home to calve.

An old Italian gentleman lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was difficult work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:



***Dear Vincent,** I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I am just getting too old to be able to dig up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. Love Papa. A few days later he received a letter from his son.*

***Dear Papa,** Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Love, Vinnie.*

At 4 am the next morning FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

New Format for Golf Day

Due to many requests & suggestions at previous golf days we have taken your advice on board & this year's golf day will be an Ambrose tournament.

For those of you who don't know how that works, here's a basic run-down on how our day will work after recent discussions with the good folks at the Eltham Golf Club.

We will be registering teams of 3 people with two teams of 3 teeing off together ie. 6 people teeing off (this way there is some friendly competition between teams on each hole; if there are 6 of you wanting to play together just split up into teams of 3). After you all tee off each team then plays their shot from the best tee shot out of the 3. You continue that way to the green (i.e. after each shot you all play from the best shot - that way if one of you fluffs a shot you just pick up your ball & go to where your more skilled team member put his or her ball). Once you're on the green you all putt until the ball is in the hole (if the 1st person sinks his or her putt & it can't be bettered that's the end of that hole).

This format allows for quicker play and is less stressful for those folks who can get a bit wayward. And it's lots of fun!

Prizes will be awarded to teams rather than individuals so we will be grouping prizes in lots of 3 other than for the longest drive & nearest the pin, etc. There will be no separate ladies or men's prizes as this is a team event & it's up to you how you put your team together.

Everything tends to get done quicker so we won't need to make anyone tee off at sparrow's fart & most likely will send groups away at 8-10 minute intervals from about 10.30.

There are a few more intricate rules (like each person's tee shot must be used at least twice during



Last month, a world-wide telephone survey was conducted by the UN.

The only question asked was:-

Would you please give your honest opinion about possible solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a complete failure because:

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.

In the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

And in Australia, New Zealand and Britain everyone hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent.

Digital Dermatitis alert!!

Digital Dermatitis is an infection of the foot caused by bacteria called *Trepanomes*. The disease has been dramatically increasing in incidence in New Zealand over the last 2 years. Recently the second herd in the Eltham area has been diagnosed with the disease.

Digital Dermatitis first early lesion looks like a raw sore (maybe greyish) at the back of the foot (usually the rear feet) between the heels as you can see in the photos. At this stage the sore stings, and the cow or heifer when standing, does not want to put the foot down firmly. She may not be too lame walking - it is more obvious when standing still. With time, the dermatitis lesion hardens up and is less painful, but the cow remains a carrier for some time and so a source of infection to other cows. It can spread from introduced cows and potentially from infected hoof-paring gear, etc. The disease usually spreads from cow to cow through the paddock, races and feed pads, particularly in muddy conditions. On the farm with the latest diagnosis of Digital Dermatitis the original case was found due to the cow being lame. Lameness guru, Neil Chesterton, investigated the whole herd during milking (through high pressure washing of the feet plus the aid of a torch) and it was found that 10% of the herd had lesions!!

Neil said he had been called 11 times in the past 2 weeks by vets around the country after having made new diagnosis of the disease so it is definitely becoming quite an issue. Neil mentioned that he has seen the serious effects of Digital Dermatitis in pasture-based herds in Chile. It is spreading rapidly there, causing not only pain and non-healing lameness but lowered production and serious infertility in some affected cows.

Once it establishes in a herd, it seems it is impossible to get rid of. Fortunately the disease can be effectively controlled (and potentially prevented) by regular **effective footbathing**. Foot mats only touch the soles of the hooves. We have notes available at the clinic or by e-mail for effective footbath design from Neil Chesterton which is also available on his website www.lamecow.co.nz along with other handy lameness prevention information. The disease has most likely been underdiagnosed, particularly as some people may think the lesion looks like Footrot and the fact that both will respond well to antibiotics. With Digital Dermatitis the swelling is not as severe as with Footrot where typically the whole foot (front and back above hooves) is swollen plus Digital Dermatitis is more likely to be towards the bulb of the heel. If you



Fresh lesion



More chronic case



Chronic severe lesion

Rotokare Cull Cow & Stock Fundraiser

The Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust is a community-owned charitable Trust, closely linked to the farming community. The trust has successfully established a 230ha pest-proof ecological sanctuary 12km's east of Eltham, and is developing a rural orientated fundraising initiative. "We wish to invite our farming community to help support the ongoing project, and contribute to securing the future of this community asset for future generations".

This fund will support the ongoing running of the sanctuary operation, including an established kiwi project, facilities maintenance, and environmental education. Current projects include the return of saddleback well over 100 years after Taranaki extinction, and the Rotokare Halo Project – creating a trapping project to protect upwards of 2,000ha of farmland.

If you wish to know more, please contact:

Steve Kane: Rotokare Trustee & Dairy Farmer 06 764 8764
Murray Prankerd: Rotokare Trustee & Dairy Farmer 06 764 8234
Joe Menzies: Rotokare Trustee & Dry-stock Farmer 06 764 5068



VACCINATIONS DUE NOW!!
All lepto vaccinations — herd, incalf heifers and last years calves should now be up to date with calves having received two shots four weeks apart.
Give the office a call if any of your animals have been missed or as soon as



Chat to John for recommendations for

