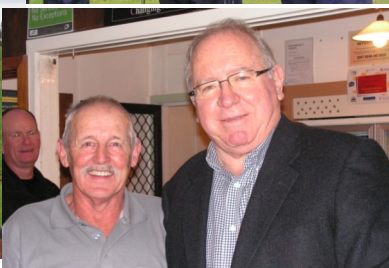




GOLF DAY 2012

Enjoyed by farmers & staff



Eltham Vet Services

JULY 2012

According to a local consultant the use of Dry Cow Therapy will be banned within 5 years. Really? DCT isn't quite the same as mass medication of pigs or chickens and with the required veterinary consults these days is far more planned and controlled than in the past. Sounds a bit like scare-mongering to me so I think you can probably relax on that front for now at least. Hopefully by the time any authority decides to end the use of DCT I will be well retired & it will be someone else's problem. I would be more concerned about how Kiwi Fruit farmers were able to get hold of vast quantities of Streptomycin and inject it into their vines recently. Streptomycin was withdrawn from all combination Restricted Veterinary Medicines a number of years ago because of concerns about resistance & the human food chain (remember Streptopen?). It is only available now as a single active antibiotic to treat specific things like woody tongue or lepto. I guess if you have cows with woody tongue in the BOP now you could just send them to the nearest kiwi fruit orchard and get them to eat the fruit. My question is how did they get hold of the stuff in the first place?

Something more likely to occur before we lose DCT is inductions. I'm not daring to say anything official yet but I have heard strong rumours that this spring may be the last spring any of you will be able to induce your cows. In this case the powers that be seem very certain that they want the practice ended as soon as possible. At the very least expect next season to be less than the 4% limit allowed this year.

I hope you have all been able to get a well deserved winter break and are now rested and ready to go as a new season approaches rapidly. I hope your cows are equally rested and set up for a successful new season by being as close as possible to condition score 5 at calving and that you have plenty of feed in front of you going into spring with a bit extra available during times of cold, wet weather (which inevitably we will get at some stage) when the feed budget needs a little tinkering to keep stock fully fed.

You may have noticed some new utes travelling around recently? Nice aren't they? By the time you receive this we should have four on the road. You may also be interested to hear that within 48 hours Adrian's new ute had ground to a halt on his way to a calving and would not restart. As I write this the people at Ford have it on their diagnostic machine trying to work out why - these days new vehicles have so many computers on board you need an IT technician rather than a mechanic to fix them.



Finally after what seems like a rather drawn out series of farewells (a bit like the great Queensland league player Darren Lockyer who took about 2 years to retire) we have said our last goodbye to former chairman and now officially retired board member Alistair Abbott. Twenty years' outstanding service to the Eltham Vet Club was recognised at a dinner last week where former board members, former CEO Dave Higham and Alistair's brother, Stephen & sister, Louise were on hand to say their farewells and tell stories at Alistair's expense. It was a great night and a wonderful way to express our thanks and admiration for a fine servant of this vet club. We will find out who Alistair's replacement is at next week's AGM when an election will be held. I look forward to seeing you there. Good luck for the new season ahead.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Bruce & Barb Campbell**

on winning the
**Sony 55" Flat
 Screen TV**
 in our recent
 drench promotion



CONGRATULATIONS to Colin Brown & Peter Myers who each won a Rugby World Cup All Black Polo Shirt through their purchases of Ivomec Plus injection.

NEW PRODUCT

Rumensin Max is the new high concentrate liquid formulation of Rumensin.

It replaces Rumensin Trough Treatment and Drenchable Liquid and has a new dose rate of 2ml per cow per day



EPRINEX 3 + 1 FREE

3 x 5 litre + 1 x 5 litre FREE
 (20 litres @ 15 litre price)

OR

2 + 1L Free Deal
 Buy 2 x 5 Litre and
 receive 1 x 1 litre FREE

NO WITHHOLDINGS
 Promotion ends 31 August



Annual General Meeting

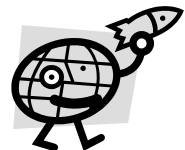
To be held at the Vet Clinic, Railway Street, Eltham, Thursday 19th July at 1.30pm
 Presentation of the chairmans' and CEO's annual reports.
 Daryl Johnson, Robyn Roberts & Jeanette Rowlands are standing for the two vacant positions on the executive.

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. PKE is a high potash (K) feed. If you must feed it before calving, mix Causmag in with it.
- Feed a diet with low levels of calcium.
- 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 for at least 2 months prior to your planned calving start date.



The Samm Plan goes "Hi-Tech"

Most cases of mastitis occur within a few weeks of calving, when the cows' natural defences are low and teats are in contact with mud and manure during calving. The new **SmartSAMM** website was launched in mid-June at the NZ Milk Quality Conference. Go to www.smartsamm.co.nz.

Check out the website for the latest information on preventing and treating mastitis before calving gets into full swing. 'Healthy Udder' provides handy reminders on practical ways to prevent, find and treat mastitis. **SmartSAMM** Guidelines (in the Resources section) gives more detail for the calving period, including preventing heifer mastitis, checking that milk is suitable to go in the vat, and finding and treating clinical mastitis in fresh calvers. Correct procedures for cup handling, teat spraying, and making up teat spray are outlined in further Guidelines. It's a great website with just about everything you could possibly need relating to mastitis and milk quality. And it's free! Do yourself a favour and take a look.

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 damage 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 (this is 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.

Would you like fewer non cyclers?

Metrichecking cows between calving and mating is a routine practice for many dairy farmers these days. It is a good way to pick up cows with subclinical uterine infections (endometritis) which are not discharging much pus and would not otherwise be detected. A gadget called a metrichecker is inserted into the vagina and some fluid is scooped out. If the fluid has pus in it antibiotics are infused into the uterus to clear up the infection. Recently I went to a talk about risk factors for uterine infections. All the usual suspects were quoted: retained membranes, assisted calvings, a dead calf, twins, milk fever, etc. But one of the biggest risk factors is actually low body condition. I've known for years that most of the dirty cows I am called to are skinny but I thought they were skinny because they were dirty. It turns out to be more likely that they were dirty because they were skinny before they calved. **Skinny cows are more likely to suffer uterine infections after calving** than cows which calve at or near BCS 5.

Something else which may be obvious to you, but wasn't to me, is that **detecting and curing uterine infections sooner rather than later after calving reduces the number of non cyclers** at planned start of mating (PSM). When cows were metrichecked and treated in three batches at about 5, 8 and 11 weeks after planned start of calving there were fewer non cyclers than if cows were metrichecked all together about 10 weeks after PSC when most of the herd had calved. This is because the changes leading up to a cow's first heat begin more than a month before the actual heat and uterine infection slows down these changes. Early treatment of a dirty cow allows these changes to progress so she has more chance of cycling before PSM. Late treatment makes no difference to her chance of being a non cycler.

There's another drawback to late metrichecking. If you delay metrichecking until 10 weeks after PSC many of the dirty cows will have cleaned up by themselves and you will have fewer to treat but some of the cows which look clean at metrichecking will still have inflammation in their uterus and that inflammation makes them less likely to conceive. Checking them earlier, when they were still obviously dirty on metrichecking, means they get treated and have a better chance of conceiving earlier. Metrichecking cows late is a false economy! You will save some money on dirty cow treatments but you will lose more on noncycler treatments and lower conception rates. So, if you are treating more non cyclers than you think you should be, consider metrichecking your herd in batches this year.

Coccidiosis in milk fed dairy calves

Many of you will be familiar with coccidiosis in dairy calves - calves over 4 weeks old straining to pass bloody scours little and often. They hold their tails up and strain with the anus clenching repeatedly and a pained expression on their faces but little stool being passed. The backs of their hind legs are often stained with faeces and blood. The calves themselves are often surprisingly bright and will still feed but look very unhappy and hunched up. Sounds familiar?

With coccidiosis, the calves which get bloody scour are only the tip of the iceberg. Most of the rest of the mob are infected although some will only show watery diarrhoea for a few days with little or no blood. However, all infected calves will suffer damage to the lining of their gut. Repairing this damage takes weeks and it is actually this period of reduced feed intake and weight gain that costs you the most.

Calves become infected by the faeco - oral route - which is a polite way of saying by eating shit. All good calf meals have a coccidiostat added to prevent this disease but calves need to be eating 1 kg each per day to get a full prevention dose. So there is a gap between the time when calves reach 4 weeks of age and the time they are eating 1kg meal/day and this is when we see coccidiosis. Coccidia can survive for 2 years in calf pens and the dirtier and more overcrowded your calf pens, the more chance of disease.

Another time that we see coccidiosis is after meal feeding stops but by that time the calves are often spread out over the farm and their environment is cleaner so it is not as common.

We seem to be seeing more clinical coccidiosis each year, maybe because calf mobs are getting bigger? Last year we had big outbreaks on 11 farms and another 10 farms had one or two sick calves. I suspect other farms had mild outbreaks which got better without treatment but the calves didn't grow and bloom as they should have done.

A convenient way to prevent coccidiosis in milk fed calves is to add Deccox Premix to their milk, once daily for 4 weeks, beginning at about 3 weeks of age. The total cost is about \$4.70 per calf but should be more than repaid in improved growth rates. *If you are feeding milk powder check if it already contains a coccidiostat before you add Deccox. Premium powders often include a coccidiostat but the non-curding whey powders often don't.*

Bobby Calf Best Practice Guidelines for Farmers

Fit for transport

Four days old / dry navel / hard hooves / no disease
Active and alert / no injuries / fed and watered

On the Farm

Feed colostrum to all calves
Give calves access to good quality water at all times
Protect calves from the wind, rain and cold at all times
Handle calves gently and with care at all times
Only select fit and healthy calves for transport

Why care about your bobby calves?

They aren't replacements; they aren't worth much and they aren't going to be around for long, so why care about them? Well, for a start, the Animal Welfare Act 1999 places a 'duty of care' on all those involved with livestock. Failure to meet the needs of a bobby calf may lead to prosecution. At the very least, calves require a warm, sheltered environment & regular feeding in order to meet their welfare needs while in your care. Meat processing inspectors take an active interest in bobby calf welfare and follow up on all cases where problems are identified. This year MPI (MAF) welfare group will be taking a particular interest in bobby calf welfare. While it's possible that you won't get caught if you don't look after your bobby calves, is really worth it not to care about them?



Prevention and Treatment of Cryptosporidiosis Is Now Possible

Cryptosporidiosis is often thought of as being a less severe cause of scours than the other major causes (rotavirus, coronavirus and *E. coli*) but many of those who have had a major outbreak would tell you otherwise.

Cryptosporidiosis appears to be a growing problem, with more cases than usual seen last season.

The problem is when cryptosporidia strikes a high proportion of calves can be infected and often for a long time. Treatment can be difficult as electrolytes may be needed for so long that calves can become weak. So even though a lower proportion of calves usually die, the hassle and stress involved is often just as major as it is for other scour outbreaks. When you add in that cryptosporidia is often tied in with rotavirus, which can make a bad outbreak of scours worse, it makes sense to reduce the effects before it gets out of control.

Halocur is a recent arrival to the New Zealand market and is the only pharmaceutical treatment available for crypto. It can be used as both a prevention and treatment and in combination with good management practices will reduce the severity of scours. Importantly, it will also reduce contamination of the environment, helping to break the cycle of infection of other calves.

For the prevention of diarrhoea caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum* in at risk calves, treatment should start within 24 hours of birth. Halocur comes in a 490ml container with a special bottle mounted applicator. Treatment is given orally at a dose of 2ml/10kg, once daily for 7 days, directly after feeding.

Halocur is expensive (around \$24 per calf treatment) and there are other non-pharmaceutical products with claims to assist treatment, in particular Kryptade (electrolyte replacer), Exagen (preventative added to milk) and a new product from the makers of Rotagen Combo (also expensive) so before you rush in to buy some for your scouring calves make sure you get faecal samples tested to see what the cause actually is.

If you are concerned about cryptosporidiosis in your calves, please contact us to discuss how Halocur may help you to control this disease.

Halocur is only available from your veterinarian.

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 \$16.90 a bullet it's a very good investment.



Calving Period Mastitis - Control Activities

As we head into spring again here is a revision of the important bits from the SAMM plan in regards to 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 the calf from the 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 the cow out 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%

Minimise Teat Damage

- Minimise damage to teats as this is a major cause of new infections.
- Make sure the machine is functioning correctly with a full machine test

Newly Calved Cows

- Run as a separate colostrum 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 twice a day
- Avoid over-milking and under-milking

Leaking Cows

- Milk prior to calving to ease pressure
- Teat spray every time through the shed at spring concentration
- 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 in cold muddy conditions
- 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 at least 10ml/cow/milking
- Use a teat spray which has "Passed Protocol A 1997"
- Use according to label instructions including mixing at higher concentrations during periods of high challenge (muddy conditions)

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

It is a really valuable tool.

Take advantage of all that good advice and use it.



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 of things that can increase the risk of getting an IS grade this season:

Risky practices:

- Treating cows with DCT during dry period eg. for dry cow mastitis
- Very low volume supplied at first pick up
- Cows on once-a-day milking
- Bought in cows with unclear DCT treatment history.
- Re-using filter socks
- Cold washing the plant

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 re-using the filter sock, even with a low number of cows, will increase your risk.
- Hot wash after every milking at the start of the season, especially if you have had problems before.

Milk volume is very important!! In Farmlink Fonterra says "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."



TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE FOR GOOD CALF REARING

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

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 treatment of ailments
10. Good quality staff
11. For serious health challenges, consult your veterinarian.
12. Have Revive or Diarrest handy - treatment sooner is better and more cost effective with fewer losses.



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

1. Watch calves moving, standing up and stretching
2. The colour and consistency of the faeces
3. Discharge from the mouth or nose-saliva, mucus, 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 mould
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.

*Speaking of milk - make sure milk is fed warm (body temperature). Feeding cold milk means the calf has to use its own energy to warm the milk to its body temp before digesting it - all energy that could have been used for growth. Given that you want a calf to be growing at about 700g per day every day, it can ill-afford to waste energy on warming milk before it utilizes it.



The Effect of Wet Weather

To reinforce my constant nagging about keeping animals warm here's some interesting facts about shivering calves:

Temperature at Which Calves Shiver:

	Friesian Calves	Jersey Calves
Dry coat, calm	3°C	9°C
Dry coat, wind	8°C	13°C
Wet coat, wind	13°C	17°C

So leaving recently born calves out in cold, windy, wet weather for any longer than necessary is basically a death sentence - worth bearing in mind.



A little girl asked her Mum, "How did the human race appear?"
The Mum answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so was all mankind made..."
Two days later the girl asked her Dad the same question.
The Dad answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, Dear, it's very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his ..."



REHYDRATION OF CALVES

Calves that are scouring are losing body water, body salts (electrolytes) and energy. Weight loss can be dramatic and fatal. These ingredients must all be replaced as quickly as possible.

Irrespective of the cause of the diarrhoea (nutritional or infectious) the treatment is the same. That is to replace the lost fluids and maintain the energy of the calf. This is best done by giving electrolytes during the period of diarrhoea and the recovery period.

However, oral electrolytes by themselves are lower in energy than milk, so milk feeding during the scouring period should be continued as much as possible.

Milk should never be withheld for longer than 24 hours - Revive and Kryptade can be given with milk.

CALF SYMPTOMS	% DEHYDRATION
Diarrhoea only	5%
Eyes slightly sunken, skin slow to flatten if pinched, gums sticky, calf depressed	7%
Eyes sunken, skin slow to flatten if pinched, gums sticky, calf depressed	9%*
Eyes very sunken, skin won't flatten out if pinched, calf cannot stand	12%*

* These calves will need additional intravenous fluids administered by a vet.

Note: Any calf that has scoured for one day is at least 5% dehydrated.

Degree of dehydration %	Maintenance water required litres/day	Amount of extra fluid needed to restore body water litres/day	Total fluids required litres/day
2%	4.5	1	5.5
5%	4.5	2.3	6.8
10%	4.5	4.5	9



Give no more than 2 litres per feed. So the calf needs to be fed 3-4 times per day.

Premium Calf Disbudding Service

Following the successful continuation of 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, Bruce or Leon) with the help of our large animal technician/nurse Jill. We 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.*

As part of the service we check for and remove extra teats. If you wish we can also give the first blackleg vaccination and/or blood test calves for BVD 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 painfree way, this is the method for you.

There are plenty of people out there offering cheaper alternatives.

The cost will be a visit fee + \$8.50 (incl.GST) per calf. Phone the clinic to book your calves in early.



Testing Calves for BVD

New information only recently available shows that the ear notch test for BVD is less reliable than we thought in calves less than 35 days old. If you are testing your calves well done - it's still a good thing to do. However it's now a little bit more complicated. Your options are:



1. Wait till calves are at least 35 days then test by ear notch (you'll need to make sure calves are kept away from other stock until you have the results).
2. Test by blood sample instead (a different test which is done on pools of 10). We can do this for you at disbudding time. This will give you a pooled result. Each pool of 10 calves will be either pool positive (with individual results that may or may not be correct for calves under 35 days), or pool negative. A negative pool result means the calves are not PI. End of story. If the pool is positive any calves less than 35 days at sampling will have to be tested again by blood sample after they are 35 days old.

If you've got any questions feel free to ring us.