

CUD

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



June 2018

Clinic News

Heifer Teatsealing is still in full flow, and with a significant increase in this service, we feel the purchase of a second trailer was a good decision. Lameness, pregnancy testing, supervising and administering Dry Cow Therapy plus the odd down cow have all contributed to the workload.

Teatsealing Cows

A growing number of clients are using Teatseal only for “uninfected cows” at dry off. Some clients have been Teatsealing a significant proportion of cows for a few years now; others are just dipping their toes in the water. On the positive side, we are reducing the reliance on antibiotics, reducing clinical mastitis in the Spring, and reducing cost associated with Combination Therapy. However, we are still seeing the odd severe case of mastitis within a few days of Teatsealing.

A few things I have noticed around Teatseal administration:

- Head torches are essential in most dairy sheds
- Cotton wool balls soaked in 70% meths are much easier to use than teat wipes
- Allow plenty of time!
- Some people are just not suited to this job
- Hands (& tubes) must be kept clean and dry
- If a few people are involved, each person should use a different coloured spray to mark the cow (or spray their initial). This is not to cast blame on anyone if a cow does develop mastitis, but just to ensure that people are trained properly and are fully engaged in what they are doing
- Damaged teats (including significantly roughened teat ends) should get an antibiotic treatment plus Teatseal



Please notify us of any adverse events following DCT/Teatseal insertion. It is helpful for us to get an idea of the scale of the problem, and also we can advise on appropriate treatment and management of clinical cases.

Please take a milk sample from affected quarters before treatment.

Mycoplasma bovis

The decision has been made to attempt a phased eradication of *M. bovis* from NZ herds. Time will tell if this turns out to be a good decision, but it has to be encouraging that there is still considered to be a reasonable chance of a successful outcome. Our sympathies are certainly with farmers affected by the cull, and also those affected by restrictions due to ongoing testing.

Biosecurity is going to be challenging at this time of year, with stock movements and wet, muddy conditions. Please be aware of situations where cattle may come into contact with each other when moving stock along the roads. Good communication (Community Facebook pages) is essential here. Clutha Vets are very aware of the possibilities of spreading disease (not just *M. bovis*!) as we travel from farm to farm. We are routinely cleaning and disinfecting clothing and equipment between farms, and have just purchased a hot water blaster to assist with cleaning vehicles, Teatseal trailers and lame cow crates.

Rumen Acidosis– First Aid Treatment

IMMEDIATE MANAGEMENT

- Remove access to fodder beet or move mob to standoff paddock next to crop
- Offer balage and / or hay ad-lib; NO water for 5-6 hours
- Observe – look for animals that are slow, wobbly, not feeding, down, bloated
- **Call vet immediately if severe** (see above), or multiple cows affected; start treatment

TREATMENT OF SEVERE CASES

- Act as soon as you notice a problem!
- **Calcium – Glucalpos or Calpro375** x 2 bags IV intravenous &/or under skin
- Drench with 250 – 500gms high quality Australian made **Causmag** (Mag Oxide) mixed in 5 litres of water – make sure the cow can swallow. **Note - using poor quality mag oxide can make matters worse**
 - Can mix approx 40ml white Penicillin (Bovipen / Propercillin) with drench
 - Can mix in 250g Limeflour
- **Antibiotics** – Bovipen 30mls/day or Betamox 50mls in muscle or under skin
- **Anti-inflammatory** - Ketomax / Rheumocam
- **Remove severely affected cows** to grass and feed hay/balage; NO water for first 6-8 hours
- Cow cover & / or move to shelter
- RumenPak two to three days later aids recovery in rumen function
- Spray mark to identify treated cows, and others to keep an eye on

FOLLOW-UP MANAGEMENT

- Call us to discuss feeding system
- Inspect & weigh crop, review feeding strategy, add safety fence
- Continue feeding beet reducing by 2kg / cow; increase supplement
- Continue to increase beet by 1kg / cow every 2 days
- Severely affected cows may need to be in a “hospital” paddock for winter



Things to do in June:

- Monitor cows & heifers transitioning onto crop
- Works livers on cull cows. Give us a call to request - you need to let us know when they are leaving the farm, where they are going, who is transporting them & numbers
- Call us if you are thinking about heifer teatsealing
- BVD blood test 15 R1 heifers

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 on selected BI Cattle Products - Boots, Belts & Bags! Limited stock
- All Trace Bolus are still in stock – but be quick.
- Great price on Topline Combat 20ltr