Wonderful English from Around the World

In a Bangkok Temple:
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Doctor's office, Rome:
SPECIALIST IN WOMEN & OTHER DISEASES.

Dry cleaners, Bangkok:
DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR BEST RESULTS.

On a poster at Kencom:
ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO WE CAN HELP.

In a City restaurant:
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

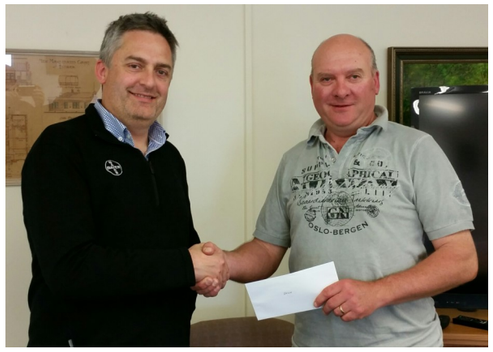
Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:
GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE, OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.

Hotel, Japan:
YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

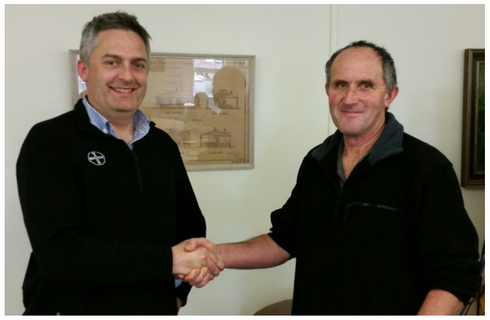
Hotel, Zurich:
BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

And finally the all-time classic:

Seen in an Abu Dhabi Souk shop window:
IF THE FRONT IS CLOSED PLEASE ENTER THROUGH MY BACKSIDE ...



Winners of the 'Moolah drycow' promotion Daryl Johnson (above) and Murray Prankerd (below) pictured receiving reimbursement for their drycow from Jake Morrison, Bayer NZ Ltd



Daffodils are not the only things emerging this Spring

As we start to welcome Spring and warmer weather, so too do the parasites that have been hibernating in the guts of your calves over the winter. We still don't know the cues that worms use to know when to awake but we do know that they start emerging from the stomach lining at about this time of year causing gut damage, inappetence and poorer growth rates. The stomach worm, Ostertagia, causes the most gut damage, but in calves under 15-18 months of age a mixed infection with Cooperia also is highly likely.

Once the parasites emerge from hibernation within the gut they start mating and producing eggs. These eggs exit the calf in the dung where they hatch into larvae and, over time, can heavily contaminate your pasture. It's a tactical move to drench calves early in the season in order to kill these hibernated worms and therefore prevent heavy contamination of your pasture. There will be larvae on the pasture from the previous season that has survived the winter that, unfortunately, you can't do anything about and regular drenching throughout the season is usually necessary. Never drench a mob and move them to a new paddock. There will always be a few worms that survive a drench and produce larvae that contain this survival gene – you don't want a new pasture full of these. The old pasture will still have larvae on it that don't contain this gene, so leave your calves on here for a few days to mix up the gene pool before you move them on.

When worms start emerging from the gut lining, the calf's own immune system works hard to try to eliminate the parasite from the gut. Parasites have been evolving for millions of years to live in this environment and so they are good at evading the body's attack. The immune system has to work hard and long and, in order for the immune system to function properly, it requires protein and energy. If feed is tight and the animal requires protein and energy to grow, as well as to mount an immune response, growth rates can suffer. Don't forget that you're aiming for your calves to be 60% of their adult body weight at 15 months of age (mating). Calves that hit these targets have greater longevity in the herd, produce more milk in their first two lactations and are more likely to conceive. Being free from disease (BVD/worms, etc.), having adequate copper, selenium and B12 and, most importantly, good quality feed means a healthier, productive future herd.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Women might be able to fake orgasms. But men can fake a whole relationship.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Men have two emotions: Hungry and Horny. If you see him without an erection, make him a sandwich.

Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

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Trading Depot
Hollard Engineering,
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Polly Otterson BVSc,MSc,
Teresa Carr BVSc
Adrian Clark BVSc
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Lindsay Lash BVSc
Leon Christensen BVSc
Erika Pieper BVSc
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Joan Hughes John Larkin BBS
Jill Watson CVN/RAT
Sue Morresey
Nicola Childs CVN/RAT
Frank Suter

DECEMBER 2016

Anyone else sick of this weather? Actually, don't answer that because I already know what your response will be. So, with this weather making us all less tolerant & more grumpy I must say that I got a bit hot under the collar when I saw the latest videos posted by FarmWatch recently & I sat down & wrote a very angry editorial for this newsletter. Fortunately, Polly (the sensible one) gets to proof-read the newsletter before it goes to print & diplomatically suggested that I probably needed to tone it down a bit. So, I have & all I will say on the matter is that some of those recent videos are very misleading, extremely unfair & potentially very damaging to our industry. There; I've said it.

On a brighter side, some good news came the other day when the payout forecast went to $6 – as my mate from the ASB was touting over a year ago (big ups to him). While you won't see that extra money for a while yet, at least we now have a more positive outlook going forward, which has to be good for morale for everyone. It's interesting to note that every time there has been some positive news about dairy auctions & payout forecasts this season, our phones have rung a little busier the next day.

Use of Cidrs has certainly increased this season compared to last, and that's been consistent across the country; mostly due to the weather but hopefully also due to a realisation that early intervention does pay for itself & bring improved returns as long as it is done at the right time. It seems many of you saw the benefits & the need & got in & did it early this season, so well done to you (& thanks).

Sheep Farmers, well Matthew Francis anyway, will be pleased to see there's an insert for you in this newsletter. Matthew was right to point out that there's hardly ever anything in there for you guys so we got Leon on the job. Sorry if you've been feeling neglected.

Also, finally we have found room to put a few jokes back in this edition. I've been lining them up & the editor kept taking them out because "there was no room". Well, there's room this time so hopefully they bring a smile to your face as we edge our way towards another Xmas. With all that has happened this year we should take time to reflect on how lucky we are to be alive & well; & despite the rain we get in The 'Naki" at least the Mountain hasn't erupted this year & (fingers crossed) we have escaped any serious damage from recent earthquakes. Let's be thankful for that and the fact that, for now anyway, we still have a relatively sane person running the country; unlike our mates in the USA.

Merry Xmas & best wishes to you all & here's hoping for a joyful & prosperous New Year.

Join us at the clinic for an end of year celebration

Tuesday
20th December
5 -10pm

Calf vaccinations start Dec/Jan

Give Nicola a call to book Lepto & BVD vaccinations
Herd can be vaccinated at scanning; heifers out grazing or upon return.

ENJOY YOUR FREE XMAS HAM WITH PURCHASES OF SELECTED MERIAL ANCARE PRODUCTS OR ALLEVA'S BOSS POURON

Health & Safety Update

- Return of PG vaccinator guns - too many guns were returned to the clinic with needles still attached posing a risk to staff. Also metal needles corrode onto the guns.
- The safety of our vets is hugely important to us hence we are recording perceived hazards on farms we visit so vets can be made aware when called for a visit. Examples include hazardous entrance ways, lack of, or inadequate, head bail. Please let us know if there are any potential hazards on your property.

Submission rate and Cidr use update

Anecdotal feedback from farmers to LIC this season suggests that submission rates to date have been trending lower than anticipated right across the country. Some farmers have associated this with the poorer spring weather, reduced feed levels, and subsequent cow condition experienced across some parts of the country.
Along with this feedback, there has been a late rise in the number of animals recorded nationally as Cidr'd (roughly 80,000 more than last season, and 50,000 more than the previous season again).
We have certainly been busier this season, although not in the numbers reported from the Waikato.
Regardless of what the cause may be, you need to consider the following issues as you strive to boost in-calf rates and minimise empty rates and the wastage it causes in your herd:

Lower than expected submission rates can contribute toward:

- Lower than expected replacement heifer numbers next season
- Increased workload for service bulls this season
- A slower calving pattern next season

If in-calf rates are behind where they should be and service bull numbers cannot be increased at short notice, you should consider the impact of the above points and how to reduce some of this risk. With more cows receiving a later synchronised insemination this season, you must also plan how best to capture the returns:

* Will the returns to the synchrony occur during the bull mating period?
* Is there adequate bull power to cover the peak return matings?

The DairyNZ InCalf book recommends bull ratios are doubled in the paddock for peak return days. If AB is planned to end a few days before the synchrony returns are expected, you may wish to extend AB to capture these returns. If the returns are due later, you may wish to rest the service bulls (if underpowered) and resume heat detection and AB for 3-4-day peak of returns 19-22 days after the initial synchronised inseminations as recommended by the DairyNZ InCalf book.
You may also want to consider the use of short gestation length semen as a tool to recapture lost days in milk without lengthening calving pattern next year.

FACIAL ECZEMA

Facial eczema probably doesn't seem very important right now as the rain is only just subsiding from what has been a very wet spring for most but due to the severe eczema season and changing season patterns making plans now gives you plenty of time to implement them before it's too late.
The most important factor to remember about eczema is that there is no effective treatment so prevention is the only real option, and even that's not bulletproof!
Here are some things to remember when making a plan for this coming eczema season:

- FE is caused by a spore from the fungi *P. chartarum* which lives in the soil year round but only sporulates with warm temperatures (grass temp >12 degrees) and high humidity.
- The fungi lives in the bottom of the sward amongst the dead litter of predominantly ryegrass based pastures. This is where the highest concentration of spores are.
- North facing hill paddocks are the most dangerous to graze during eczema season but 'hot' paddocks can be found anywhere the conditions are right.
- The spores cause liver damage when ingested by ruminants and this leads to photosensitivity. FE IS NOT A SKIN DISEASE. This also means you don't see every animal which has been affected by facial eczema.
- Copper and zinc compete directly for absorption from the gut and prolonged zinc treatment can lead to copper deficiencies so make sure to test for copper leading into winter.
- By the time you see affected animals it is almost too late to do anything about, so act early!

As mentioned prevention is the only real way to try to deal with facial eczema and usually requires doing more than one thing to try to combat it.

Monitoring spore counts throughout your district or even your own farm is the best way to know when to start treating stock and what paddocks to avoid if you are spore counting on your property. This gives you the most accurate info on what is occurring on your place.
Avoiding the toxin if at all possible is a great way to reduce facial eczema. This involves managing pre and post grazing heights, grazing safer pastures (spore counted) and feeding low risk feed sources such as summer crops, silage/hay or other 'safe' supplements.
Reducing toxins in grazing pastures with fungicides. This has its place on high risk farms or paddocks especially those grazing valuable stock. Fungicides will kill the fungus but not affect spores already present so needs to be started before the period of highest risk. Sprayed pastures shouldn't be grazed for 5 days post spraying and can remain safe for up to 6 weeks, but it is advised to spore count from the fourth week following application to ensure safety.
Protecting the animals with zinc. Zinc binds to the spores reducing the toxicity and also inhibits copper absorption which is a catalyst in the activation of the toxin. Trough treatment can be effective in classes of animals that consume high amounts of water from a fixed water source (dairy cattle) but is relatively ineffective in others. Zinc oxide in feed or by drenching either daily or weekly is an excellent way to ensure animals are getting protective levels of zinc but is labour intensive. Zinc boluses (such as *Faceguard* or *Time capsules*) provide 4-6 weeks of constant zinc supplement through risk periods and are a great way to protect valuable animals or for small block owners.
If you have been hit hard by eczema last season and want to discuss your options for this season please feel free to contact one of our veterinarians to book a consult.

THEILERIA UPDATE

This season we saw an increase in the number of cows affected by Theileria. For those of you who were affected you'll know pretty much all the information in this article but for the rest of you asking "what's Theileria?", read on …
Theileria is a disease of the blood cells carried by infected ticks. Up until a few years ago the only place where these infected ticks occurred was Northland but now they have spread to most of the North Island & parts of the South.
The disease is spread to cows when they are bitten by an infected tick. The Theileria organism then attacks & destroys red blood cells so that cows become severely anaemic & can eventually die.
It is important to note that the only way a cow can get Theileria is from being bitten by an infected tick.
A cow infected on another farm that comes back to the home farm is not infective to other cows unless that farm has ticks on it that can bite her & pass the disease on. So, an infected cow is not dangerous to others if there are no ticks on the property to spread the disease.
This is very important because when we first learned about Theileria showing up in Taranaki we would panic & suggest we treat the whole herd with a tick-killing pour-on at considerable expense. In nearly every case in our practice area the disease has been brought back to the farm from somewhere else & isn't going to spread on the home farm because we tend to have very few, if any, viable tick populations on farms around Eltham. That may change with Global Warming but for now it is something to be thankful for.
Therefore, if you see a cow starting to go backwards or looking pale (or even yellow) or passing "red water" it is possible she has come home with Theileria & the extra stress of calving, metabolic disorders, other disease, poor or not enough feed or bad weather is what triggers the clinical disease. This season many of these affected cows were also affected by Facial Eczema in autumn adding even more stress than usual at calving time. Most cows given the chance will develop immunity to Theileria if we can reduce stress.
Therefore, dealing with Theileria starts with spotting cows that look like they may be struggling, removing them from the herd, dropping them to once a day or drying them off if they are struggling, increasing the quantity & quality of feed, B vitamin injections & other supportive treatments that are all designed to reduce stress.
MPI have produced "Fani" cards to check cows' vulvas at milking to identify cows that are becoming anaemic. Pull them out & get us to check them with a blood test to confirm if they have Theileria. If they do, then we apply the above measures immediately.
Since affected cows will also pass blood in their urine, look on the yard from time to time during milking to see if you can see any red or blood stained urine pools that would indicate affected cows. That's another good warning sign.
In some cases, we may consider a blood transfusion. In most cases if we identify them early enough then often that isn't necessary. There is also a product called BPQ that has been used with some success. The problem is that it carries a 45-day milk withholding period along with a huge list of regulatory measures before we can even get permission to use it so for most dairy cows it just isn't practical. Reduction of stress and supportive treatments tend to be the preferred option.
In the majority of cases once they are down, the battle is usually already lost.
Long term? Having tick infected properties isn't necessarily a bad thing. Introduction of young stock to Theileria (as long as it is controlled) enables them to get infected & mount an immune response before they become pregnant. In areas further north, early infection is actively encouraged for just that reason. In-calf cows sent for mid-winter grazing tend to be the most at risk because the first time they get infected coincides with all the extra stresses that pregnancy brings & puts them most at risk of crashing.
If you are sending young stock to properties where we know ticks exist, our advice is that they get treated with a pour-on tickicide of Flumethrin before they get there. That is so they don't get swamped on the first few days but get infected gradually – remember a heavy tick infestation on a young animal can practically drain them of blood (that's without the added complication of Theileria) so controlled exposure is called for. A treatment lasts around 3-6 weeks and as it wears off they will get a slower rate of infection that hopefully their immune system can cope with. Pregnant cows should also receive a dose of Flumethrin at or just before arrival at grazing & any stock coming home should be treated with Flumethrin a few days before they come home. While we can't avoid bringing home some infected animals we can avoid bringing home ticks with them that will bite & infect other cows for a few days until they die of cold. The same applies to bulls introduced at mating – if they have come from an area where we know Theileria & ticks exist they need to be treated 5 days or so before arrival so we know they aren't bringing infected ticks with them.
If you start seeing cows with ticks on them at milking time, then that changes everything because we now would appear to have a viable tick population on the home farm. If that happens (unlikely) please let us know because then we would be talking about treating the whole herd (& young stock) with Flumethrin.
Hopefully that helps explain a bit more about the disease.
Our main message is not to panic, look for early signs of Theileria & act to reduce stress as quickly as possible to prevent further deaths.
The DairyNZ website contains a lot of useful information on it regarding Theileria so give that a go. Or feel free to give us a call at the clinic if you need to know more.