



CLUTHA
V.E.T.S.

Calf-Link

Clutha Vets Newsletter for Calf Rearers



Issue 7, 2018

The icy blast earlier this month has provided a timely reminder on the importance of providing shelter to the animals within our care. Hypothermia can lead to death in the worst case scenario, but it can also cause sickness due to immune suppression. Growth rates also drop when calves are stressed by the cold. Below 10 degrees a calf will start to use its own energy stores to keep warm so this energy is not put into growth. However, as sheds become more full and the chance of disease increases, we are often forced into moving calves out into the wide world. As these young animals are much more susceptible to cold than adult stock, it is crucial that adequate shelter is provided. Even baleage or straw bales as wind breaks are better than nothing in a bare paddock.

Moving calves outside

- Tree lines, dense vegetation & purpose built shelters all help improve the calves environment
- Shelters still need to be clean. Mobile shelters that are easily moved help reduce the disease risk.
- Calves still need ad-lib clean water
- Ensure grass cover is adequate (~3000kg DM/ha) so calves can eat the tops off
- Paddocks repeatedly used for young stock may get a build up of parasites or coccidia (see next weeks CalfLink...).
- Paddocks used by sick animals/older stock are more likely to harbor disease organisms
- Protect calf meal from birds and ducks (covers or plastic flaps)



Top Tips!

Introduce the "Parrot Owl" to keep thieving birds at bay: the pinecone bird is painted with non-toxic paint and secured by chain and wire. When the calves play with it, it gets an alive look.



Every entry in this year's competition for your top calf rearing tips and pearls of wisdom will go into the draw to win this handy chilly bin packed with goodies. Message 027 5500 505 with your tip and the reference "CalfLink" and be in to win!

Remember to check out our facebook page - facebook@cluthavets.co.nz

