

# Start em' up

NEW FORMULATION  
MORE ENERGY!

ONLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR VET

## with Starter Plus™

### FEATURES & BENEFITS

- A High Energy drench
- Reduce metabolic disorders
- High calcium and energy source for sick cows and sheep
- Reduce health costs
- More efficient feed conversion
- Reduce weight loss in early lactation
- Improve appetite
- The cost effective choice

**Provides 15.2 MJME per 1L dose**



Starter Plus™ is exempt from registration.

### SPECIAL OFFER (17th May - 30th Sep\*)

**Buy 1x 200L Starter Plus™**  
and choose between a Heavy Duty Jump Start (1100AMP) or a Jamie Oliver Steak Pan!



RRP \$144.00

Jamie Oliver  
PROFESSIONAL SERIES  
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**Buy 1x 100L or 1x 60L Starter Plus™**  
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\* While stocks last



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### Editorial July 2010

"Four more years". That's the usual cry after we lose another Rugby World Cup quarter or semi-final. Now we can add Soccer (or Football) to that list but instead of having negative connotations we can look forward to trying to get into the "real" World Cup in Brazil in 2014, because let's face it, we are never going to win the thing; we just want to be there. Like all rugby supporters who have a passing interest in soccer as well, I got caught up in the All Whites buzz and as I do every 4 years, have thoroughly enjoyed the skill, drama and Oscar winning performances from the World's best footballers and all the discussions that follow when a goal is disallowed or a penalty given for a blatant dive. The truth is that as soon as this is over we all go back to watching rugby and don't become soccer experts for another 4 years, when once again we will complain at the cheating, theatrics and poor refereeing (the rest of the world don't care; it's their game and they love it warts and all). My only concern when watching Brazil lose to Holland was that it brought back memories of Cardiff in 2007 when we watched everyone's favourite for the title lose composure and have no plan B when plan A failed. God help us if that happens again next year. In the meantime we appear to have a really competitive provincial team to follow this season looking at the Taranaki squad. That would be nice!

**Inductions.** All Dairy clients received a letter a couple of weeks ago outlining changes to the code for this year and we have put another reminder in this newsletter. If you haven't been in for your Induction consult yet, you are running out of time. As usual they have foisted all this upon us very late in the piece, but you can't say that "nobody told you" as you have had letters from us, federated farmers and possibly other groups as well. Please book your induction consult with us before the end of July. We will not induce cows on your farm this year without having had a consult and received your list of cows to be induced well before your intended date. If you ring to book inductions a day beforehand you will be turned down.

So as spring fast approaches, good luck to you all. Let's hope the weather is as kind as it was last year and it sets you all up for a profitable new season.

Finally, Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to our very own Jim Robins who reaches the milestone on July 12<sup>th</sup>. He's still pretty sprightly for an old fella.

**Clinic & Farm Supplies**  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Ph. (06) 764 8196  
[www.elthamvetservice.co.nz](http://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

### Office

Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS  
Lisa Goldsworthy Jill Watson  
Sue Morresey Frank Suter



Trading Manager John Larkin relaxes while Alistair Abbott is presented with the outdoor furniture, he won in our recent promotion, by local Merial Ancare rep Tony Hammond.

### Reminder to Remove Withdrawn Products from the Drug Cabinet

As we have told you many times over the past year, a number of commonly used animal health products have been withdrawn in the last 12 months or reformulated to remove streptomycin and/or neomycin. Products that we have stocked and sold with these products in them included:

Special Formula Forte	Nafpenzal MC	Ubro Yellow
Strepcin HP	Depomycin injection	Pink Scour tablets
Virbac Scour Mix	Scourban Plus	

From 25<sup>th</sup> of August it will be illegal to use any of those products on any food producing animals or to have them in your possession in the event of a farm audit. While most of you will have used up and replaced products like Nafpenzal, Ubro Yellow and Special Formula, which were withdrawn from the market early in response to this legislation, some of you may still have the odd tube of Strepcin or bottle of Depomycin in the shed and in particular scour remedies that were purchased last season and not used, or partly used. Those scour products have all been reformulated now so we have removed all remaining old stock from our shelves and replaced it with the new formulations. While you can use what you have in stock up to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, please remember that after that date you must dispose of any remaining product on the above list and not use it. I'm sure on farm audits will pay particularly close attention to what you have in the drug cabinets this season so please don't be caught out.

### 3 + 1 PourOn Promotion

**EPRINEX 3+1 free**  
Reduces cost of 500kg treatment to approx. \$5.00  
No withholdings

**Promo ends 31 July**

## Inductions - Another Reminder

In June we sent all dairy clients a letter outlining changes to the current Induction Code of Practice that came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Hopefully you read that letter and any other information subsequent to that because they had a major influence on whether many of you would either be able to induce this season or bother to induce. To recap, the major changes were:

- **Early planning procedures.**  
Only cows which have been identified and recorded by a vet on a farm induction plan can be presented for induction. This list of cows must be agreed with a vet at a planning meeting no later than 60 days before the start of induction. This agreement must be in writing (i.e. documented)
- For this season (2010/2011) the number of cows induced in an individual herd should not exceed 15% of the herd's total size. That percentage will drop to 8% the following season and 4% the season after that (2012/13)
- Smaller window for the first injection.
  - Cows should be no more than 84 days (12 weeks) and no less than 56 days (8 weeks) from their expected calving date.  
So the window has reduced from 6-12 weeks to 8-12 weeks
- Requirement for accurate dating of stage of pregnancy. You will need to produce scanning and/or herd mating records to verify expected calving dates. It is too late to get cows pregnancy tested now if you think they may be late. The same applies to any cow that goes past her expected due date.
- Any calf born alive is to be euthanased by either firearm or captive bolt gun.  
Striking on the head with a blunt object is no longer acceptable. One of the reasons for reducing the window to 8-12 weeks is to reduce the likelihood of a calf being born alive. The image of 'smacking calves on the head' is not one that sits well with the general public or our trading partners.
- Monitoring and audit of induction procedures on-farm as part of annual farm drug use audits.  
This information will be reported by dairy companies back to the stakeholder group (DairyNZ, DCANZ, FFNZ & NZVA)
- Where there is an unresolved dispute about cows to be induced, the matter will be referred to a disputes team to review the matter. The disputes committee will comprise representatives from FFNZ Dairy Section, NZVA and DairyNZ.



So, if you haven't already made an appointment to see us about your plans for inducing this season, you are fast running out of time. Remember, if we haven't been provided with a list of cows to be induced before we visit to give the 1<sup>st</sup> injection, we can't induce them. Don't try and book in an induction visit a day ahead or add cows that weren't agreed to at that consult and don't even think of putting up cows that are too old or not in condition score 4.5 or better.

If you're not sure what a condition score 4.5 cow should look like, please refer to the "Condition Scoring Made easy" Booklet available from DairyNZ or their website [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz). Simply if a cow has a flat backbone (no bumps visible) she is above 4.5. If bumps are visible she is below 4.5

### Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Vet Clinic,  
Railway Street, Eltham  
Tuesday 20th July at 1.30pm

Includes the presentation of the chairmans' and CEO's annual reports

Come and hear Polly tell us about her time as 'Pfizer Practitioner in Residence' at Massey University and Andrew talk about the latest information & some practical experience controlling BVD



**LED Lenser H7 Headlamp**  
with selected Merial Ancare products



## Overfat Cows and Ketosis



Primary ketosis is a disease that affects cows which lose too much weight in early lactation.

Holdovers are particularly at risk because they tend to be both high BW and overfat so they break down lots of body fat to fuel good early production. Unfortunately body fat does not break down perfectly and it makes by-products called 'ketone bodies'. In high levels these ketone bodies depress appetite. So your lovely, shiny, fat holdover starts off milking with a hiss and a roar but after a month or so she goes off her feed, her milk drops dramatically and she turns to skin and bone. Does this sound familiar to you?



An excellent aid in prevention is to dose any overfat cows with a Rumensin bloat bullet a couple of weeks before they are due to calve. The Rumensin changes the population of bugs in the rumen and reduces the risk of ketosis by over 90%. At \$16.50 a bullet it's a very good investment.

## HEADSTART PLUS

To add up to \$140\* income per cow

**Southland Study\***: HeadStart treated cows show up to 23kg of milk solid increase over untreated control cows!  
**Waikato Study\*\***: 4.8% more fat, 4.3% more protein, 4.6% more milk solids and 6.4% higher milk volume for the season...

Animal health company Virbac have the latest product in its market-leading HeadStart range - HeadStart Plus, with added Cobalt.

HeadStart Plus has been formulated to:

- Assist dairy cows in giving maximum production.
- Boost appetite and metabolism to help achieve optimum feed intake levels after calving
- Contain quality sources of calcium and magnesium, along with energy sources and appetite stimulants

HeadStart has undergone serum response, palatability and production studies. These trials have shown that:

- Cows treated with HeadStart within 12 hours of calving demonstrated a statistically significant increase in blood calcium. (Franklin Study\*\*)
- Cows treated with HeadStart within 12 hours of calving demonstrated a statistically significant increase in blood magnesium. (Franklin Study\*\*)
- Cows treated with HeadStart demonstrate a reduced negative energy balance as indicated by NEFA levels. Negative energy balance after calving can cause poor reproductive performance and limits production through reduced milk protein and lactose. (Franklin Study\*\*)
- Cows treated with HeadStart within 24 hours of calving demonstrated a higher milk solids production for a whole season (up to 23kg) than cows not treated with the product. (Southland Study\*)
- Comparison with control cows showed significant changes in production through the season of 4.8% more fat, 4.3% more protein, 4.6% more milk solids and 6.4% higher milk volume. The result, (@\$6.10/kg MS), is \$77 per cow in favour of the treated cows. (Waikato Study\*\*)

### In Flight Service

Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced:  
"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your Captain.  
Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to Toronto. The weather ahead is good, so we should have a smooth uneventful flight. So sit back, relax and..... OH, MY GOD!"

Silence followed!

Some moments later the captain came back on the intercom.

'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!'

One passenger yelled...

That's nothing ..... you should see the back of mine!!

### Recovery

A man was just waking up from anaesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes fluttered open and he said, 'You're beautiful.'

Then he fell asleep again. His wife had never heard him say that before, so she stayed by his side.

A few minutes later his eyes fluttered open and he said, 'You're cute.'

The wife was disappointed because instead of 'beautiful,' it was now 'cute.'

She asked, 'What happened to beautiful?'

The man replied, 'The drugs are wearing off.'

## TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE FOR GOOD CALF REARING

The success of good rearing depends on many factors - not just the milk being fed. These are:

1. The selection of a healthy good quality calf
2. The colostrum intake of that calf
3. The careful transport of that calf to the calf barn
4. The housing, pen sizes, ventilation, drainage and bedding
5. Milk product (CMR or milk) volume and frequency of feeding.
6. Supply a good quality meal, fibre and water
7. Good feeding utensils - teat feeders, clean and working well
8. The daily observation of health and disease
9. Effective prevention of disease and proper treatments of ailments and therapeutic levels
10. Good quality staff.
11. For serious health challenges, consult your veterinarian.
12. Have 'electrolytes' handy - treatment sooner is better and more cost effective with fewer losses.



When you walk into a calf barn use all your sense to assess calf health.

- Watch calves moving, standing up and stretching
- The colour and consistency of the faeces
- Discharge from the mouth or nose-saliva, mucous, blood or pus

### LOOK

1. Look at the navel and joints
2. Skin soft and shiny
3. Eyes bright and alert
4. The willingness to drink and eat



### LISTEN

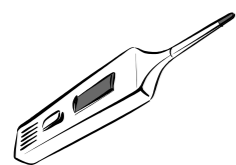
1. Coughing
2. Bellowing
3. Grinding of the teeth

### SMELL

1. Smell of the faeces
2. Smell of the bedding and air
3. Smell of milk, meal, hay and water

### TASTE

1. Any product offered to the calf should be palatable and free from fungi and moulds.
2. Taste all of the additional products offered to the calf
3. Taste the milk, meal, fibre and water



The most useful diagnostic tool in the calf barn is the clinical thermometer. Use it to detect disease early, and to monitor the treatment regime. The normal temperature of a calf will be in the range of 38°C - 39°C. NB: Check the temperature of a normal pen mate before the sick calf.

### Perspective

*Morris returns from the doctor and tells his wife that the doctor has told him that he has only 24 hours to live.*

*Given the prognosis, Morris asks his wife for sex.*

*Naturally, she agrees, so they make love. About 6 hours later, the husband goes to his wife and says,*

*'Honey, you know I now have only 18 hours to live. Could we please do it one more time?' Of course, the wife agrees, and they do it again.*

*Later, as the man gets into bed, he looks at his watch and realizes that he now has only 8 hours left. He touches his wife's shoulder and asks, '*

*Honey, please... just one more time before I die.'*

*She says, 'Of course, Dear,' and they make love for the third time.*

*After this session, the wife rolls over and falls to sleep.*

*Morris, however, worried about his impending death, tosses and turns, until he's down to 4 more hours. He taps his wife, who rouses.*

*'Honey, I have only 4 more hours... Do you think we could...?' At this point the wife sits up and says, 'Listen Morris, enough is enough I have to get up in the morning... you don't.'*



## Prepare Cows for Lactation 2-3 weeks before Calving

Around calving, the cow undergoes a dramatic transition from dry and heavily pregnant to fully lactating. This is a very stressful period for the cow and she is vulnerable to many problems & disorders that can affect her health & productivity.

In the last month before calving a mature cow requires 20% of her mature cow liveweight in metabolisable energy (MJME) daily to meet her energy requirements. This means a 400kg Jersey needs 80 MJME/day and a 500kg Friesian needs 100 MJME/day. This is some 10% higher than traditionally recommended and is an important consideration to prevent condition score loss before calving.

Feeding during the last 2-3 weeks before calving not only determines what happens to body condition at this time, but also provides an opportunity to prepare the cow for the coming lactation. Strategic feeding can reduce diseases and disorders around calving and reduce the potential for condition score loss following calving. The principles of feeding at this time include:

- Satisfy the cow's daily requirements for energy, protein, vitamins & minerals.
- If a cow is to be fed more than 3-4 kg/day of concentrate after calving, it will be necessary to adapt her rumen to reduce the risk of rumen upsets. Feed 2-3 kg/cow/day of a similar diet to dry cows in the last 2-3 weeks before they calve.
- Manage the mineral levels of a cow's diet in this period before calving as this allows her to better cope with the huge metabolic demands placed on her around calving. This reduces her risk of suffering disorders such as milk fever, ketosis and retained foetal membranes.
- Feed a diet low in sodium and potassium
- Feed a diet with low levels of calcium, and
- Supplement with magnesium

Pastures can be naturally high in potassium but this can be overcome by magnesium supplementation before and after calving, and with calcium supplementation after calving to colostrum cows. Avoid all potash-type fertilisers at least 2 months prior to your planned calving start date.

If the body condition score of cows is not between 5.0 and 5.5 one month before calving, it's too late. Make plans to have calving cows in better condition next year.

*Reproduced from the InCalf Book*

## Assisting at Calving

You should provide assistance to calving heifers and cows when any of the following occur:

- Heifers not making progress within 2 hours after the first signs of abdominal straining
- Cows not calved within 2 hours after the first signs of abdominal straining
- Calving has not occurred within 3-4 hours after membranes have ruptured
- Delivery has commenced; the calf's legs or head are (just) visible externally and it is obvious the presentation is abnormal
- Delivery has commenced; the calf's legs or head are (just) visible externally and the calf is not delivered within 30 minutes for cows, 1 hour for heifers
- If you see the calf's tongue hanging out



If you think that a cow may have calved (e.g. she may have placenta hanging from the vulva) but have not found the calf, perform a vaginal exam to ensure that she has in fact calved.

If you assist too early, the cervix and vagina may not be fully dilated and by pulling you risk severe trauma to the cow and more difficulty in removing the calf.

If you cannot feel the calf's head, do not presume that the two legs presented are hind limbs. They may in fact be front legs and the head is twisted back (our most common presentation when called out). Check to make sure you can positively identify the hocks of both back legs and the calf's tail before attempting to pull a backwards calf.

If a cow shows signs of discomfort during the course of the day (e.g. getting up and down, licking or kicking flanks, etc) bring her in and examine her. If the cervix feels closed but things are 'tight' and 'not right' she may have a twisted uterus and needs immediate veterinary attention.

If you cannot bring the calf into the correct position within 10 minutes, or if you are not sure what you are feeling or how to proceed, stop and seek immediate assistance.

Make sure you keep things as clean as possible by using plenty of hot water, disinfectant and soap plus plenty of lubricant. Always have a clean bucket available to use when calving cows – a quick rinse of a bucket that has been used to carry milk or colostrum is not suitable.

### Avoid Early Season Grades - Take No Short Cuts!!

If you've ever been unfortunate enough to be hit with an IS grade at the start of a new season or know someone who has, it is a pretty sure bet that you don't want to be in that position ever again. With that unpleasant thought in mind here are some reminders on what can increase the risk of getting IS grades this season:

Risky practices:

- \* Treating cows with DCT during dry period
- \* Very low milk volumes supplied at first collection
- \* Cows on once-a-day milking
- \* Purchased cows where DCT treatment history is unclear

Things you can do to reduce the risk:

- \* Remember that cows need to be withheld for the first 8 milkings after calving and heifers the first 10. Don't take short cuts such as sneaking cows in after 3 days or 6 milkings and heifers a day early - it isn't worth it. *You should note that the pre-collection tests are notoriously temperamental and even more so in the presence of colostrum so by sneaking a few cows in early you could be putting yourself at unnecessary risk.*
- \* Change your filter sock after every milking, especially if you have had problems with IS grades before. I know it seems like a hassle, but using the filter sock from the milking before even with a low number of cows will increase your risk
- \* Hot wash after every milking at the start of the season and especially if you have had problems before.

Cold washes and not changing filter socks after each milking have been identified as risk factors with IS grades so don't take the chance!

Milk Volume is very important!! As Fonterra say in Farmlink "to ensure the highest quality milk, **the first milking into the vat must be agitated.** Depending on your vat size, as much as 400 litres may be required to achieve full agitation, so you should be aiming to supply at **least 1000 litres of milk** at the first collection of the season. Supplying this volume will significantly reduce the chance of grading for bacteria, SCC and added water. It will also reduce the chance of grading due to the presence of DCT residues."



### Calf Disbudding

After the successful changes to our premium calf disbudding service last season we will be running the same system again this year. We will be de-horning in teams of two - usually one of the vets (Adrian, Lindsay or Bruce) with the help of our large animal technician/nurse Jill. The plan is to book in calf de-horning on certain days and they will come and do all your calves between the ages of 2-6 weeks in one go. This age range is important to ensure an efficient quality service. We can also give the first blackleg vaccination at the same time.

Remember this is a premium service and isn't designed to compete on price. If you want your calves sedated and dehorned in a stress and pain free way, this is the method for you. If you don't there are plenty of people out there offering lower cost alternatives. The cost will be a visit fee + \$6.85 (incl.GST) per calf. Phone the clinic to book your calves in early.

### Cashback is Back

Purchase Rumensin TT or Rumensin Drenchable liquid and receive cashback with every drum you buy



See John for details

See John for all your pre-lamb requirements -



- Cydectin LA
- Drench capsules
- Ultravac

Ewegard is in very short supply this season - see us for other options.

### APPLICATOR AMNESTY

Please check your cowshed for applicators which may belong to the clinic and return them ASAP.

Missing applicators include:

- Rumetrace Guns
- Bloat Bullet Applicators

It is difficult for other customers to use these products without applicators!

### Calving Period Mastitis - Control Activities

In case you have neglected to look at your SAMM Plan recently, here are the vital bits going into this spring in terms of helping reduce the likelihood of mastitis.

#### Calve cows in a clean environment

- Reduce exposure to environmental mastitis
- Calve onto clean pasture
- Do not calve cows on standoff areas

#### Minimise Mastitis

- Remove calf from cow as soon as possible after it has had a good drink of colostrum (within 12 hours of calving - it is a very good idea to stomach tube all new arrivals with 2L of warmed colostrum even if you have seen them drink)
- Completely milk out cow by machine. Milk twice daily from first milking onwards

*Be aware that this milking out practice may increase the risk of milk fever in high-conditioned, older cows and any others with a previous history of milk fever*

#### Teat Sanitation

- Post-milking teat spraying throughout the entire lactation is proven to reduce the incidence of new mastitis by up to 50%
- The additional benefits of pre-milking teat spraying are inconclusive but worth considering if you have a high incidence of mastitis at calving time, especially in heifers

#### Minimise Teat Damage

- Minimise damage to teats as this is a major cause of new infections

#### Newly Calved Cows

- Run as a separate mob
- Withhold milk for 8 milkings (cows) or 10 milkings (heifers)
- Extend this period if cows do not milk out properly

#### Fast Efficient Milking

- Ensure milk letdown, especially in heifers
- Milk out all quarters of all cows
- Avoid over-milking and under-milking

#### Leaking Cows

- Milk prior to calving to ease pressure
- Teat spray
- Do not put milk into bulk tank

#### Teat Spray

- Spray teats with an effective sanitiser after every milking throughout the entire lactation
- Maintain teat condition - up to 15% emollient
- If teat condition is a problem consider teat spraying with added emollient for a week before calving
- Ensure whole surface of teat is sprayed
- Use a teat spray which has "Passed Protocol A 1997"
- Use according to label

Thanks to the good folks who put together the SAMM Plan.

It is really valuable tool.

Take advantage of all that good advice and use it!!

### Managing Mastitis - Checklist for this Season

Your cows are under constant threat from infections that can cause mastitis. With good understanding and careful management they can be controlled and you can keep your production on track.

Following (courtesy of Schering-Plough Animal Health) are best practice mastitis management techniques.

#### Dealing with clinical cases

- \* Mastitis cases are marked and separated from the main herd during the entire treatment and withholding period
- \* Cows are treated with a mastitis product that works & that you have faith in
- \* Withholding periods are strictly observed
- \* All mastitis cases and treatments are carefully recorded
- \* Repeat offenders which do not respond to treatment are culled
- \* Mastitis treatment and prevention programme is discussed with your vet

#### At calving

- \* Cows calve onto clean pasture, avoiding mud or stand-off areas
- \* Once newborn calves have received a good feed of colostrum, suckling is minimised

#### Colostrum milking

- \* Colostrum cows are kept as a separate mob
- \* Cows are checked frequently for signs of clinical mastitis
- \* Cows are milked out carefully & thoroughly for 8 milkings (10 for heifers)
- \* Milk is tested for sub-clinical mastitis before cows join the main herd

#### During lactation

- \* Bulk tank somatic cell counts are monitored; any increases investigated
- \* Signs of clinical mastitis are watched for and cases investigated
- \* Effective teat spraying is practised after every milking - from season start to season finish
- \* Hygiene is maintained (e.g. clinicals milked last, damaged teats treated, clean races maintained)
- \* The milking plant is monitored and faults remedied promptly

