



# CUD

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

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**Overall this has been a good year, slow and steady with production up from last year. We are proud to say that this area did very well in the 2007 Dairy Industry Awards.**

**Congratulations to Mark Watt and Kylie May for winning the Otago Sharemilker of the Year award. They have reason to celebrate on other counts also - besides achieving the lowest average SCC of Fonterra suppliers in Otago (and indeed in the whole of NZ) for a herd of similar size, they also got engaged. Congratulations also to Nigel Snell and Joanne Eade, the winning couple of the Otago Farm Manager of the Year. They also won Human Resource Management and Farm Management merit awards.**

## Clinic News

We would like to welcome Megan Bradly starting with us this week. She is a dairy vet from Winton. You will also see another new face on farm. Kara-Lee Clark, one of our small animal nurses, has recently completed her Rural Animal Technician course. Don't be alarmed if you see a fiery red WRX Subaru coming up your drive, it's just Kara-Lee's mode of transport!

This is a busy period for us at the clinic. Most of the dairy clients have had their cows scanned and now it is time for our beef clients. The scanning vets are able to age fetuses in their sleep by this stage!

## Milk Quality Review (MQR)

Many farmers are now beginning to dry off a few lighter and less productive cows, and so it is time to start thinking about dry cow therapy. We have changed the title of the consult to suit what we discuss during the meeting. It would greatly help if you would bring along a summary of your milk production and quality records for the year so we can review them. You can book in your **MQR** in advance with the clinic at a time to suit yourself.

## Rotavec Corona

This is a new vaccine that provides protection not only against E.coli and Rotavirus (like the old Rotavec K99) but also provides protection against Coronavirus. Coronavirus is the second most important viral cause of diarrhoea in calves after rotavirus. Compared with rotavirus, the disease is usually more severe with more deaths. Another change in the product means that the cows can now be vaccinated from 3 weeks (instead of 4) to 12 weeks precalving. This means all cows in the natural calving group of 9 weeks can be vaccinated on the same day. If natural calving is longer than this then the cows will have to be vaccinated in 2 groups to ensure the calves receive adequate levels of antibodies in the colostrum. The drug company has also changed the adjuvant, which claims to cause fewer injection site reactions than the previous product. We would be interested in feedback on this subject when you go to vaccinate your cows in the winter. The other guidelines still apply - vaccinate by deep intramuscular injection into the anterior neck, not vaccinating cows to be induced, providing the calves with adequate colostrum from the vaccinated cows etc

### **Use of copper injection**

If you are using CopperMax injection (or any other copper injection), it is advised that it should not be given at the same time as other procedures eg. castration, drenching or vaccination. These procedures cause stress, which can cause more rapid absorption of the copper. This in turn can lead to toxicity. Copper injection should only be used on healthy animals.

### **Lepto reminder**

We have vaccinated most of our dairy cows at milking now. Considering drying off has begun for some, we would encourage those of you that haven't yet vaccinated your herd to contact us as soon as possible. All other susceptible stock must also be vaccinated, which includes any bulls, carry-over cows, culls, calves, beef animals and pigs.

### **Woody tongue**

Woody tongue is a term that is used to describe an infection of the soft tissues of the mouth (cheeks, lips, gums as well as tongue), caused by a particular bacterium called "Actinobacillus". It usually establishes when there has been some physical damage inside the mouth – eg teeth erupting, drench gun injury, or a stick jammed in. The tissues become swollen, hard and painful, eating becomes difficult (and milk production drops as a consequence), and you will often see the animal with its neck stretched out and drooling. The causative bacteria are not very susceptible to penicillin (eg Bovicillin – woody tongue is not listed on your prescription form as a reason for using it!), and so we would usually prescribe an antibiotic from a different family, possibly alongside IV sodium iodide, anti-inflammatories or an appetite stimulant.

### **Reducing lameness - Neil Chesterton's yard management tip #6**

Fit a timer to the top-gate so that it can only move for two seconds in each forward movement, with a *button switch control*. Small, 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 reduced.

## **JOKE**

### **Mad Cow Disease**

One day two cows were chatting over the fence between their two paddocks. The first cow said, "I'm telling you, this mad cow disease is getting pretty scary! I've heard it's spreading so fast that it's already on Bills farm up the road!"

The second cow replied, "So what? It doesn't affect us chickens!"

### **This Month's Retail News**

- **Genesis Pour On** - 12.5L for \$1578.75(incl members discount & GST).  
Costs \$3.15 for 500 cows @ 500kg
- **Eclipse Pour On** - Buy 5L and get 1L free. Costs \$2.20 for 600 calves @200kg
- **Tempor Lice treatment** - Buy 5 L get 1L free. While stocks last \$1.19 per 500kg
- **Sealflex** wet weather gear for adults and children. Shop stock only - 30% off