



CUD

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

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April 2011

Clinic News

Things have started to cool off as March comes to an end, with autumn making its presence felt and home fires being lit. Final scanning results have been coming through with the re-checks being completed. Some of the final empty rates have been a bit disappointing, but we hope to have some local benchmarking figures available next month.

Kate Loudon is starting in Balclutha this month as a large animal vet. Kate has come over the ditch to join us from Oz, and this is her first job as a vet. So please welcome her when she arrives on your farm.

Free Farmer Drying Off Seminar - Wednesday 13th April

Getting the most out of Dry Cow Therapy – What’s new?

Mat Wells, Intervet Schering Plough Animal Health.

Dry cow therapy this year doesn't have to be the same as every other year. Mat will present information on the benefits of dry cow therapy on clinical mastitis rates and bulk milk somatic cell counts in the following season, cost-benefit analyses, and new research around combination therapy. This will be especially important if you have reduced ability to cull on mastitis, because of next season's 8% induction limit.

Getting the most out of accurate pregnancy testing data – Induction decisions

Jason Darwen, Clutha Vets

This year many more farmers have predicted calving dates for each individual cow, rather than just having them allocated into broader groups. This is very powerful information for decision making around choice of dry cow therapy, timing of drying off for individual cows, wintering mobs and springer management, and induction planning. Jason will explain how to use the information to optimise the benefits for your cows and your farm.

12.30pm Henley Hall, Centre Rd, Taieri (Lunch provided at 12pm) RSVP to Milton Clinic 03 417 8032

7.30pm Balclutha Town and Country Club (Supper to follow) RSVP to Balclutha Clinic 03 418 1280

Trace Elements

Trace elements form an important part of any comprehensive animal health plan and when neglected can cause serious loss of production and increased disease prevalence in your milking herd as well as poor growth in your young stock. We recommend that every herd have liver biopsies performed for copper and blood tests for selenium 3-4 times a year with pre dry off the next on the calendar. This not only allows you to assess your cows' trace element reserves for the winter, when they are often put under a lot of stress, but it also gives you the opportunity to see how successful your supplementation has been over the mid and late lactation period. We can also formulate a trace element plan for your heifers from weaning right through to when they calve as two year olds. This will help to ensure that their growth rates are not impaired by low levels of copper and selenium.

Inductions

As you will all be aware last year the Dairy Industry agreed to work towards a goal of reducing the number of inductions routinely carried out on Dairy Farms in New Zealand. Last year the maximum allowable number was 15% of your herd at calving, **this year 8%** and next year 4%.

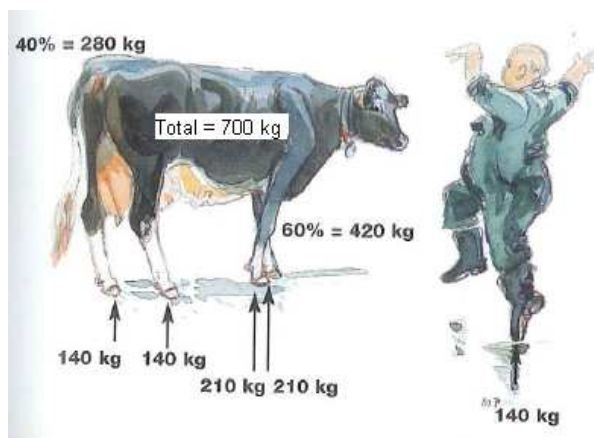
If you are planning to use induction of calving as a management tool on your farm this year, now is the time to start thinking about this. It is now a requirement of the Induction Code to have a list of candidate cows agreed with your vet **60 days** before any inductions can take place. For an August 1st Planned Start of Calving, induction cows due to calve in weeks 9 & 10 can get their 1st shot as early as 18th July, so you would have to do your induction consult by the 19th May.

Causes Of Lameness In Aotearoa, The Land Of The Long White Cloud

This is exactly one of the problems, as these clouds can turn grey and give us rain. Rain leads to wet/muddy tracks and soft feet that are more prone to damage by stones or other debris. Right? Not always, as sometimes the complaint of soft feet is in reality thin soles, which have been worn to the point where the sole *feels* soft. The main lameness causes are (in order of importance in New Zealand):

- White line disease
- Bruising
- Sole penetration
- Interdigital lesions
- Footrot
- Miscellaneous (corkscrew claws, sand cracks, overgrown)

If you're not sure why a cow is lame, this is a good list to follow, because the most commonly found problems are at the top.



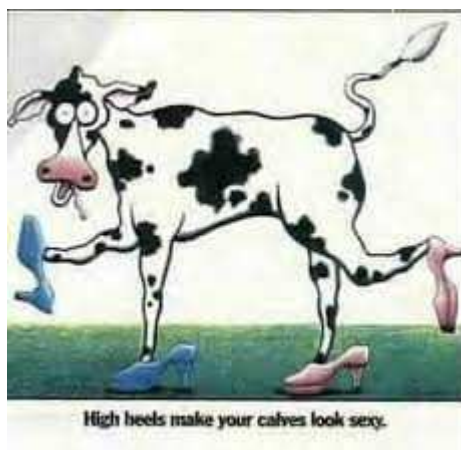
Lameness Seminar

Due to our March lameness seminar on **The Treatment and Prevention of Lameness in the Dairy Herd** being fully booked, we will run it again on April 20th dependent on numbers. Our seminar, which is beneficial to both new entrants to the industry as well as experienced herds people, will help you identify a lame cow, assess and treat a lame foot, show you how to care for your hoof knife, how to identify the risk factors on your farm and how to prevent lameness on your farm. If you are interested give the clinic a ring as soon as possible to ensure a place – 03 418 1280.

Sending Cows To The Works

Just a reminder about sending cull cows to the works, it's not a disposal service for emaciated, injured or diseased cows and you may be penalized if you send an unsuitable cattle beast to the works. They need to be able to bear reasonable weight on all four feet and should not be diseased or have discharging wounds, ingrown or long horns, or advanced cancer eyes. Make sure you check meat withholding times of any drugs the animal has been given too.

If you have any doubts, give us a call at the clinic and we may be able to make a decision over the phone or come and see the animal and certify it as fit for transport or not. Once it is at the works its suitability for human consumption is assessed by officials at the premises.



This Month's Retail News:

- **Combat Topline Pour On** – 7.5 litre pack – will treat 300 cows at 500kg for only \$2.39 per cow net incl. GST.
- **All Merial Ancare sheep and cattle drench** purchases qualify for 3 lucky draws to win a Samsung 46" LCD HD TV. Exclusive to Clutha Vets. Plus check out the great deals on cattle pour on and injection.
- **Dectomax injection and pour on** – all purchases qualify for an entry into the Yamaha Quad Bike 'Big Bear' promotion – 2 x bikes to be won in the South Island.
- **Cyctectin pour on 17 litre bonus packs** – nil meat nil milk – will treat 340 cows at 500kg \$4.85 per cow net incl. GST.
- **200 litre drum tipper** – only \$328.44 net incl. GST.