



CUD

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

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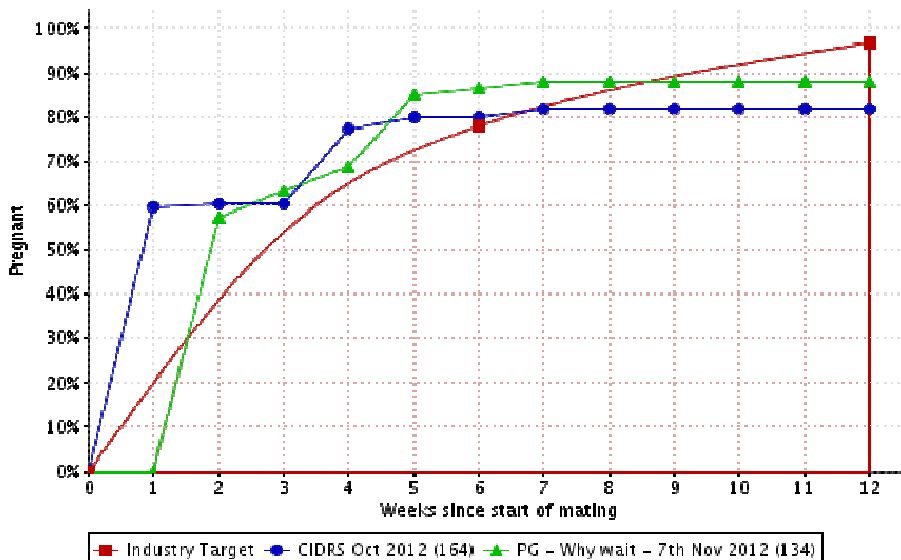
Clinic News – Congratulations to Steve, who has been studying hard and has passed papers on Advanced Mastitis and Calf Medicine with flying colours. We hope he will be able to put this knowledge to good use on your farms. Clutha Vets were major sponsors of the Clydevale Dairy Expo, which was a great event to be a part of. Well done to Sharni from Pounaweia Farms Ltd who correctly guessed the number of mastitis tubes in the jar. It was a typically hot, dry day, of which we have had far too many... Most herds have now been scanned, with average 6 week in-calf rate slightly down from last year at 62%. Rechecks still to come.

Early Drying Off & Combination Therapy

March is time to be thinking about drying some cows off. By now, most cows have given you the majority of their milk for the season, and it is important to be focussing on cow condition. Booking five empties to the works every week avoids a last minute rush, and drying off your 5-10 lightest early calving cows each week gives them time to put on condition before going on to winter crop. Each cow you drop from the herd allows you to feed the others a little better, maintaining production and condition, and conserving grass for the last round. And when final dry-off day comes, the job is that much easier, because a good chunk of it has been done already!

Many of you (and your cows!) have already seen the benefits of using Combination Dry Cow Therapy (antibiotic + Teatseal), where the antibiotic is targeted towards any existing infection and the Teatseal provides a barrier to new infections right up until calving. This is particularly appropriate for cows with extended dry periods (i.e. early dry offs & late calvers). Please speak to a vet if you want further info about this, or arrange for an early Milk Quality Review.

In-Calf Rates for Early CIDRs & PGs



This graph shows the in-calf rates from one of our local dairy farms in response to both **early CIDRs** (164 cows) and a **PG Why Wait programme** (134 cows). Rechecks are still to be done. These results are the best that we have seen so far for both of these programmes and demonstrate what can be achieved.

The PG cows have been bought forward from week 3 into week 2 (note the calculations are done at the end of each week) which represents an extra 7-10 days in milk for these cows.

The in-calf rate response to the

early use of CIDRs is very impressive with a 60% conception rate to the CIDR service. These were inserted a week prior to the PSM and have given a large gain in terms of days in milk to the treated cows with the CIDR cows actually getting in calf slightly better than the herd as a whole.

The above results have been driven by excellent reproductive performance on this farm this season. The owners have concentrated on improving the cow Body Condition Score in the autumn and winter with the use of once a day milking, early dry off and targeted feeding over the winter period.

Mortellaro's Disease

Lameness guru Neil Chesterton will be attending the MilkSmart conference next week and hopefully reminding us all about the need to remain vigilant for Mortellaro's disease in NZ herds. This nasty bug causes a severe, contagious lameness. Here's a couple of photo reminders of what it looks like in case you can't attend the event.



Please call us ASAP if you have seen unusual non-healing wounds, ulcers or warts on any cow's heels or between claws. Mortellaro's (also known as Digital Dermatitis) has already been diagnosed in Canterbury herds and it is important that we identify and control this disease ASAP should it reach Otago.



Heifer Teatsealing

It can be very disheartening to rear a heifer from a calf through to a well grown two year old only to lose production, the quarter or occasionally the heifer herself due to mastitis. In most cases, mastitis after calving is caused by bacteria entering the udder in the weeks leading up to calving and during calving itself. Teatseal prevents bacteria entering the udder during this period. Enclosed with the CUD is an expression of interest form for heifer teatsealing. If you want your heifers to be teatsealed or would like to discuss it further please complete the form and return it to the clinic. Alternatively, you can contact Elspeth at the Balclutha clinic for more information.

Rectal Perforations following Preg Testing

Fortunately these are extremely rare, but have been known to occur following scanning. Often the operator is unaware that it has happened. Typically an animal will be off colour and may appear hunched or straining. Please observe any cows or heifers carefully for the few days after they have been scanned and contact us immediately if you have any concerns. Do not wait to see if she'll improve, or leave it until after the weekend! It is your responsibility to pass this on to whoever is looking after your stock e.g. heifers at the run-off.

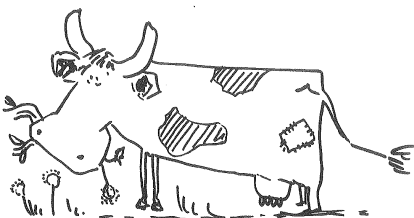
Clutha Veterinary Association Tertiary Bursary

Applications for the Clutha Veterinary Association Tertiary Bursary are now open, closing at the end of March. If you know someone from this area studying agriculture or vet at Massey or Lincoln; or who is a student at Telford, get them to check our website for the details of this financial assistance we offer each year.

This Month's Retail News:

- **Genesis, Eprinex & Eclipse cattle drench** – Receive a Rapala filleting knife or fishing rod on qualifying products. Plus go into the draw for the ultimate fishing pack (Clutha Vets only) *plus* a national draw for a deep sea fishing trip to Tonga.
- **Dectomax Injection** - Purchase 2 x starter packs (2400 mls) and receive a Marttiini hunting knife or a professional electric 3 stage knife sharpener.
- **Cydectin Pour-on** - Bonus packs are back: 17 litre pack for the price of a 15 litre. Plus go into the draw for DeWalt tools.
- **Multimin Injection** – Go in the draw to win a Yamaha AG100 - 2 in the South Island to be won.
- **NEW PRODUCT - Boss Pour-on & Injections** - New combination formula with lice claim. Vests and cologne on qualifying products

Cownundrum



Congratulations to Val Weir of Ashgrove Dairy Farms Ltd, Inch Clutha for the first correct entry drawn out of the hat from last month's MOOOSIC competition. She will be picking up a box of Speight's from the Balclutha clinic. The album cover was from Lather, by Frank Zappa.

This month's competition is to name the cow pictured here; who stole her and who wrote the book??? Once again we will have a draw for all correct entries received before the 20th March, with the winner getting a choice of red or white wine or beer.

As usual, phone - 03 418 1280 or e-mail - admin@cluthavets.co.nz