



### 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

**FREE  
TO GOOD HOME**  
3 x 4 drawer filing  
cabinets  
(H 130cm, D 65cm,  
W 50cm)



*In an interview, general Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he didn't think there was room for forgiveness towards the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America. His answer was a classic; Schwarzkopf said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting."*

## Pinkeye – Reduce the Suffering and Production Losses

An outbreak of pinkeye can be very frustrating, stressful and costly. It's most commonly seen in weaner calves, but can occur in dairy herds, bulls, beef cows and even in calf pens. The disease is very painful, and affected animals can be temporarily or sometimes permanently blinded, with reduced weight gains and milk production often the result.

In the dry, dusty and windy conditions we often experience in spring and summer, pinkeye can spread rapidly. Some herds can be severely affected.

Controlling pinkeye can be virtually impossible once an outbreak starts, so prevention by vaccination is often used in high risk situations. A single shot of Piliguard® 3-6 weeks before the pinkeye season starts will reduce the number and severity of cases, minimising suffering and production losses.

Talk to our vets about Piliguard if you have a history of pinkeye on your property, or if you are concerned about the risk of it being introduced into your herd.



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PIL-406-2012



### CHRISTMAS HAM

Purchase selected  
Merial Ancare

products during this festive season  
and we'll serve you up a quality kiwi  
ham! (promo concludes 20th Dec)

### ZENITH HAS GONE

Recently a lot of drugs have been removed from the market in New Zealand, mostly antibiotics that worked well, such as Nuflor which was excellent for joint infections. At the current rate we risk dropping our standards to those of the Australians, who can't even get hold of Rotavirus vaccine. The latest removal from the market is 'Zenith', an excellent short meat withholding preventative that also killed active cases of Flystrike. Many has been the time when we have sprayed active flystrike, then sat back and enjoyed watching maggots bailing out and dying. This becomes a problem with lambs, since you don't want long meat withholding periods, so enclosed is a table of possible listed by John for your information. Of course, the efficacy and longevity of any treatment depends on proper application, weather, and the amount of dags.

### How to know the gender of a Fly



*A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter*

*'What are you doing?' ! She asked.*

*'Hunting Flies' He responded.*

*'Oh. ! Killing any?'*

*She asked.*

*'Yep, 3 males, 2 Females,' he replied.*

*Intrigued, she asked.*

*'How can you tell them apart?'*

*He responded,*

*'3 were on a beer can,  
2 were on the phone.'*



### DECEMBER 2012



So, another year goes by with a blink of an eye and we are back in Christmas mode already. Hard to believe. Another year older and the injuries to prove it. Six weeks ago I had surgery on my right shoulder & elbow and am still in a sling after stupidly catching a rugby ball thrown in my direction last week (which has slowed the whole recovery process down). Polly injured her back about 3 weeks ago lifting something she shouldn't have. Lindsay was off to the doctor the other day for a cortisone injection in his shoulder. Even our young bucks are hurting themselves - young Jimmy Bruce hurt his back after he collided with his own surfboard at force and complained that his back was "a bit sore". I asked if I could take a look and discovered his whole lower back was one massive purple bruise. I have tried to convince him it looks like a shark bite & could estimate the size of the beast by measuring the bite radius but he swears he just landed on his board.

The troops tell me that Cidr use across the practice was down a bit and conception & submission rates appeared to be up a bit, which is encouraging news and again reinforces just how important condition score is at drying off and of course at calving. It seems that Mother Nature can throw just about anything at a cow if she is condition score 5 at calving and she will bounce back ready to get in calf. Calve her at CS 4 and it's a whole different story.

We saw massive amounts of lameness through the wet spring, mostly due to bruising of soft feet and then footrot as ground conditions warmed up. Clinic statistics show a 62% increase in September and a massive 90% increase in October; no wonder the vets were complaining! Look out for a re-print of an article about Interdigital Dermatitis in this newsletter from lameness guru, Neil Chesterton. It's not something we want around here by the sounds of it.

Scanning is just around the corner for most and has already started in small groups for others as we look at pregnancy rates in Cidr'd cows in particular. With scanning on the way we need to stress the importance of a few critical things if you want full value from this service. See our article in this edition with tips on how you can help us to help you.

With the recent push on farm safety & farm bike safety in particular (see an article from Bronwyn Muir in this edition) we have done the right thing & provided all our vets with farm bike safety helmets and will require them to wear these whenever they need to accept a ride on the back of a farm bike. It may look odd, but some of us are getting to an age where we can't think straight anyway so a blow to the head would finish us off completely. So please don't make fun of us if we put one on and if one of our more stubborn vets says something along the lines of "I'm not wearing one of those bloody things whatever Al says" help me out by gently encouraging them to put it on. Thanks!

*So Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year. Thanks again for your loyal support this year & we look forward to working with you all again next year & to seeing you at our Christmas BBQ in a few weeks.*

### Join us at the clinic for an end of year celebration



Thursday  
20th December  
late afternoon/evening



**Clinic & Farm Supplies**  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Ph . (06) 764 8196  
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



## SCANNING SEASON STARTS SOON!

As scanning season approaches, particularly for those of you that do early scans to confirm AB dates, being prepared makes the whole transfer of accurate information much easier.

Where MindaPro or Insight Mobile access (Read/Write please) has been allowed, instead of pen and paper, we will bring data entry tablets for you to record results (don't worry - we'll show you how). The information will then automatically be uploaded overnight.

If you haven't given us access to MindaPro or Insight, please print off the entire herd mating records ('Pregnancy Test Worksheet', under Management Reports in MindaPro) a day or two earlier, preferably in weeks, and this way we can confirm or adjust the aged pregnancy test.

Another trick to aid the testing accuracy is to pick a cut-off date, particularly if you are planning to induce next season, or sell later calvers. So, if you want to list the **October** calvers, please tailpaint the entire herd on **December 22nd**, then tailpaint anything that has been bulling over the next fortnight a different colour, then a further fortnight later use a different colour again. That way when we are scanning, we are alerted to your list of probable late cows, and how late they are likely to be. Some of you do this with all natural matings.

The accuracy of scanning is vastly improved if you bring as much information as possible on the day, and allow time for accurate scanning and recording of data. We also manually check the empty cows and assess their suitability as holdovers. The most common failing is still ear tags being mis-read, although once all the NAIT tags are in it may be possible to use a reader on these.

## How soon after calving should you CIDR cows?

Farmers often ask how soon after calving they can CIDR their cows. I usually advise that they wait until the cows are calved 30 days before starting a CIDR programme. That way the cows are 40 days calved by the time they are mated. Sometimes, if the farmer is really in a hurry, I am persuaded to start the CIDR programme as early as 21 days after calving but my gut feeling has always been that this is too soon.

This year I followed up on 115 cows which were Cidr'd for mating at PSM. Eighteen of the 115 cows were between 21 and 30 days calved and 97 were 30 days or more. The non return rate at 5 weeks was 58%, and these 67 cows were scanned. I found 14 of the 67 empty so the overall pregnancy rate was 46%. So far, so good. BUT, when I looked at the pregnancy rate for the cows Cidr'd less than 30 days after calving, it was 22%. Ouch! For the cows Cidr'd more than 30 days after calving the pregnancy rate was 50%. The 14 empty cows were manually checked. Eight had active ovaries and 6 were inactive. *All the inactive cows were from the group Cidr'd when they were between 21 and 30 days calved.*

So, of 18 cows Cidr'd between 21 and 30 days after calving, four became pregnant, eight returned to service and six remained inactive. These last six are a worry. These cows were scanned 5 weeks after mating so we found these inactive cows and re Cidr'd them. Had we not scanned, these cows may have remained inactive and could well have turned up as 'phantom' cows at pregnancy testing.

I don't have a crystal ball so I can't say what would have happened if those 18 cows had been Cidr'd a week or so later when they were all more than 30 days calved. But on the basis of this, their pregnancy rate would have doubled and none would have remained non cyclers.

Polly



## Launch Deferred

In our last newsletter we told you about how we had signed up to InfoVet and were going to tell you more in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, for a multitude of reasons that would take too long to explain in this newsletter, the introduction of InfoVet has been deferred for this season at least until we get a better handle on what we can do with it and what it could offer to you.

Given the significant cost of a program like this, it's better we pull out now rather than pay for it, start it and discover we aren't ready to implement it fully (I suspect the Ministry of Education would like to do the same with Novopay), which would result in disgruntled vets, disappointed clients and a disillusioned board.

The veterinary team are committed to improving our service to you and as I write this are investigating other ways to be able to capture your scanning data and deliver it to you through Minda (with big thanks to Debbie Jenkins from LIC) & Maestro this season but for now InfoVet has proved too big a commitment this close to another scanning season so has been put on hold.

If you had already signed up one of our Vets has either already spoken to you or will shortly.



**Rule No. One - don't sweat the small stuff**

**Rule No. Two - it's all small stuff**



## Face-Guard – Facial Eczema Protection

The eczema season is looming again, and while we don't generally need to worry until late January at least, you should start thinking about how you are going to protect your stock this season so you don't get caught out. The following is an article from Bayer Animal Health about their product Face-Guard:

Facial eczema protection is provided by Face-Guard - the intra-ruminal zinc bolus for the prevention of facial eczema in cattle, available through your veterinary clinic. **With the addition of the larger bolus size for cattle 251-660kg, the range is now complete for treating calves of 90kg right up to adult cattle and bulls of 660kg.**

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.

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 toxin 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 weight loss, 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 being via administration of an intra-ruminal zinc bolus, such as Face-Guard. 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. The popular smaller cattle bolus covers cattle from 90-250kg and now with the larger bolus available to treat the 251-660kg cattle, the range is complete. 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 Face Guard. Talk to your vet now.

## 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 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



## Practical On-Farm Health & Safety Solutions

You may have observed over the last 12-18 months, an increase in on farm visits by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE - old Department of Labour). The Ministry's objectives are to promote four key safety messages concerning the use of quad bikes.

- Always wear a helmet
- Never let children ride adult quad bikes
- Choose the right vehicle for the job
- The rider must be experienced enough / trained to do the job

Unfortunately the agricultural industry reaction is to dub this MBIE campaign – “the helmet campaign” and has generally negatively reacted to being ‘forced’ to wear helmets on quads within the farm workplace (surprise!) The agricultural industry and MBIE have clashed over this campaign for a number of reasons – attitude (‘she’ll be right’, don’t tell me what to do on my farm, etc), cost, comfort, practicality, and the list goes on. Most farmers consulted with, are reluctantly purchasing the AgHat and either clipping it to the front carrier on the quad or using it as a dust/spider web collector in some dingy corner of the cowshed. Long term/permanent compliance from a farmer’s point of view is looking less and less likely to happen although most of us are doing our utmost to ensure no-one gets hurt (or worse) in our workspace.

**Wake Up Call:** The simple reality is that agriculture is one of New Zealand’s most hazardous sectors to work in. You are two and half times more likely to be killed at work in agriculture compared to all other industries and almost twice as likely to be seriously injured. Tractors & bikes – because of their high on farm use – register high (70%) in fatality data.

### On Farm Work Related Accidents in NZ – the facts

Year	Injuries	Deaths
2007	344	15
2008	333	19
2009	306	10
2010	320	19
2011	321	15
2012	Too many deaths already!!	



I don’t need to state the obvious - we work in an environment where we (more often than not) have limited control over conditions we work in. The ruling as it stands according to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE Act) requires employers to identify and control hazards that may cause harm, and to take all practicable steps to ensure their safety and the safety of others. These ‘others’ can be anybody who enters our farm workspace – family, staff, visitors, agents, reps, vets, contractors. It is our duty, as owner of our agribusiness, to ensure we have done everything in our power to assess and control the hazards under our jurisdiction. This has to be a practical, realistic approach though and we need to lead the way with this discussion – not be forced into it.

Locally Taranaki Fed Farmers held a couple of industry consultation meetings on this recently and are forming a working party and including affected extended industry to help us realistically come up with solutions that will work for us as farmers and start to improve the statistics. Focussing primarily on quad bikes will not achieve the desired change in culture that is required to improve the issue. Education, from the top down, is what is needed to change a very old culture. On the whole we are very accomplished business operators. Let’s lead this Health & Safety discussion involving our business rather than be forced to comply. With a whole industry collaboration and consultation approach, there could be a much more proactive, safer & healthier outcome.

*Bronwyn Muir, Taranaki Federated Farmers*



## FOXGLOVE POISONING IN CALVES

In the last few years we have seen a few unfortunate cases of foxglove poisoning, usually in calves. These colourful plants contain Digitalis, a drug that we use to slow the heart in cardiac cases. The leaves contain the most poison, but all of the plant is toxic. Fortunately, they taste horrible, so are usually left alone (our farm hills are covered, but we don’t get problems). However, when sprayed they quickly become sugary and tasty, so inquisitive calves will eat them out. Some will be found dead (no struggling is seen), and the rest are lethargic, off feed and scour (the plant is irritant to the gut lining). Comatose calves will respond to an antidote that we have, but the best prevention is to not spray foxgloves, or hand pull them as you do ragwort.

All the recent cases have been after herbicides were used to tidy the pasture up, which is unfortunate.

Whilst on the subject of accidental poisoning of calves, we still see lead poisoning from old paint, and don’t be tempted to make feed troughs out of old bloat oil drums – they are still very toxic to calves!

## SERIOUS WARNING Neil Chesterton

### Digital Dermatitis is already in New Zealand!!

Digital Dermatitis is an infectious condition of the foot caused by bacteria called Treponemes. I saw the serious effect it is having in Chile earlier this year in pasture based dairy herds. It is spreading rapidly there causing not only pain and non-healing lameness but lowered production and serious infertility in some affected cows. The worrying fact is that, in most countries where it takes hold, it spreads rapidly in a newly infected herd. It can spread from introduced cows and also, it seems, on infected hoof paring gear.

The first early lesion looks like a raw sore 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.

To my dismay I found out in the last surveillance magazine that at least 5 cases of Digital Dermatitis infection in herds have been found in New Zealand in recent years – at most only a few cows in each herd. I was ready to breathe a sigh of relief that it did not appear to be spreading until today when I contacted a Vet experienced with this disease in the UK. He told me that this is how it has started in every other country – a few isolated cases at first, then rapidly spreading because vets and farmers did not take it seriously. Once it establishes in a herd, it seems as if it is impossible to get rid of it. In Australia the situation has been like NZ, but now it appears to have moved into the next phase and some herds have multiple cases. The bacteria (Trepanomes) like dirty conditions on the skin of cows feet, so the increased use of housing, feed-pads and dirty entrances and exits could be risk factors in the future that could see this disease establish itself here if we don’t take some preventative measures and continue to ignore it.

**So what am I asking or suggesting?** Look out for lame cows with a lesion like those in the photos. Separate the cow and get us to come and take a biopsy. Then we can work out a plan of action.



*Printed with permission from Neil Chesterton, Inglewood Vet Services*

## Contagious mastitis and shed hygiene

With the steady march into summer (and in theory, drier, warmer weather) the emphasis will switch from environmental causes of mastitis to predominantly contagious causes. Cows are less likely to get infections from contact with muddy bits of race and what-have-you than they are from bacteria picked up from their skin or other cattle during the milking process. Overall the challenge, or opportunity for infection, will be a lot lower since infectious mastitis generally runs at a much lower level under NZ conditions than environmental mastitis.

Bacteria responsible for such infection include the well known Staphylococcus aureus, usually referred to as ‘Staph’, and members of the ‘Strep’ or Streptococcus family. These bacteria are resident on the skin of cattle, the people who milk the cows and in the machinery used milking the cows. Both the people and the machines (the cluster usually) are capable of transferring infection from cow to cow. Bacteria particularly like to live in or on cracked and damaged skin. This is part of the argument for teat spraying all the cows properly all through the lactation with a reputable spray containing a conditioner.

However this is not the only issue to consider. As early as the 1960s it was shown in a survey in the UK that half the people involved with milking cows had bacteria on their hands capable of causing mastitis at the start of milking and all of them were contaminated at the end of milking. Following from that, potentially harmful bacteria can be found on milkers hands for up to 10 days after contact. When dealing with known/ potentially infected quarters:

- Try and milk them last (draft them round rather than milk in the row?)
- Avoid creating aerosols – clusters falling off and howling half way round the platform.
- Never get milk on your hands.
- Use a sanitizer and lots of warm (dissolves milk solids) water to clean potentially contaminated clusters. Note that teat spray is formulated to deal with skin contamination and is designed for slow release. It is not suited to machine and hand disinfection which needs to happen much more quickly.

Gloves offer a marked improvement over bare hands as far as hygiene is concerned. Bacteria do not get any chance to colonise the skin. They can generally be rinsed clean pretty quickly and will lead to an improvement in the overall skin condition on the hands of those of us who use them. The idea that bugs might sit about on one’s hands for days after contact, in spite of being washed regularly, is perhaps the most compelling reason to consider the use of milking gloves – especially if casual milkers are a feature of your farming system.

## Drenching Calves

Anthelmintic treatment in calves can be a confusing topic, especially considering the amount of discussion and decisions that surround drenching. Considering such things as - the method of application (oral, injection or pour-on); when to drench; the active ingredient(s), single active or combination; refugia; faecal egg counts; testing for resistance; current resistance status; feed type and quality; larval challenge; even the giveaway with the drench and many other factors is certainly a challenge. Without getting too technical, let's take a look at some of the recommendations for calves, and remember every situation is different, so it always pays to discuss your specific operation/situation with your vet.

Worms reduce voluntary feed intakes and feed utilisation and are one of the most common causes of poor performing calves. Immunity to parasites starts to develop at six months of age but still requires energy from the animal. In today's climate of increased farming efficiency there is pressure to finish prime stock earlier and get replacements to mating weight. This emphasis on growth rates of young stock means lost growth rate early on can have serious long term effects on farm profitability.

**When to start drenching?** This depends on the individual farm as calves on a young stock area of pasture will have higher exposure than those grazing with cows. For some a drench at weaning will be appropriate.

One particularly important point is to not mix drench with milk, or drench calves at or near the calfeteria. This is because the oesophageal groove can close resulting in drench bypassing the rumen and causing toxicity which can be fatal. This is especially applicable to drenches containing abamectin and/or levamisole.

Using an oral drench in young stock is preferred, and research has shown combinations are better for slowing the onset of resistance. Ideal oral combinations include ARREST C and OXFEN C PLUS (contain a benzimidazole and levamisole). SWITCH C (abamectin and levamisole) and the gold standard triple combination MATRIX C (oxfendazole, levamisole and abamectin) are also options which need to be used with care. Occasionally young animals are sensitive to abamectin toxicity, so ideally abamectin should be avoided in calves under 100kg in weight.

### Young stock dosing (<100kg) guidelines:

- Animals should be weighed and split into groups if necessary.
- Drench guns calibrated (use a measuring cylinder to check).
- Dose rates and product double checked.
- Never mix drench with milk or give near calfeteria.
- Don't drench dogs with abamectin as 'mectins can be very toxic for dogs.

Once animals reach a point where oral dosing is not practical or safe, then injectable or pour-on drench methods become options. ECLIPSE E injection, containing eprinomectin and levamisole, is a good combination choice for young stock, as the eprinomectin has a good safety profile and the levamisole gives excellent *Cooperia* control. Pour-on products are often the only practical option in older larger animals simply due to safety. In stock under 18 months of age, ideally use a combination product such as ECLIPSE Pour On (abamectin and levamisole).

Regardless of the method of application, taking the time to make sure drenching is done properly is important, as incorrect administration is a leading cause of drench problems. The choice of three application methods is a luxury that must not be abused. Adherence to label instructions along with other best practice parasite management guidelines is required for on-going product use and productivity.

If in doubt, talk to your veterinary clinic.



## Pour-On Drench Efficacy Proven by Recent Study

Recently there has been a lot of discussion telling farmers that pour-on drenches don't work or only work because they are licked off the backs of other cattle. Comments have been made by one commentator that also question the ethics & motives of vet practices & drench companies; intriguing stuff especially from someone who is a partner/owner of a large vet practice & services a huge farm clientele. Why does he keep saying this? I really don't know; he obviously believes it or has some agenda we don't know about but as yet I haven't seen any facts to back these allegations. I think it's a case of if you say something long enough & convincingly enough it becomes fact.

The only facts I have seen are the ones from the people who make the products and numerous independent veterinarians & scientists who have conducted trials on the efficacy of pour-on drenches.

Overwhelmingly this mountain of work shows they do work if used correctly and there-in perhaps lies the problem. I have mentioned before about witnessing farmers applying pour-ons and won't bore you with too many details. Simply put, if you don't apply it properly & under-estimate the weight of the animal you are treating, then yes, you will probably be disappointed with the results. However, the problem there is the quality of application, not the fact it is a pour-on.

So to try & put your mind at rest, yet another trial was undertaken, which was published earlier this year.

The paper was by Rehbein et al (2012) and titled "**Re-evaluation of efficacy against nematode parasites and pharmacokinetics of topical eprinomectin in cattle**"

This specifically tested whether the efficacy of EPRINEX Pour-On was due to absorption through the skin or due to it being licked by the animal itself or from herd mates. Each animal was tethered so that they couldn't lick themselves or each other. They were then tested in the usual manner and surprise surprise, when applied correctly and at the recommended dose rate, the drench worked.

From a report on the paper: "On day 21 necropsies were carried out for worm counts. The treatment group had >99% worm reduction (P<0.05) compared to untreated group. Conclusions can be made that licking and oral absorption of topically applied EPRINEX is not necessary to achieve effective plasma concentration. Efficacy against all major nematodes in this trial was very good (obviously individual properties may have efficacy issues due to resistance to any anthelmintic of any method of application)."

The point of this paper is that pour-ons do work if used correctly.

That doesn't mean to say that you have to use pour-ons; you can use what you want as long as the product you use is fit for the purpose you intend and is applied and dosed correctly.

Oral drenches are cheaper and also work well; injectables work very well too. However, with oral drenches you will have to drench more often & they don't work on lice. Also, if you are a bull farmer, and oral drenching aggressive, unpredictable 18 month old bulls (or a mob of large, unruly heifers), there is a safety aspect that comes into play. You are welcome to get in there and wrestle oral drench down their throats if you want, although I venture to suggest you will be in no shape to do the same the next day. This is where pour-ons or injectables come into their own and you can use them with peace of mind knowing that if they have come from a reputable animal health company, they have been tested, scrutinized and critically evaluated for the conditions they were intended for.

If you have doubts about the efficacy of a particular drench or the application method you are using, talk to us. We are here to help and have your best interests in mind for your farm's long term productivity and sustainability.

As an aside, Tony Hammond from Merial Ancare is more than happy to talk to you about your drench effectiveness and offers efficacy testing (resistance testing) through this clinic if there appears to be an issue developing. So, just because someone high profile says something assertively, it doesn't always mean it's the truth. Just look at Brian Tamaki or John Banks as living proof of that!

### OXFEN® C PLUS

- 1mL/20kg low dose cattle combination drench
- Ideal for larger cattle
- Can be used in sheep

### SWITCH® C HI-MINERAL

- 1mL/20kg low dose cattle combination drench
- Ideal for larger cattle
- Excellent efficacy against parasites including endectocide resistant *Cooperia*

### ECLIPSE® POUR-ON

- World's first combination pour-on
- Controls endectocide-resistant *Cooperia*
- Controls sucking and biting lice
- Convenient 1mL/20kg dose rate

### ECLIPSE® INJECTION

- The world's first dual action broad spectrum injectable parasiticide for cattle
- 1mL/35kg cattle combination drench

### MATRIX® MINI-DOSE

- 3-way drench with unsurpassed efficacy against mixed infection of gastrointestinal parasites
- 1mL/10kg low dose cattle combination drench

### ARREST® C

- Specially formulated for cattle
- 1mL/10kg low dose cattle combination drench
- Controls adult liver fuke



Merial is a Sanofi company.

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