

MEET OUR WINNERS



Sharon Richardson receives the Stihl Lawn Mower & Line Trimmer won in the pet food draw. Dogs Loki & Faith were thrilled with their Royal Canin food.



Leon & Gus present the Stihl Line Trimmer to Nicola Wicksteed won in the draw for Vettrace purchases



Thomas & Dayna Higgins receive the Stihl Chainsaw won in the draw for Vettrace purchases



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FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to 2021 and whatever comes our way this year. So far, things have got off to a pretty good start. While the rest of the world remains in some form of lockdown and they scramble over who gets what vaccine, we've had International cricket to watch, America's Cup continues, people have been on holiday all over the country, at music festivals, family gatherings and largely carrying on as normal. Not bad. And to top it off, thanks to Covid concerns cancelling the Aussie's cricket tour of South Africa, we find ourselves in the final of the World Test Champs at Lords this June. So as long we don't bugger things up at the border, life is pretty good. *Editor's note: clearly this first paragraph was written before the events of last weekend. Bear in mind the editor is an idiot and probably brought this on by being too optimistic.*

Even from an eczema point of view, here at least, spore counts remain relatively low for this time of year. That may change with an extended dry spell but as I write this most of you have been telling me you have plenty of grass, and it continues to grow. That should mean less dead litter around for spores to multiply in. You might just have to watch your re-growth paddocks from all the supplement you're making. Fingers crossed.

Here at the clinic we remain busy. scanning is now underway. I don't have any statistics to give you yet because we've only just begun (that sounds like a good line for a song ...) and unlike other practices that seem to delight in reporting early bad results to create panic, we prefer to let things settle for a bit before reporting trends.

Our new vets Lily & Ash are both settling in well. Ash was probably wondering what he had done wrong because for his first month here, pretty much all he did was enormous numbers of lame cows. 102% more for November/December compared to 2019 to be exact, so all our vets were hunched over sore feet during that period. Fortunately since then he's been able to do other things and realised we aren't just a specialist bovine lameness practice. Lily joined us after the New Year so has avoided the worst of the lameness plague, but she's also settling in well and working her way around the district getting to know as many of you as she can. That's when she's not knocking herself out on hikes up the mountain (ask her about that).

Next month we'll be starting RVM consults to set up your prescriptions for the new season. If we get to you early don't get too hung up on amounts of drugs; we'll sort amounts out closer to the end of the season. For now we are required to have a consult, review your year (what worked, what didn't, what needs to change, etc) and keep a record of it under the new prescribing rules.

We have included the Dry Cow consult form with this newsletter. Nothing much has changed there. Please hang onto that, fill it in and return it to us well before you intend drying off so our vets can review it and make a recommendation.

Other than that, best of luck for 2021. Here's hoping it's a good one.

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Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO
Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS
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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

Lepto & BVD calf vaccinations
First shots should now be complete & 2nd shots booked.
Please call the clinic to book now if your calves have not had their 1st jab.

How often do you change your liners?
Teat cup liners are like tyres, they wear out and need to be replaced. And like worn tyres, worn liners are dangerous. The condition and maintenance of liners is critical in mastitis control and efficient milking. As they age, liners gradually lose their elasticity. They take longer to open, and they close less crisply. Milking time increases and with it the potential for teat damage.

The surface of the liner is the only part of the milking plant in contact with the cow. As liners age their interior surface becomes rough and pitted. Long before you can feel this roughness with your finger, microscopic damage leaves pits and cracks which are hard to clean and provide a safe haven for mastitis bugs. *Staphylococcus aureus*, in particular, spreads from cow to cow through the plant. Staph. infections are notoriously hard to cure and many infected cows continue to be high SCC and shed Staph. bugs in their milk. Worn liners make it easy for these bugs to spread to other cows in your herd. So, how often should you change your liners? As often as the manufacturer recommends! This is usually after 2,500 milkings for rubber liners and 10,000 milkings for silicone liners.

Example: 40 aside herringbone milking 400 cows TAD with rubber liners. Each cluster milks 10 cows/milking x 2/day = 20 milkings/day. 2,500 milkings/20 = 125 days The liners should be changed every 125 days. Of course this herd doesn't milk 400 cows from the first day of milking and progressively dries off light cows in autumn. PSC is August 5th so for practical purposes **I would recommend their liners be changed at Christmas, easy to remember.**

Are your liners overdue for replacement?

Graeme Bishop pictured receiving the Stihl Waterblaster he & Kathryn won in the draw for participants in our 1st annual dog vaccination run



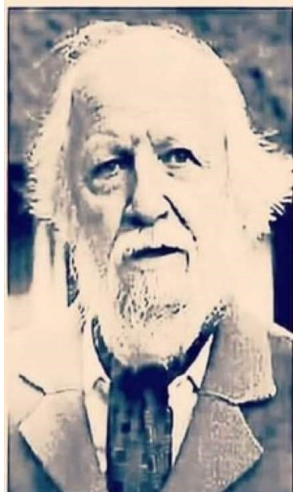
Purchase 20L Boss Triple Combination Sheep Drench & receive a steel loading ramp



Purchase a 5L of Boss or Turbo Pour On & receive a Food Save Vacuum Sealer



Now here's a man who understands women.....

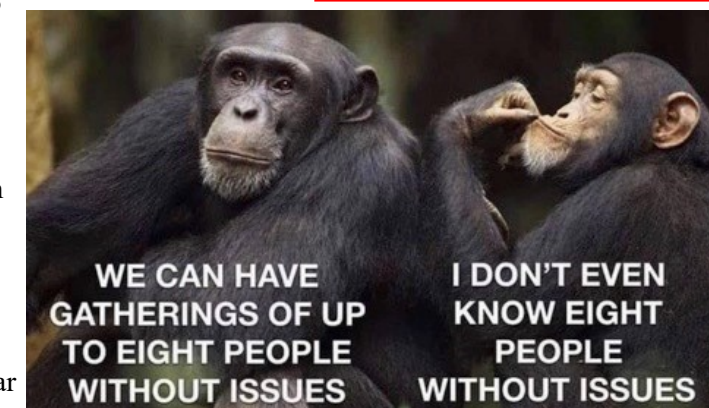


William Golding
British Novelist, Playwright & Poet
1911 --1993

I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior and always have been. Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she will give you a baby. If you give her a house, she will give you a home. If you give her groceries, she will give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she will give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her. So, if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit!



Alistair completed the Timber Trail cycle this weekend & even managed to find flowers for his wife on valentines day along the way



Pregnancy testing data update

We will no longer be recording pregnancy information on our hand held yellow Trimble as they are outdated, hard to use and will now cost farmers every time we update.

Options to use instead if you want to record aged pregnancy test results are the LIC

Minda app or the CRV Myherd app on your phone, both are easy to use and information is up to date or print out a pregnancy test work sheet (preferably in weeks).

If using an app and recording for two vets you will need to have the app downloaded onto two phones.

Do a practise run a couple of days before to make sure you can use it and the information is up to date.

Please contact your herd information provider if you need help.



RVM Consult Time Again

It's getting nearer to the time we need to have another consult on your restricted veterinary medications (RVMs) for the coming new season. Because of the new requirements to have a formal consultation, we will need to start these from early March to get them all done before the 1st of June. That means on farm, in-clinic and/or over the phone as required. The actual policy says they all need to be done on farm, but realistically that would be hard to get done. So, from the start of March, when you book in a vet call the girls will ask if they can tack on an extra 30 minutes or so afterwards for your RVM consult. Probably not after the vet has just scanned 450 cows, is covered in shite and you're keen to get home for breakfast, but after we've been out to see a sick or lame cow or something a bit more routine. If you have booked in a Dry Cow Consult at the clinic, we may look to add the RVM consult onto that. Whatever works. Phone consults worked pretty well last year, but that was during lockdown when vets were all either at home or in the clinic and had time to call. We can still do that, but it will require a bit of forward planning to fit around other jobs. We'll have to play it by ear a bit. If you want to pre-empt this feel free to ring and book your RVM consult at a time that suits you before we get into the late May rush.

In the meantime, your Dry Cow consult forms are included with this newsletter. Nothing much has changed with respect to that.

Please fill it in completely and return to us well before you wish to dry off so we can make a recommendation before you come into the clinic.

WORKING DOGS

Working dogs are athletes therefore we should feed them accordingly. Energy expenditure is far greater in most working dogs compared to pet dogs. We see far too many working dogs that are clearly too thin. The energy requirement of working dogs is 2 – 3 times the normal maintenance diet.

What should a working dog eat?

In the wild dogs eat the entire carcass of animals including the offal which contains all the necessary vitamins and minerals.

Dog biscuits

Many dog biscuits (and some dog rolls) contain very high levels of carbohydrates which act as fillers and make food bulky but have little value to the dog.

The average heading dog would have to eat 32 standard Tux biscuits a day to fulfil the nutritional requirement of hill country work. You can feed less than the 32 standard Tux biscuits by adding fat into the diet e.g. Mutton.

Or provide some high fat dog biscuits e.g. Eukanuba Premium Performance or Royal Canin 4800 Endurance.



Meat and bones

Meat and bone alone do not provide a balanced diet. They lack many vitamins and minerals, which are found in offal. If your dogs get a lot of meat and bones from cull animals then balance out their diet with a good commercial dog biscuit or cook up the offal for them.

Bones in large quantities can cause health problems i.e. constipation and intestinal blockages.

Young growing dogs should never be fed raw meat or bones as they can cause a calcium imbalance and skeletal problems.

Dog Rolls

Most of these are the equivalent of "McDonalds". They are often high in energy but must not be fed as the sole diet as most are not nutritionally balanced.

Balance is the key to healthy dogs.

It's easy to get home made diets wrong. A quality premium working dog diet will give your dog everything it needs and is generally way more cost-effective than you realise.

If your dogs are fed right they will look well with sleek coats and covered ribs, and they'll work well and be happy.



Can I buy my Dry Cow from you?

If you're our client then the answer to the above question is an easy yes - after consultation.

If you're one of those folks who uses more than one vet practice, the answer becomes a little more complicated.

For us to prescribe DCT (and any RVM really) for your cows, those cows need to be deemed to be under our veterinary care.

Now, if you only get us out to scan your herd for example but get another practice for the majority of your vet calls, and get all your mastitis drugs from them, then your cows aren't really under our care.

The fact our DCT may be slightly cheaper isn't an acceptable reason for you to get it from us.

So when it comes to drying off, it's relatively simple. Who does the majority of your vet work?

And who do you get your mastitis drugs from?

You know who that is.

That's who you need to get your DCT from.

Fly Strike - Be Proactive

The adage that 'the best defence is a good offence' holds true when looking at your blowfly prevention programme.

Fly strike is best approached from docking onwards using a proactive attitude, within which product choice and application play crucial roles. By getting in early with treatment you are mitigating any economic impact of waiting until active flystrike appears. Even a mild case of flystrike can lead to up to 5kg liveweight loss in as little as 6 days and can take over a month for an affected animal to recover this lost LW. This growth response and the reduction of fertility associated with flystrike is why it is said to cost the sheep industry millions of dollars each year.

Ideally, the prevention plan you put in place will take into consideration things like time until shearing, chemical class previously used for lice control and regional knowledge about seasonal weather forecasts/patterns and the relative blowfly challenge.

Insect growth regulators (IGRs) are the most common chemical family used for flystrike prevention. The two categories of IGRs are:

- *Triazine-pyrimidine derivatives* – this category is sufficient for fly control only and actives include cyromazine (**Cyrazin**) and dicyclanil (**Clik**)
- *Benzoyl Phenyl Urea (BPU) compounds* – suitable for fly & lice control which includes the actives diflubenzuron and triflumuron

The above chemicals are common choices for those proactively approaching the upcoming season; however, should there be a need to treat strike it is important to look for products that have two actives, one of the above for ongoing strike control and the secondary ensuring rapid knockdown of maggots.

For example, **Cyrazin® KO** which contains the IGR cyromazine in combination with ivermectin or **Cyrex** which combines cyromazine with spinosad.

When assessing the comparative protection periods of different products (usually stated as "up to" X weeks) it is important to remember that the actual length of protection against fly strike will be determined by factors such as effectiveness of application, fly pressure, environment and other influences. To make sure this period is as long as promised by the manufacturer keep to the label instructions including dilution rate, application rate per animal (minimum 2lt per animal) and time off shears.

Top Tips

- Be proactive, act before there is a problem
- Follow the product label guidelines
- Use the correct equipment and product for the job
- Remember the most expensive flystrike product is the one not used properly so check dilution and application rates and if in doubt run a handful of animals through first and then check them for full saturation through to skin level.
- If you have any concerns or questions regarding your flystrike treatment please feel free to contact us at the clinic to discuss your options.



Vaccinating your herd for Salmonella

If you've suffered a Salmonella outbreak in your herd then you'll know the cost & heartache of seeing numerous cows all getting sick at once. Not to mention the human health risk.

If you have been affected before you probably already vaccinate, but it's easy to forget & become complacent. Herds can be vaccinated in the face of an outbreak or, preferably, to prevent an outbreak in the first place.

If there is a historical time on your farm when you tend to get these outbreaks then vaccinating a couple of months before a known risk period is the way to go.

Otherwise vaccinating around drying off is a good option. If you rely on in-shed feeding then many veterinarians believe you should consider Salmonella vaccination as a routine part of your animal health program. At around \$1.50 a dose, it's cheap insurance. Give it some thought.



Relief Milker Wanted

Looking for a sole charge relief milker for the odd weekends and holidays.

Pukengahu area (10 mins from Stratford/Eltham). 240 cows

Please phone Aaron on
027 2300 533