



Eltham Vet Services

APRIL 2015

If you were looking forward to a long rant from me in this newsletter you're out of luck (or in luck if you weren't - and let's face it that's probably most of you) because Joan has deliberately given me very little room to write anything meaningful.

Just a few things: if you're about to dry off & haven't filled in your Dry Cow Form, please do so & give us a few days at the very least to take a look at your mastitis story & make a recommendation; it may simply rubber-stamp what you wanted to do anyway but we do need to have a consult with you to prescribe DCT & this is the easiest method for everyone so please do your part. Many of you tick the box saying you're prepared to give us 3rd party access to your milk production & quality records on Fencepost (now known as nzfarmsource) but often that's where it ends. If you are willing to give us access then please do so through your [nzfarmsource](#) account. **Go to Farm Business & then the settings button on the far right. The drop down menu will give you the option of assigning 3rd party access so click on that & then start typing in Elthamvets & it should come up as an existing user. Click continue & give us access to production & quality - that's all we want to see. That's it done. Easy!**

Helping with Animal Welfare Compliance

Animal welfare is a hot topic. Some of our big overseas customers like Nestle are now including on farm animal welfare audits in their contracts with Fonterra.

So how confident are you that your farm complies with recent changes to the animal welfare legislation?

On **May 12th** EDVS are running an animal welfare seminar at the clinic. By the end of it you will be familiar with the current animal welfare regulations. These days compliance isn't just about doing things right but also being *seen* to do things right. So part of the seminar will be drafting your own policies for bobby calves, lame cows and tail docking to satisfy animal welfare auditors who may come to your farm.

There will be an optional extra practical session on the use of captive bolt guns.

The seminar is from 9.00 to 11.30 with a break at 10.00 for morning tea. The captive bolt session will follow straight on at 11.30.



Farmers Golf Day at Eltham Golf Club Thursday 4th June

En- try Fee \$10.00. Entries limited.

Entries to the clinic by 29th May

Ambrose format—teams of three

Guest speaker (after dinner) - Dick Taylor

Clinic & Farm Supplies

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www.elthamvetservice.co.nz

Trading Depot

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Office

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Prescription Sheets - You Need One!

How many of you have had a shed inspection this year?

If so, how many of you had the inspector rummaging through your cupboard looking for stray bottles of drugs & then wanting to see them accounted for either on your annual RVM authority or on a veterinary treatment & prescription form?

If it's on your annual authority then it's fine. If we have treated an animal on your farm with a specific drug that wouldn't normally be part of your drug stocks or maybe it was prescribed to you over the counter after a consult with a vet about a particular animal then that drug should be accompanied by a piece of paper.

Namely, one of those tear off sheets from our little green booklets. These are Veterinary Treatment & Prescription Forms & we should be giving you one of these every time we treat an animal with a restricted animal remedy.

If we don't it can become a problem at audit time. Now I know some of you take those forms & put them in the top pocket of your overalls from where they never return (or go through the wash multiple times & are destroyed). If that happens we will have a carbon copy still on our pads as proof if the auditor wants to dig deeper.

However sometimes vets can get a little slack & "forget" to write you one. If that happens, please gently remind your vet that you actually need one & if that doesn't work then demand one from him or her. You have my permission to threaten them.

I know we can get a bit grumpy at times but it is a requirement so don't let us get away with it. Demand one.

DRYING OFF MANAGEMENT

Dry cow therapy (DCT) is a significant investment in your herd so we have put together a few pointers below to help you get the most out of it. For further information, there is an Administration Guide available from the clinic or from www.dairywellness.co.nz. This website also has a video demonstrating how to administer dry cow therapy and Teatseal® tubes correctly and a short online training course with a certificate which is suitable for anyone who will be administering dry cow therapy or Teatseal.

PREPARATION

Recommendations for a DCT programme suitable for your herd will be made during your Milk Quality consult.

Also, check out the new SmartSAMM tools on www.smartsamm.co.nz to see what your best options are.

Once the programme is established, it is wise to get all product on farm ready to be used when required. You will need to make sure to have plenty of gloves, paper towels, teat wipes, teat spray and spray paint.

Groups of cows should be selected for dry off based on milk volumes, SCC, body condition score, and calving date. Guidelines around this can be found in the SmartSAMM plan, or can be discussed with one of the vet team.

DRYING OFF

It is important to make sure you have plenty of help on hand and plenty of time to do the job properly. If it is cold, the intramammary products can sometimes be harder to administer. If this is happening, the bucket of tubes can be placed in a larger bucket of hot water to gently warm the syringes without getting them wet. **Do not put the syringes directly into the water** because water can carry bacteria which may cause infection if transferred into the udder on the syringe.



The udder should be clean and dry. Disinfect the teat end using **at least one teat wipe per teat**; making sure the wipe comes away clean when you are finished. When removing the cap from the dry cow syringe, be sure not to touch the end of the nozzle (and don't use your mouth!). **Partially** insert the nozzle into the teat end up to 3mm and infuse the product (full insertion can damage the delicate inner lining of the teat and reduce effectiveness). If using an antibiotic, massage it from the teat up into the udder. If using Teatseal in combination or alone it must NOT be massaged into the udder, but must stay in the teat canal. Disinfect and treat one teat at a time, starting with the front left teat and working clockwise round the udder. Treat all four quarters and follow with freshly mixed teat spray of the correct concentration. Immediately after treatment, mark each cow and record her id number and treatment given.

AFTER TREATMENT

Once the mob has been treated and clearly identified they should be walked quietly back to a clean paddock, preferably away from the milking shed and the milking mob. The cows should have access to water and a maintenance ration. Avoid activity that may encourage excessive soiling or movement of the udder during the dry period. The dried off mob should be checked daily for the first week or so for any swollen udders that may need investigating. It is best to keep the treated mob away from the dairy shed for the first week to avoid milk let down which can slow down the process of udder dry off and affect the teat plug formation.

On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon.

His first words after stepping on the moon, that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind, 'were televised to earth and heard by millions.

Just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark Good Luck, Mr Gorsky."

Many people at Nasa thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival soviet cosmonaut.

However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs.

Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the - 'Good Luck, Mr Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question about Mr Gorsky to Armstrong. This time he finally responded, because Mr Gorsky had died,

Armstrong felt he could now answer the question. Here is the answer to Who was Mr Gorsky?"

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard.

His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard, by their bedroom window.

His neighbours were Mr and Mrs Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs Gorsky shouting at Mr Gorsky,

Sex! You want sex?!

You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

It broke the place up.

Neil Armstrong's family confirmed this is a true story.



Theileria & Stock Movement this Autumn

Has anyone thought about what they are going to do with regard to Theileria when they send stock away grazing soon? Or when their heifers come home from grazing in May?

Some have asked & to be fair there is no absolute answer. Taranaki is now classed as an “Unstable Area” which means we have cases of Theileria & are likely to get more but tick populations fluctuate so spread of the disease is very hard to predict.

On the front page of our website I’ve put a box called “Theileria News” which contains links to various websites & articles. There are two links to DairyNZ pages on general information about the disease and stock movement this autumn. Franklin Vets have seen a lot of cases in their area and their website has a lot of good information on it. The last one is from the NZ Vet Association breaking down the different areas of NZ with regard to Theileria risk & some helpful advice.

So go to our website: www.elthamvetservices.co.nz & click on the links.

The key points on the last link for our area (unstable) are:

Unstable:

- Animals may become infected depending on tick presence and activity (which will vary from year to year).
- Equilibrium is not established. Characterised by sporadic, prolonged outbreaks, with variable impacts.
- New disease cases will occur in adults as well as calves. Overall, may get more disease than in endemically stable areas.
- Predictability of disease is relatively low.

In “Stable” areas (basically everywhere North of about Tirau) vets now are so confident that everyone will be infected they actually encourage infection of stock while they are young so they develop immunity before they become pregnant. It’s hard to make that same recommendation here even if there is a farm reasonably close to you with Theileria and a known tick population.

At this stage our advice is still to treat stock moving out of the area with a tickicide (Bayticol or Flumethrin) before they leave and to treat all animals returning from grazing with the same products in the week before they leave. Tickicide lasts for 2-3 weeks if applied properly along the full length of the animal. This is not a guaranteed prevention. It only takes one bite from one infected tick to transmit infection. Remember even if you bring infected animals home they can’t give it to the rest of the herd unless there are ticks present to spread it.

For anybody wanting to know the status of their herd or cows they are buying we can do a pooled test on 20 blood samples. This helps to determine the risk to your herd of bringing in infected cows.

If you want more personalised advice based on where your stock may be heading it’s probably best to pick up the phone & speak to us because each situation is different.



Kennel Cough - not to be sneezed at

This summer we have seen a significant number of trial dogs afflicted with kennel cough. This respiratory disease is caused by a number of organisms (known in the trade as “multi-factorial” cause) including viruses and bacteria & just like the common cold is very contagious.

It produces a distinctive cough - a “goose honk” and in most cases that’s all it causes. Like the common cold it eventually goes away but can be quite debilitating while it’s there & every now and then it can become a very serious condition when it gets down onto the lungs, like it did for a couple of dogs we treated this summer.

It’s called kennel cough for obvious reasons. It’s contagious & spreads quickly when dogs are close together i.e. in kennels & that’s why boarding kennel owners are so paranoid about your dog being vaccinated before they will accept it; no-one wants to take home a honking dog after their holidays & it’s always the kennel owner who cops the blame.

The cases we’ve seen this summer have nearly all come from dog trials. It’s just like kennels really - lots of excited barking dogs in close proximity to each other for a few days & it spreads very easily between them. In this case clearly someone had brought in a dog carrying kennel cough & spread it to our clients’ dogs.

No More Mamyzin

For those of you who use Mamyzin (either 5g or 10g) please be aware that this product is being discontinued. Once existing stocks run out there will be no more Mamyzin available. Fortunately there is an alternative by the name of Penethaject. It’s the same thing, just in a different bottle from a

VACCINATIONS DUE!!

All leptospirosis vaccinations — herd, incalf heifers and last year’s 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 your heifers return from grazing.

How you feed your calf can influence its future potential as a milk producer

There is acceptance in the industry that too many heifers enter the herd below target weight, and this has a negative impact on both milk production and reproduction. While there has been renewed focus recently on heifer rearing, the importance of the milk-rearing phase is not widely recognised.

Author; Mark Gilmour BVSc.



The Queen of Calves™ program has undergone some major developments in recent times. Recent research has been published which lends weight to its efficacy.

What benefits have been measured?

A trial at Massey University followed 3 groups of calves through calf rearing to the end of their first lactation. The calves receiving Queen of Calves weaned earlier and had a 12% higher milk yield as 2 year olds than the untreated group. The trial results were peer reviewed and published in the Journal of Dairy Science in 2013.

AgResearch Trial 2013

A common observation from farmers using Queen of Calves is that their calves appeared content for longer after feeding. Using ultrasound, researchers at AgResearch were able to demonstrate that milk that contained Queen of Calves FINISHER was retained in the stomach on average, 5 hours and 53 minutes, compared to an average of 4 hours and 28 minutes for calves that were fed wholemilk only. This was a 31% slower release time to the small intestine, which represents a significant opportunity for improved nutrient absorption.

How does the Queen of Calves nutrition program work? The research to date indicates that essentially;

- There is an improvement in digestive efficiency during the milk feeding phase,
- The program's restricted milk volume drives appetite to encourage meal consumption to enhance rumen development.
- Through the actions of (i) and (ii) energy demands are met from a non-fat source;
- Overseas research suggests that a consequence of the lean rapid early growth achieved with the program correlates in more lactogenic (secretory) tissue being formed in the developing udder.

What is the extra cost and the return on investment (ROI)? This program costs about \$85 over and above the usual cost of milk, meal, fibre & labour. The return though is good. Based on the trial results and adopting a \$6/kg payout, a 12% increased milk production as a 2 year old alone could be expected to be worth \$230 of extra income on the investment. (*average 2 year old production of 275kg/MS/heifer).

Are there any special requirements? The program has been carefully developed and mixing requirements have been made easier with the products now able to be made into a premix with milk rather than water, and equipment available to make mixing faster and simpler.

The Program Two products - both are powders and they must be mixed with milk at every milk feed.

- Queen of Calves STARTER (fed day 2 to 18) is a probiotic that supports the calf's health through a stronger immune function.
- Queen of Calves FINISHER (fed day 19 to weaning) enables a stronger curd to be formed.

As a vet, I think it is crucial that all calves have unrestricted (i.e. non-competitive) access to fresh meal and fibre at the appropriate time. Those farmers that traditionally feed higher volumes of milk may notice that the calves reared on the Queen of Calves program are leaner than the "rounded" calves they are used to seeing. A leaner frame is the outcome we expect to see from use of this program.

Economics

Bell-Booth Ltd asked respected economists BERL, to look at the production and survivability of a mob of cows that had been raised on the Queen of Calves program as calves, and had completed five lactations on Massey University's Number 4 Dairy Farm in the Manawatu in the 2013/14 year. In a preliminary report of their findings, they say, that cows raised on a Queen of Calves nutrition program as calves produced significantly more milk over the five lactations and their survivability was a lot better when compared to same-age and type New Zealand contemporaries.

See John for competitive dry-off pour-on options



Andrew Smith pictured receiving the Bakerstone Pizza Oven he won in the recent Alleva promotion after purchasing Boss Pour-On.