

## VACCINE PROTOCOL CHANGES FOR DAIRY STOCK

We are making improvements to our vaccine protocols to improve human health and reduce vaccine lumps. Currently we are giving our newborn calves their first leptospirosis vaccination at around 5 months of age, which means if they are exposed to lepto bacteria in the environment before their 2 vaccines they could be infected for life and shed the bacteria in their urine. This increases our risk of contracting lepto due to regular (often daily) exposure to urine from our stock in the milking shed. Across NZ it has already been widely adopted for vet practices to give 2 lepto vaccines to calves prior to

Christmas and a booster pre winter (either at grazing, or before they go off farm in May) to reduce the chance our calves enter the herd as chronic shedders. It does mean an increase of one extra dose of lepto to our R1's to align with the heifer and herd autumn annual booster, but gives much better protection to you, your staff, vets and the like.

The second change is regarding a change to our 'Blackleg' or 'Clostridial' vaccine from Covexin 10n1 to Ultravac 5n1. This is because of the immune system lumps that calves get after using Covexin. We believe that 5n1 will provide highly adequate protection against clostridial disease as it contains the 5 most common strains that are implicated in sudden death. However, if you are wanting to cover more strains, we will still provide you with Covexin. Calves growing in feedlots or on high sugar/starch diets should continue with Covexin. Farmers and vets alike do not like seeing these lumps, and Ultravac 5n1 is used widely in NZ.

### Our new vaccine protocol will look like this:

	1 <sup>st</sup> calf vaccine (such as at dehorning or over the counter)	2 <sup>nd</sup> calf vaccine (late Oct/Nov)	3 <sup>rd</sup> calf vaccine December	4 <sup>th</sup> calf vaccine (pre winter lepto to align with herd & BVD which can be up to 6 mths between doses)	Heifer and cow booster in autumn
<b>Clostridial vaccine</b>	<b>Ultravac 5n1 or Covexin</b>	<b>Booster Ultravac 5n1 or covexin</b>			
<b>Lepto 3 way</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lepto</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lepto booster</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lepto booster (prewinter)</b>	<b>Annual booster – done at scanning or at minimum around May 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Bovilis BVD</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> BVD</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> BVD</b>	<b>Booster must be 1 month prior to mating</b>

The aim of our vaccine protocol for calves is to provide the best protection to you and our stock and we are currently not doing this if our calves are only completing their first lepto course at 6 months of age. We all know someone who has caught lepto and there was an increase in human Lepto cases in the Hawkes Bay after cyclone Gabrielle in summer.

Our techs will be helping with implementing these changes and please contact us if you have any questions.

Hi I'm Leigh

I have recently started the daunting job of trying to learn all the knowledge that exists in Joan's head before she retires and I take over as the Practice Manager. I have a lot to learn!

I am born and bred in New Plymouth and apart from stints studying in Palmy at Massey University and living in Wellington to play rugby I have lived in New Plymouth my whole life.

I have spent the last 9 years as a teacher of Business and Enterprise studies at NPGHS, and whilst I thoroughly enjoyed my time there I decided it was time for a new challenge.

I will let you know in a few months if this was a completely crazy decision!

Sport has always been a big passion of mine and I love rugby, netball, basketball and surf lifesaving and have only recently retired from competitive netball. I now enjoy spending my time with my partner Shane, our three dogs and we both love to go fishing as often as we can.

I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months.



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## JUNE 2023

Another season draws to a close, and what a season it was.

Horrendous weather, slips, flooding and that was just the summer! As I write this, everything is soaked, and I think we would all appreciate some fine, dry weather for a while as we prepare ourselves for another spring.

This end of season newsletter is reasonably brief. Let's face it, you're all trying to have a well-earned break, so we don't intend to hit you with too much. We'll save that for the spring newsletter.

However, the guys have a few things they want to update you on and introduce you to any changes in the way we do things this season. It's best to do this well before the calves & lambs start dropping and you don't have any time to think.

We also introduce a new and very important addition to our team. You'll be aware by now that our practice manager, Joan Hughes, is retiring at the end of the year. You'll also be aware that she is the beating heart of this practice and has been for over 30 years, so finding her replacement wasn't easy and whoever we employed would need plenty of time under Joan's wing before taking over.

Anyway, we have found Joan's replacement. Leigh Laurence joined us late last month and will spend the next 6 months getting to grips with as much of Joan's job as she can in that time while also adjusting to the seasonal nature of a rural veterinary practice and getting to know her new work colleagues. We're thrilled to welcome Leigh on board and hope that she finds this as great a place to work as Joan did. I'll let Leigh introduce herself in this newsletter. By the way, while that's a nice snapper, it's nowhere near as big as the 30 pounder I caught in 2005 (just saying...)

And because this is the first newsletter of the new season we welcome all our new clients and farewell those who have sold up, retired, or simply moved elsewhere. Good luck to you all and thank you for your business.

## NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Vet Clinic, Railway Street, Eltham on **Thursday 20th July 2023** commencing at **12.30pm**.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM
3. Annual Report
4. Adoption of Balance Sheet
5. Appointment of Consultant Chartered Accountant and Financial Reviewer
6. Election and confirmation of appointment to Executive
7. Directors Remuneration
8. General Business

Mr G Glentworth and Mr S O'Sullivan (both dairying members) retire from the executive by rotation and are available for re-election. Nominations for these positions must be received by the Secretary by **midday Thursday, 6 July 2023**. Nomination forms are available at the clinic.

Financial Accounts for the year ended 31.3.2023 will be available on request as soon as the financial review is complete.

## ELTHAM VETS WINTER SEMINAR

We are looking to run our popular **SPRING FIRST AID seminar**.

Please contact the clinic by phone **06 764 8196** or email [info@elthamvetservice.co.nz](mailto:info@elthamvetservice.co.nz) ASAP if you want to register.

**Wednesday 12th July 9.30am-3.30pm**

Spring First Aid topics include:

- Calving and related conditions
- Metabolics e.g. milkfever and grass staggers
- General procedures including injections, stomach tubing and drenching
- Downer cows, sick cows, calf care and sick calves

This seminar is targeted at new entrants to dairy farming and anyone wishing to brush up on their knowledge. The cost of **\$230** includes course notes, morning tea and lunch.



## RVM CONSULT REMINDER

Have you had your RVM consult for the new season yet? I suspect the majority of you will say "no". Thanks to Animal Health/Wellness Plans and Dry Cow consults, we've got way behind on setting you up with your Restricted Veterinary Medicines authority for the 23/24 season.

If you're one of the many folks who haven't had a consultation to discuss your prescription for the new season please give us a call and book one in. We don't want people arriving at the clinic to stock up on supplies for spring & discover they don't have the current authority to do so. **Give us a call & we'll get you sorted.**

**Clinic & Farm Supplies**  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Ph . (06) 764 8196  
[info@elthamvetservice.co.nz](mailto:info@elthamvetservice.co.nz)  
**Trading Depot**  
Hollard 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**  
**Teresa Carr BVSc**  
**Adrian Clark BVSc**  
**Lindsay Lash BVSc**  
**Leon Christensen BVSc**  
**Michaela Abbott BVSc**  
**Holly Hofmans BVSc**  
**Ryan Carr BVSc, BSc**  
**Jack Matthews, BVSc**  
**Hannah Martin BVSc**

### Office

**Joan Hughes**      **Helen Snook**  
**Jill Watson CVN/RAT**  
**Michelle McLeod**      **Amber Smith**  
**Karen Bellamy**      **Erin Bryant**  
**Alex Rowlands (maternity leave)**  
**Leigh Laurence BBus/PG Dip Ed**

## DRY COW CONSULT AND REVIEW UPDATE

Many thanks to the vast majority of clients who filled in their dry cow forms in plenty of time for us to review them, phone you if there was an issue, schedule a consult if that was needed and still have time to make a recommendation and have your product prescribed & ready to pick up when you needed it. Unfortunately, there is still a small but significant number of clients who think it's okay to turn up on the day they want to dry off saying they never received a form and then proceed to fill it in with made up numbers at the counter. More often than not those same people want to treat their whole herd. Industry and the Vet Council have made it very clear that to treat the whole herd with DCT next season a herd would need to meet 5 strict criteria and then put a plan in place to reduce reliance on whole herd DCT in subsequent years. None of that will be possible if you turn up on the day you want to dry off. I've joked that to get whole herd treatment next year you'll need to provide a DNA sample, pass a urine test, and possibly also donate a kidney. Obviously that's a joke but the point is things will become very unpleasant for all concerned next season if people just rock up to the clinic on dry off day expecting product. A recent statement from the Vet Council reads: "Veterinarians must be able to justify each individual animal's treatment plan by ensuring there is sufficient clinical evidence to support a need for DCAT use for each animal for which the product is authorised i.e., full herd test results, or validated diagnostic culture, screening culture or PCR herd testing systems." It is no longer ok for farmers to sit behind the defence of "I don't herd test so have to use whole herd DCT". The 5 criteria for justification of whole herd dry cow are:

Measure of infection	Criteria indicative of herds with a high risk of mastitis
Bulk milk SCC	Seasonal average $\geq 250k$
Dry period clinical mastitis	2 or more cases/100 cows over the dry period
Early lactation clinical mastitis	10 or more cases per 100 cows in the first month of lactation
Individual cow SCC in early lactation	More than 25% of herd with cow SCC over 150k at herd tests in first six months of lactation
Dry period new infection rate	15% or more of cows have an increase in SCC from below to above 150k over the dry period

## ROTAVIRUS

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 diarrhea resulting in a sick, dehydrated calf. Outbreaks often 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 is then 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 FPT 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.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENED TO Intracillin WHP?



Good question. As signaled in recent communications, the ACVM group (who control all WHPs & registrations of the drugs we prescribe & use) decided they weren't happy with dose rates and withholding periods of all penicillins. They have decreed that we need to increase the amount of penicillin we give to animals to prevent the development of antibiotic resistance. And in doing so we need to increase the withhold periods. To cut a very long story short this means that the milk WHP for Intracillin injectable has increased from 72 hours to 96hrs (8 milkings) and that will be reflected on your RVM Authorities for the new season. The new dose rate has been simplified as 20mg/kg per day for three days. This equates to a dose rate as follows:

400kg	28mls
500kg	34mls
600kg	41mls

## DUPLOCILLIN WITHHOLD CHANGES

Thanks to those wonderful folks at the ACVM, Duplocillin has effectively become unusable for lactating dairy cows or any animal you're thinking of sending to the works within 3 months of use. The milk WHP has increased from 120 hours to 35 days. Yes 35 days. The meat WHP has increased from 30 days to 93 days. So, if you want to still keep it as a long-acting antibiotic option use it for young stock only. We're trying to get our hands on a viable alternative but that's proving tricky. We've taken it off most dairy clients' RVMs and are advising dry stock clients to take note of the new meat WHP. It's still a great product but you will need to be aware of the new WHPs if you use it this season. Give us a call if you wish to discuss other long-acting options this season.

## NO MORE BIONIC CAPSULES



For many sheep farmers the use of 100-day Bionic Capsules in Ewes pre lamb has been a standard practice to help with worm burden and stress over lambing. This season will be different.

The ACVM and MPI have put a halt to production and sales of Bionics due to inconsistencies of how long the capsule is working and therefore making the meat withhold inaccurate. Argenta, who make these capsules are under way with trial work to work out what has gone wrong and hopefully rectify the issues. Until this has been achieved there will be no more Bionics.

The use of Capsules pre lamb was a popular option for many farmers. We have come up with other options to fill this void.

For those Drystock farmers who haven't heard this news, don't panic, get in touch and we will sort you out a plan for your pre-lamb requirements.

*A senior citizen drove his brand-new Porsche convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 100 kph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little gray hair he had left. Amazing, he thought as he flew down the motorway, pushing the pedal even more.*

*Looking in his rear-view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 120 kph, then 130, then 140. Suddenly he thought, What am I doing? I'm too old for this and pulled over to await the officer's arrival.*

*Pulling in behind him, the policeman walked up to the car, looked at his watch, and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."*

*The old gentleman paused. Then he said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a police officer. I thought you were bringing her back."*

*"Have a good day, sir," replied the officer 😊😊😊*

