

MYCOPLASMA BOVIS

The country has done an amazing job getting to where we are with eradicating Mycoplasma Bovis. As at the 19th May, we are down to one active confirmed farm with 271 cleared properties. There hasn't been a confirmed active case in the North Island for over two years.

Even if we could eradicate it on all farms tomorrow there will still be several years of surveillance testing to confirm "free from" status. Until we prove freedom the M Bovis levies will continue (currently 29c/kg of milk solids and \$2 per head at slaughter).

The dairy surveillance is currently taken care of through bulk tank milk monitoring which dairy farmers will be aware of. Veterinarians nationwide have been tasked with collecting blood samples for the beef survey which includes beef cows, steers and service bulls over the age of 6 months. 2020 and 2021 born dairy heifers are also included, either on the home milking platform or out grazing.

All we need is a blood sample from 25-80 animals (no maximum for service bulls) and it costs you nothing.

The testing also opens options for additional testing at reduced pricing (eg. BVD and trace element testing) Anybody is free to book animals in for this testing if they wish and we will be contacting some of you over the coming years asking permission to add this testing onto jobs you have booked in for other things.

Feel free to talk to Adrian if you have any questions.

Are you losing 7%?

The silent impact on in-calf rates

Managing successful reproductive performance remains one of the most challenging aspects of dairying. Get it right, and it can make a sizeable impact on your bottom line. Get one piece of the puzzle wrong and you pay the price with lower in-calf rates, poor cow condition, and exposure to disease.

One of the most widespread diseases preventing cows getting in calf is subclinical ketosis. There is no doubt it's impacting farms across our region, with 75% of cows within our herds falling victim in spring*.

Subclinical ketosis is a 'silent disease' that cannot be seen visually but quietly exists in the background robbing a cow of its energy and compromising their performance and health.

Recent NZ studies of subclinical ketosis revealed a decreased 6-week in-calf rate of 7%*, so we really can't afford to ignore the disease.**

Through working with our clients, we are aware first-hand, of the effects of subclinical ketosis.

In addition to good feed management and achieving optimum body condition scores it's also worth considering introducing specialist products to help support overall animal health at this crucial time.

Rumenox is a game-changer, that is now widely used. It helps cows avoid ketosis so they're better able to get in calf. We recommend introducing such products pre-calving, or if not practical, adding to water or feed at calving through to the end of mating.

Rumenox is also widely used throughout lactation for controlling pasture bloat.

*Data from 2016 DairyNZ and Lincoln University Dairy Farm study

**Study by Compton *et al*

One-eyed love story

A man who lived in a block of apartments thought it was raining and put his hand out the window to check. As he did so a glass eye fell into his hand. He looked up to see where it came from in time to see a young woman looking down. "Is this yours?" he asked. She said, "Yes and do you mind bringing it up?" The man agreed.

On his arrival, she was profuse in her thanks and offered the man a drink.

She was very attractive, so he said OK. Shortly afterwards she said, "I'm about to have dinner. There's plenty. Would you like to join me?" He readily accepted her offer and both enjoyed a lovely meal.

As the evening was drawing to a close the woman said, "I've had a marvellous evening, would you like to stay the night?"

He hesitated a moment then asked her, "Do you act like this with every man you meet?"

"No, only with those who catch my eye."



BEING AS OVERWEIGHT AS YOU ARE INTRODUCES RISK FOR DIABETES, HEART PROBLEMS AND, MOST WORRISOME, SACRIFICE

Looking to improve your reproduction performance?

Get more cows in calf with Rumenox.

Subclinical Ketosis is strongly linked to a 7% reduction in 6 week in-calf rate.

For more info come in and see John or Daniel.



Like and follow us on Facebook



June 2022

Can you believe we're already halfway through the year? Ridiculous. It feels like just a few weeks ago we were enjoying a long hot summer and now we're just over a month away from spring.

Covid has been the dominant theme at the clinic in the last 6-8 weeks.

I don't think we've had a week in that time where everyone has been at work. In one week, there were 4 of us away and others testing each day to make sure they were clear, which resulted in some cancellations and some very busy days for those still working.

So far we have had 9 people go positive & get sick plus at least another two who have had to isolate due to infected family members. So, it feels inevitable that everyone else will be affected at some stage in the next month or so. Hopefully everyone is through the other side by the time spring arrives. Given how successful mass gatherings have been in spreading the virus, we made the difficult decision a couple of weeks ago to cancel this year's golf day. Sorry about that but imagine how popular we would be sending you home to prepare for the new season with a dose of Covid.

Welcome to new arrivals in the district. If we haven't been to visit you yet feel free to pop into the clinic and say giddyay so we can get you set up for the coming season. You'll find us a pretty friendly lot.

This is a quick mid-winter newsletter, so we won't hit you with too much, when really you just want to take a break. That can wait for our pre-spring newsletter in July. We have included a reminder on Nitrate poisoning for you because we saw our first outbreak a couple of weeks ago. Even if you got my e-mail at the time it's still worth refreshing your memory on risk factors and ways to mitigate this deadly condition.

I do have some unhappy news. Ash Mellow has decided to take his veterinary career in a different direction and has moved to the South Island to continue dairy medicine there. To be fair that's where his new girlfriend lives so unless we were able to find him one here in a hurry he was always bound to head south. We're very sorry to see him go as we thought we had him locked in for the long-term. But he leaves with our thanks and best wishes for whatever comes next.

That does mean we will be one vet down when spring kicks off unless someone falls into our lap. Fortunately, we do have 2 very experienced vets in Ryan & Holly this spring and that will be a massive help. We plan to employ two new graduates at the end of the year to make up the numbers and with a view to impending retirements next year.

So, if you're taking a winter holiday, enjoy yourself, rest up and make the most of time off the farm. Making time for yourself really is important with another busy season on the horizon. As always we'll be here ready to help if you need us.

Easter Planning

Wife: What are your plans for Easter?

Husband: Same as Jesus.

Wife: What do you mean?

Husband: Disappear on Friday, reappear on Monday.

Wife: Awesome, if you do that I'll also do like Mary.

Husband: What do you mean?

Wife: Show up pregnant untouched by my husband!

Husband: Stayed home all Easter.

Clinic & Farm Supplies

Railway Street, Eltham

Ph. (06) 764 8196

info@elthamvetservice.co.nz

Trading Depot

Holland 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

Jim Robins BVSc, BSc, DipPharm

Polly Otterson BVSc, MSc,

Teresa Carr BVSc

Adrian Clark BVSc

Lindsay Lash BVSc

Leon Christensen BVSc

Michaela Abbott BVSc

Holly Hofmans BVSc

Ryan Carr BVSc

Office

Joan Hughes Helen Snook

Jill Watson CVN/RAT

Michelle Mcleod Amber Smith

Alex Rowlands

Spring First Aid Seminar

Wednesday 6th July
9.30am - 3.30pm

Spring First Aid topics include:

- Calving and related conditions
- Metabolics e.g. milk fever and grass staggers
- Sick & downer cows
- Calf care and sick calves
- General procedures including injections, stomach tubing & drenching
- Practical and theory sessions

This seminar is targeted at new entrants to dairy farming and anyone wishing to brush up on their knowledge.

Cost is \$200 + GST which includes course notes, morning tea and lunch.

Please ring the clinic now to register.



NITRATE POISONING

New grass, crops, nitrate poisoning and sudden death.

It's that time of the year again and we have already had a few cases reported.

Signs of Nitrate Poisoning:

Cattle generally show signs of poisoning 4 to 8 hours after grazing toxic pasture/crops as the nitrate needs to be metabolised into its toxic form nitrite in the rumen before toxicity occurs. We usually get calls to see affected stock around lunchtime, cattle having been put onto toxic pasture that morning. It often occurs on a dull overcast day where the plant is unable to photosynthesize leading to a buildup of nitrates.

We also see cases after a heavy frost in cows put on new pasture.

Affected animals are drunken, weak and staggy and deteriorate rapidly leading to death. They may gasp for breath and have very dirty blue-coloured gums and conjunctiva. If you take a blood sample, it is distinctly chocolate coloured instead of the normal dark red. However, most animals are found dead and by then the blood has returned to normal colour for a dead animal.

Animals that have apparently recovered may abort - usually within a week after exposure to high nitrate feeds.

Reducing the risk

Management factors that can help reduce deaths due to nitrate poisoning include:

- Testing new pasture and suspect crops prior to the first grazing. Take a pasture sample in the morning and deliver it to us prior to 10am. We should be able to report the result to you within 24 hours.
- Introducing cattle to suspect crops in the late morning or early afternoon. Pastures accumulate nitrate during the night and in dull weather. Sunlight reduces the accumulated nitrate.
- Making sure cattle are not hungry when you put them onto suspect pasture. Provide supplementary dry matter (hay, silage, etc.) before cattle go onto the break.
- Reducing the time period cattle are grazed on suspect pasture. Allow cattle no more than 1 to 2 hours grazing on the suspect feed.
- Check cattle regularly for signs of poisoning. The toxic metabolite peaks in the blood about five hours after ingestion of nitrate.
- Nitrate poisoning is often not so much due to the actual quantity eaten as to the rate at which it is consumed. It's possible that a hungry cow can ingest a lethal dose in 1 hour. Fill cows up on "safe" feed before allowing short periods of grazing the high nitrate feed.

Contact us immediately if any signs are noticed. Cows die rapidly from nitrate poisoning. They require intravenous treatment with an antidote A.S.A.P to avoid death.

THE SCOTTISH COW

The only cow in a small town in Ireland stopped giving milk. The town folk found they could buy a cow in Scotland quite cheaply. So, they brought the cow over from Scotland. It was absolutely wonderful; it produced lots of milk every day and everyone was happy.

They bought a bull to mate with the cow to get more cows, so they'd never have to worry about their milk supply again. They put the bull in the pasture with the cow but whenever the bull tried to mount the cow, the cow would move away. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow would move away from the bull, and he was never able to do the deed. The people were very upset and decided to go to the Vet, who was very wise, tell him what was happening and ask his advice.

"Whenever the bull tries to mount our cow, she moves away. If he approaches from the back, she moves forward. When he approaches her from the front, she backs off. If he attempts it from the one side, she walks away to the other side."

The Vet rubbed his chin thoughtfully and pondered this before asking, "Did you by chance, buy this cow in Scotland?"

The people were dumbfounded, since no one had ever mentioned that they had brought the cow over from Scotland. "You are truly a wise Vet," they said. "How did you know we got the cow from Scotland?"

The Vet replied with a distant look in his eye: "My wife is from Scotland"

Guts and Balls

There is a medical distinction between "Guts" and "Balls". We've heard colleagues referring to people with "Guts", or with "Balls". Do they, however, know the difference between them?

Here's the official distinction; straight from the British Medical Journal: Volume 323; page 295.

GUTS - Is arriving home late, after a night out with the lads, being met by your wife with a broom, and having the "Guts" to ask: "Are you still cleaning, or are you flying somewhere?"
BALLS - Is coming home late after a night out with the lads, smelling of perfume and beer, lipstick on your collar, slapping your wife on the bum and having the "Balls" to say: 'You're next, Chubby.'

I trust this clears up any confusion.

Medically speaking, there is no difference in outcome; both are fatal!

GET CONTROL OF CALF SCOURS

This is the time of year we should be thinking ahead about calf rearing and the time to vaccinate your cows to help prevent Rotavirus in your calves.

Rotavirus is a costly and aggressive viral cause of calf scours, affecting calves from 3 days – 6 weeks of age. Calves are infected by the faecal-oral route, the virus attacks the gut lining cells which can cause severe diarrhoea resulting in a sick, dehydrated calf. Outbreaks can have a high number of deaths, and those that recover often have permanent gut damage, reducing nutrient absorption and resulting in reduced growth rates for the calf's life.

Rotavirus vaccination of your cows helps prevent rotavirus in your calves. Which vaccination you choose should be discussed with a vet. There are different strains of rotavirus present in NZ and there is some trial work planned this season. If you have rotavirus scours confirmed by scour testing in your calves this season, we can take (minimum of 5) samples from sick calves and send them away for further free genotype testing. Contact the clinic to arrange this. *Vaccinations need to be timed to be 2-3 weeks before the planned start of calving*, boosting the colostrum for 9-10 weeks of calving. Vaccination is designed to stimulate the cow's immunity so that she produces lots of antibodies against Rotavirus in her colostrum. This boosted colostrum then is fed to the calf within the first 12 hours of birth, which allows these antibodies to be absorbed by the newborn calf's gut wall into its bloodstream. This provides an instant immunity for the first 3 months of its life, while the calf develops its own immune system.

All in-calf animals in your herd should be vaccinated. Even though you may not be keeping calves from heifers as replacements, there will still be a virus challenge to the surrounding environment from them.

To ensure you get the most out of your vaccination programme plan your system so that the calf receives adequate first milking, preferably >22% Brix colostrum from vaccinated cows, within 12 hours of birth.

Set up your calf sheds so they are big enough, dry and have good drainage, so that the bugs don't have the environment to survive and multiply in. If you had Rotavirus last year, make sure all the old bedding has been removed and the shed disinfected. Arrange Failure or Passive Transfer testing early in the season to make sure your colostrum procedures are working. We take a blood test from 10 calves 1-7 days old and can measure if they have had sufficient colostrum. Please contact the clinic to book this in.



KENNEL COUGH IN DOGS

There is currently a nationwide outbreak of Kennel Cough in dogs. If your dogs are in contact with other dogs please check their vaccination status. Kennel cough is highly contagious, and spreads through shared food/water bowls, close contact and through airborne droplets. It also lasts for a long time in the environment.

Symptoms to look out for are:

- Honking, dry cough
- Sneezing
- Eye discharge
- Some dogs become very unwell

Kennel Cough Alert



Contact the reception to book in your dogs vaccinations.

**BUY BRAVECTO
AND YOU COULD WIN* THIS
SWANNDRILL PICNIC BLANKET!**



BRAVECTO



**Bravecto products provide easy,
long lasting flea protection
for your cat or dog in one dose.**

*This is a promotion run by the clinic displaying this promotion. Refer to staff for full terms and conditions.

