



# CUD

"Cows Under Discussion" or "Something to Chew On"

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## Clinic News

As daylight saving comes to an end, and grazing rounds are getting pushed out, most farmers are firmly focused on maintaining cow Body Condition Score and thinking about what grass and which paddocks need to be left ready for calving. At the vets, we are tidying up the last of the pregnancy rechecks and getting ready for Autumn Consults, whole herd end of season re-scans (to avoid wintering empty cows) and Teatsealing heifers. We are happy to welcome a new vet to the team for the winter - Ruth Andrews is Massey trained, and has spent a few years as a vet and dairy farming in Rotorua. Having Ruth on board will enable the rest of us to take a bit of a break, and get off to conferences (in between mobs of heifers). Please give her a warm welcome.

## Parasites!

In general, there have been few complaints about the weather this season, but unfortunately the worms have loved it as well! We have had counts from calves (R1s) reaching into the thousands recently as short as 5 weeks after drenching. Coughing calves may not have pneumonia but a heavy lung worm burden. Please look at your young stock, their condition, and check that they are up to date with drenching. Our retail team can help find the best drench for your stock. And remember, the best way to check how well your calves are doing is by monitoring their weight gains.

## Combination Dry Cow Therapy

If you are drying off a portion of your cows early this season, keep in mind that if they are dried off by the start of next month they will have an individual dry period length of a minimum of 120 days. As it currently stands there are no antibiotic Dry Cow products that last longer than 70 days, so there will be 50 days at the end of the dry period where these cows are not protected from developing mastitis. The way to combat this is to use Teatseal in combination with an antibiotic so that your cows are protected for the entire length of their dry period. Trial work consistently shows significant reductions in spring mastitis by using this combination.

## Lameness

Getting ready for dry off? Got some dodgy looking feet around the place? Some slow old girls on the lanes, but want to keep them in the herd for next year?

Have a think about drafting them out and calling us to have a look sooner rather than later. We can do a lot to help, but some cases will take time to heal. The sooner we get onto it, the more likely we can get them back to normal before the winter mud hits.

Don't forget - cows are prey animals; they will not slow down until things are really bad. Keep reminding your staff to keep an eye out for the early signs of lameness so they can be treated as promptly and effectively as possible. Ask us for a free DVD, or put 'Dairy NZ Lameness Scoring' into your search engine for some useful reminders about the early signs of lameness.

## Lame Cow Workshops

By popular demand, we will be running lame cow treatment training workshops again over the coming months. These will be introductory sessions for new farm staff wanting to learn treatment techniques, or more experienced staff wanting to brush up on their skills.

Sessions will run 9.30am-12.30pm and cover: structure of feet, types of lameness and their causes, safe restraint, hoof trimming and use of knives. Cost \$120 per person (\$200 for 2 people; \$270 for 3 from one farm).

Proposed dates are:

Tuesday 29th April - Clydevale

Weds 7th May - Milton/Taiari

Further sessions may be run in other areas according to demand.

Please contact the clinic or email [kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz) to confirm your places.

## Teatseal Competition

If you are thinking about adding Teatseal to your Dry Cow programme this season, the [www.teatseal.co.nz](http://www.teatseal.co.nz) website is a great place for information on what Teatseal is, how it is used and some farmer reviews. Now you can also be in to win one of five prizes valued at \$1000 each - all you have to do is visit the website and choose what prize you would like to win. If you already use Teatseal or plan to use Teatseal, have a look anyway and try to win yourself a prize!

The competition is open to farm owners and workers so the whole team on farm can enter to win. Check the terms and conditions if you are not sure. If you have any more questions about Teatseal feel free to give us a ring at the clinic.

## Want some Scabbling?

Fed up of cows doing the splits on the yard? Want to improve your cow flow with a quick fix? Then read on...

Several farmers have mentioned they are interested in improving the grip of their concrete surfaces by air driven scabbling. This is the technique recommended by Neil Chesterton (Taranaki vet with a special interest in lameness prevention) for improving grip on concrete for the long term.



Grooving concrete usually helps in the short term but as soon as those edges are rounded again the concrete will become slippery surprisingly quickly.

Scabbling uses a portable machine with compressed air powering several cold chisels to randomly remove the surface layer of concrete and expose the more grippy aggregate beneath. The improved grip is reported to last 15 years (or more?!)

If you know of anyone locally with a scabber for rent, please let us know. Otherwise, we can encourage a reasonably priced, well recommended Taranaki operator to visit the area. Please contact them direct on 0800 666 754, [sureandsafe.co.nz](http://sureandsafe.co.nz) or contact Keara at [kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz) if you wish to discuss.

## Things to do in April:

- Would you like cheaper Dry Cow? Book in your Autumn Consult with a Dairy Vet now
- Lepto Vaccination - cows + in-calf heifers (7-in-1)
- Dry off mixed age cows with BCS 4 and under; and R3 heifers with BCS 4.5 and under **at the end of April**
- Liver Biopsies - check Copper levels
- Assess winter feed requirements and transition management

## This Month's Retail News:

- **Boss Combination Cattle Pour On 5 litre** – receive either a Morphy Richards kettle or 4 slice toaster.
- **Combat Topline Cattle Pour On 5 litre** – Great price, great product – only \$2.34 per 500kg cow (nett incl. GST)
- **Eclipse 2.5 litre / 5 litre Combination Cattle Pour On** – receive a Merial Ancare sleeveless oilskin vest – while stocks last
- **Eclipse E Combination Cattle Injection 500mls** – buy 3 packets get the 4<sup>th</sup> packet free
- **Eclipse 11 litre Combination Cattle Pour On** – receive a pair of RM Williams Boots
- **New product – Nexeprix cattle injection 500mls** – dose 1ml per 100kg. Receive a Morphy Richards kettle or 4 slice toaster per 2 packets of injection.
- **Eprinex Cattle Pour On** – nil withholdings. Buy 3 x 5 litres and receive the 4<sup>th</sup> 5 litre free – only while stocks last

## Irish Veterinary Medical Dictionary A - L

<b>Medical Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>		
Artery	<i>The study of paintings</i>	Colic	
Bacteria	<i>Back door to cafeteria</i>		<i>A sheep dog</i>
Barium	<i>What vets do when patients die</i>	Coma	<i>A punctuation mark</i>
Benign	<i>What you be, after you be eight</i>	Dilate	<i>To live long</i>
Caesarean Section	<i>A neighbourhood in Rome</i>	Enema	<i>Not a friend</i>
Cat scan	<i>Searching for Kitty</i>	Fester	<i>Quicker than someone else</i>
Cauterize	<i>Made eye contact with her</i>	Fibula	<i>A small lie</i>
		Impotent	<i>Distinguished, well known</i>
		Labour pain	<i>Getting hurt at work</i>