



CUD

“Cows Under Discussion” or “Something to Chew On”

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The season seems to be going along pretty well on most farms, with production 5-10% up on last year, and grass everywhere. Now the kids are back at school, I don't think anyone would say no to a good drop of rain. Pregnancy testing results have been variable, but a number of people have achieved 80% or more in calf in the first eight weeks.

Clinic News

The biggest news from the practice is the total melt-down of our “server”, which left us completely without computers for about three weeks (co-inciding pretty closely with John Howie's brief stint to help us out with the bulk of the preg testing!). The main thing you may have noticed was late, and in some cases incomplete, accounts last month. Thank-you for your patience with this matter – we hope it is sorted out by the time this month's accounts are closed off, but we're sure you will let us know if we've missed anything off your bill! The computers are also to blame for no “CUD” last month.

The Ancare “Take a mate fishing” weekend trip to Stewart Island was great fun for all concerned, with reasonable weather, and a few good fish. Barry Gray caught the biggest blue cod, his “mate” landed an octopus! Lincoln Wrigley & Colleen Farr (Hillend) and Gerald Holmes & Cameron Edgecumbe (Taieri) were lucky enough to represent our dairy farm clients. Thanks Ancare!

Mastitis Matters – Drying off a single quarter.

In any herd, a small proportion of cows may be responsible for a major proportion of the clinical cases of mastitis and a high proportion of the somatic cells in the bulk milk. Culling these individuals is an important part of the overall mastitis control plan for the farm. For a high producing cow, an alternative to culling may be to dry off the infected quarter, and defer culling until production declines. To dry off a single quarter during lactation, first, clearly mark the cow and the quarter and make sure all staff know what is going on with her. Second, complete the course of lactating cow intramammaries she is on but do not use dry cow therapy. As long as the clinical mastitis is clear, do not remove any milk from the quarter again, either with the cups, or by hand stripping. Continue to spray all four teats after every milking.

Reproduction

The bulls should now be out of the herd! Bulls still working now, is a sign of a serious problem with the way mating was managed early on. Please talk to us about how we can help your herd's reproductive performance, if you feel you still need to be running bulls four months after the PSM!

We would also be happy to sit down and go through your combined mating records and pregnancy testing results with you. We can work out what you've done well (so you can do the same again next year) and what you've done poorly (so mistakes are not repeated!). The MINDAPro reports are really helpful and we would love the opportunity to help you interpret them, especially to assess reproductive interventions we may have done earlier on in the season.

At this time of year, we do get called to occasional cases of cows that become sick a few days after scanning, due to rectal damage. If you do have any cows that look uncomfortable, pass blood, or drop production soon after scanning, please let us know ASAP (regardless of who scanned them), because they often can be saved if treated early and aggressively enough, but they may die if they are not!

Young stock- Your Future

Growing calves have quite high selenium demands. Unless timing of application and grazing is carefully considered, prills on pasture may not provide enough selenium on their own for a whole year's growth. It can be supplemented in the short term by injection (which can be straight selenium; included in 5 in 1 vaccine; or combined with vitamin B12 - Prolaject + Se), pour on (SelPor), selenised drench, or via the drinking water (if they are on the dairy farm with a Dosatron). Selenium toxicity is a real issue and occurs most commonly either when an error in math's means selenium is given at the wrong rate (eg 10x the correct dose), or there is a cumulative effect from multiple sources of selenium.

Probably the best method of supplementation is a long acting injection called Selovin LA (formerly we stocked Deposel). Given under the skin, this injection releases selenium into the animal slowly over a period of about a year. The best time to give the injection depends on just what other sources of selenium the animals have been exposed to and when.

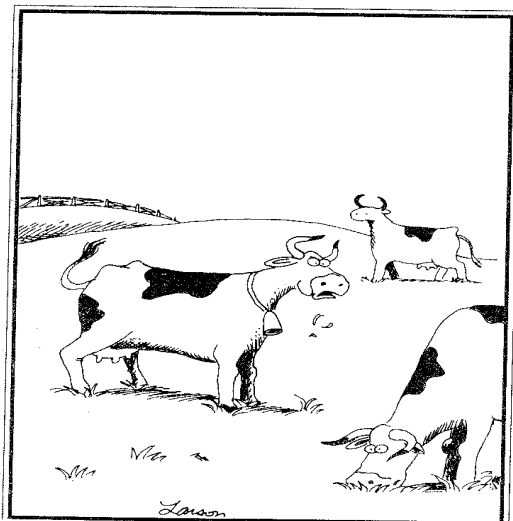
Selenium requirements, and the effectiveness of treatment, can easily be assessed from blood tests. Supplementation is especially important if these animals are to be grazed on brassica crops, because they are low in selenium and Vitamin E. As an aside, however, I discourage brassica feeding in the first winter, because of the crop's generally poorer nutritive value (energy and protein required for growth) and oral problems from young teeth and gums trying to cope with hard stems and bulbs (physical damage followed by infections and reduced intakes).

PAR's – Prescription animal remedies

The freezing works are detecting more and more dairy cows that have injection site reactions in the rump – in some lines up to 100% of animals. Oil based vaccines are a particular problem, and 1-2cm balls of liquid or cheesy pus can be found buried in the muscle, some months after the injection is given. This is a problem because the rump is the more valuable end of the beast (especially in a well-conditioned empty cow) and trimming out the affected tissue devalues the carcass, or can even lead to condemnation. More significant however, is if the lesion is missed by the meat inspectors and turns up in a cut of meat at an overseas butcher. The recent insecticide residue issue in Korea demonstrates the significant disruption and cost these events can cause. We realize there are practicality issues about injecting in the neck but to give an injection into the muscle anywhere else is breaking the rules for the registration of the product you are using. Those rules are there for a reason. Please bear this in mind as we approach the end of the season and more animals that may be unresponsive to treatment (mastitis, lameness) are likely to find their way to the works soon after the meat withhold period of the drug ends.

Reducing lameness - Neil Chesterton's yard management tip #5

Check the speed of your backing gate. It should travel no more than one metre in the 5 seconds that it is regulated to operate in a single movement (see last month). This equates to 12m per minute. Small, slow, regular, predictable movements of the gate will cause a gentle ripple effect amongst the cows as they move forward towards the bails. Foot damage will be minimal, and lameness will be reduced.



"Hey, wait a minute! This is grass! We've been eating grass!"

This Month's Retail News

- **Coast Combi Chelate** mineral supplement. 20ltr for \$387, or 100ltr for \$1571.
- **Cydetin** 17ltr pack – buy 15ltr, get 2ltr free
- **Dectomax** 1.2ltr pack – buy 2x500ml, and get 200ml free.
- Ancare pour-on (**Eclipse or Genesis**) 2.5ltr or 5ltr comes with a free oilskin vest.
- **Equitak Excel** – the first triple combination horse worming paste. A free oilskin cap with every 5 bought.
- **Kaiwaka, Dr Fuzzwort and Chicago** wet weather gear – 30% off all stock in store.