

CUD

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



July 2018

Clinic News

We have two vets joining the team for the Spring - Bevan Topham returns after a brief OE, and Sam(uel) Bowker from the UK will be working for us as a locum for a couple of months. Bevan will be shifting to our Milton clinic, and Sam will be based in Balclutha. I am sure you will all make them feel welcome if you happen to cross their paths. Clutha Vets would like to welcome any new dairy farmers and their families to the area. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming Spring Seminars - at Waihola on 24 July, Balclutha 25 July or Clydevale 26 July.

Milk Fever - Treatment Options

1. Intravenous

A cow down with Milk Fever should be treated with a warm 500ml bag of a Calcium product in the vein. I usually administer *Calpro 375*, and often also give 500ml of 40% *Dextrose* in the vein to treat concurrent ketosis. *Glucalphos* is also a useful combination, but has lower amounts of Calcium and Dextrose. *Calcitat-50* is an alternative convenient and effective product for treating Milk Fever.

2. ‘Under the Skin’

A second bag (warm), can be given under the skin, over the rib cage. This should be massaged to spread it around, but still may not be well absorbed, especially in colder weather.

3. Oral

Oral products can be used as follow-up to injectables, but also on their own to prevent Milk Fever in “at risk” cows, and to treat mild cases (“a bit wobbly”).

Clutha Vets stock 3 products:-



(i) *CALOL* - safe, tried and trusted Calcium Chloride in an oily formulation. Better absorption, faster action and longer effect.

(ii) *BOVISAL PEARLS* - fast acting forms of Calcium in the gel and sustained release from the Calcium pearls. Also contains some Phosphorous (11gm).

(iii) *CALFORM PHOSPHOROUS* - provides a readily available form of Phosphorous (48.5g) and Calcium that is easy to administer.

Phosphorous deficiency is probably over-diagnosed in many cases, but may be a factor in Downer Cows that have responded poorly to Calcium treatments, especially if they have wintered on fodder beet.

Studies show that *oral* supplementation of Phosphorous (e.g. Calform Phosphorous) is the best way to deliver Phosphorous. Injectable forms of Phosphorous may not be absorbed sufficiently.

4. Follow-up

Cows that have been successfully treated for Milk Fever should be marked and given a follow-up treatment 12-24 hours later, to prevent relapse. This would usually be an oral product, as above. If ketosis is recognised as part of the problem, then 3-400ml Ketol Xtra or Keto-Aid should be given daily for 3 to 4 days.



Equipment

In view of the biosecurity measures that we should all be observing (M bovis or otherwise), please remember to return all equipment that you have borrowed from us cleaned and disinfected - for example Copper Capsule guns. As you would expect, we will disinfect everything again before going out to the next client. In the case of a copper capsule gun, at a cost of around \$200 it could even be worth buying your own to have that "peace of mind".

Selenium - Pre-calving options

We usually recommend a short-acting Selenium (Se) injection 2-3 weeks pre-calving, to boost Se levels and help avoid complications such as Retained Fetal Membranes, particularly if the cows have had no Se supplementation over winter. There are a number of different products available, which can include Vitamin B12 or other trace elements. If Copper levels are low, or no recent history of supplementation (e.g. R2 heifers), Multimin is an excellent, convenient option given 3-4 weeks pre-calving.

| | What's in it? | How much? (Cow) | Where? | How much? (Cow) |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Selovin-5 | Selenium 5mg/ml | 4 - 5ml | Inject s/c (under skin) - neck | 47c (incl gst) per 5ml dose |
| Selpor | Selenium 5mg/ml | 1.5ml/50kg = 15ml per cow | Pour-on | 67c (incl gst) per 15ml dose |
| Vijec 2000 B12 + Se | Selenium 4mg/ml + B12 2mg/ml | 3 - 6ml | Inject s/c or i/m - neck | 80c (incl gst) per 5ml dose |
| Duomax 4000 B12 + Se | Selenium 8mg/ml + B12 4mg/ml | 2 - 3ml | Inject s/c only - neck | 79c (incl gst) per 2.5ml dose |
| Multimin + Cu | Selenium 5mg/ml Cop- per 15mg/ml Zinc 40mg/ml + Manganese | 1ml/100kg for cattle > 2yrs. = 5ml per cow | Inject s/c or i/m - neck | \$4.11 (incl gst) per 5ml dose |

Heifer Teatsealing

We are now into our final week, having started back on April 16th.

No of heifers teatsealed: 13,006

No of jobs: 98

Most in a day: 450

Furthest location: Herbert, North Otago

Farmer awards to be announced next month!

Things to do in July:

- Get your Spring (RVM) Consult booked and completed
- Organise your spring first aid kits - see retail for a list of "must haves" & "should haves"
- Rotavirus vaccination for August/September calving cows & heifers
- Speak to your vet about Springer Mineral options for Milk Fever prevention
- Book in for one of our Spring Seminars in your area

Retail Specials & News

- Boss Pour On has a Coffee Capsule Machine Or Cake Mixer - **very limited stock**
- Dectomax have a Rugby Top with 2 x Starter Packs
- R M Williams Boots, Belts & Bags on selected Boehringer (formerly Merial-Ancare) Cattle Products Limited stock.
- All Trace Bolus are still in stock – but be quick.
- Duomax 4000 B12 + Se - receive a Morphy Richards toaster/jug with 2 packs. Limited stock.
- Great price on Topline Combat 20ltr