



# CUD

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

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**Clinic News** – The big news concerning the practice is that after a good two years of preliminary planning, work has commenced on the redevelopment of the Balclutha clinic building. The tender of Amalgamated Builders Ltd (ABL) was accepted and work began on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The last redevelopment of the clinic building was more or less exactly 20 years ago in 1995. At that time the veterinary staff at Balclutha numbered 5 and the support staff 7. Currently the staff at Balclutha numbers 14 vets, 4 techs and 15 support staff - close to a 300% increase since then! Hence it is little wonder that we are somewhat bursting at the seams, and the building is getting pretty tired. Ironically, over the last couple of weeks various bits around the building have started falling off/breaking/leaked/and stopped working!!

The 1995 redevelopment took 5 - 6 months and as possibly the only person here who can recall that period, it was a pretty frustrating time having to work to the accompaniment of jack hammers, concrete cutters, power saws, drills etc. Well I'm afraid to say this time around will be twice as bad as the projected build time will be twice as long at around 11 months.

We will do our best to minimise the impact on you, our clients, but I suspect there will inevitably be some. At times we might have trouble finding items, the internal communication system could occasionally get a bit disrupted, and no doubt staff may appear a bit frazzled. For the inevitable disruption, we can only apologise in advance but it will be a classic example of the old proverb “short term pain for long term gain”.

As we have to continue to operate in the building while this is going on, the project is being staged with the initial construction of the retail manager's new office beside the chiller (to give some immediate new office space for other temporarily dislocated staff. Then all the initial work will be at the other (western) end of the building, both upstairs and downstairs. Hence the retail shop end should initially be minimally affected. Parking for clients will remain the same as at present. In other words for merchandise park at the eastern end and for the small animal clinic park out the front facing Clyde Street. *John Smart*

## Autumn Consults

Most of you will have completed your Autumn Consult with a vet by now. We are trying to get these done earlier (late March / early April) for a number of reasons:

- To discuss Dry Cow Therapy / Teatseal options for cows being dried off early
- To discuss additional services available later in the season (Trace Element testing; BVD monitoring; pregnancy testing etc)
- To help us with stock control issues around Dry Cow Therapy. It allows us to get our orders in early, so we are less likely to be affected by product shortages.

We do appreciate that many of you will not know exactly how many cows will be getting each product until after the final herd test, but most of you should be able to calculate numbers for the majority of your product requirements.

To qualify for the additional 3% rebate, product should be taken from us at the time of the Autumn Consult, unless agreed otherwise with our Retail team (e.g. product not available on that day!). Charging will be deferred until May (i.e. pay in June).

If you have not yet completed your Autumn Consult, please get it booked in a.s.a.p. If you haven't yet picked up your Dry Cow Therapy, please do so now to qualify for the additional discount. Due to problems with fitting in all the Consults, we have delayed the final date until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Any product picked up after this date will be charged at the full price.

## Body Condition Scoring

Fat is a wonderful thing! Whether it's in your milk or on your cows, it's of benefit to you to increase the amount around at this time of year. It is recommended that cows be at body condition score 5 and heifers at 5.5 by calving. Getting your cows in the right shape for winter can greatly improve your calving, milking and reproductive performance later on. If you have a few skinny cows you can consider drying them off or moving to once a day milking. Alternatively you can give us a call and ask us about our body condition score service and strategies tailored to your farm.

### Lungworm in calves

We have seen several outbreaks of lungworm recently, mainly in dairy calves, but also one case involving 2 year old dairy cows. Lungworm is caused by the nematode *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, and usually affects calves younger than 10 months of age. Older animals may be affected if they haven't been exposed to sufficient challenge earlier in their lives. Most outbreaks occur when calves graze paddocks that have recently been cut for silage or hay ('aftermath').



Clinical signs range from mild coughing to severe respiratory distress. Most cases respond well to anthelmintics, but severe cases will also require supportive treatment with antibiotics (e.g. Alamyacin LA or Tetraguard) and anti-inflammatories (e.g. Ketomax or Metacam). There may be some benefit in using an anthelmintic with persistent activity (e.g. Eclipse-E) to help prevent reinfection. Please speak to a vet for further advice.

### Cancer eye (Squamous cell carcinoma)

This often starts off looking like cauliflower growths on the third eyelid or eyeball and can sometimes go unnoticed for a while since most time is spent at the rear end of the cow putting cups on rather than the head end looking at the eyes. The eyelid or eye can be removed if the cancer is not too large and there's no evidence of it having spread to lymph nodes, however it's impossible to say for sure that it hasn't already spread. The sooner something is done the better the chance of success. Going to the works is sometimes an option if the tumour is not too large and not discharging pus or blood, however once there the carcass may be condemned if it is found that the tumour has spread.



*Early stages of cancer eye – small tumour of the third eyelid*

### Southern Dairy Hub

All dairy farmers will have received an invitation to pledge a donation towards setting up the Southern Dairy Hub. Clutha Vets were also approached, and following some discussion with the Board, we have decided that this development will bring significant benefit to our members. Clutha Vets have pledged \$5,000.

### Southland/Otago Dairy Industry Awards

Clutha Vets is a major regional sponsor of the Southland/Otago Dairy Industry Awards which were held in Gore recently. There were several entrants from the Clutha district and a couple of prize winners too. Well done to all our local contestants and Congratulations to the following

**Teresa Walters** won the Clutha Vets - Karen Vreugdenhil Memorial Leadership Award in the Dairy Trainee of the year section.

**Russell and Tracy Bouma** came second overall in the Sharemilker of the Year and also won two merit awards -

- Westpac Business Performance Award
- Ravensdown Pasture Performance Award

Jono and Kelly Bavin who worked in the Clutha District a number of seasons ago took out the Sharemilker of the Year and will represent Southland/Otago at the national finals.

### This Month's Retail News:

- **Merial Ancare Cattle Drench** - Receive a tough as guts Swandri fleece jacket with qualifying products - oral, injection and pour-on.
- **Eclipse Pour-on or Injection** - With 12.5lt of pour-on or 4 x 500ml of Injection receive a Stihl Miniboss Chainsaw.
- **Eprinex Pour-on 5lt** - Buy 3 x 5lt and get the 4<sup>th</sup> one free.
- **Kaiwaka Sealtex Wet Weather Clothing for kids** – Over-trousers, bib over-trousers and parkas. Sizes 2yrs - 16yrs. Prices start at \$20. Great value.
- **Startect, Cydectin and Dectomax Drenches** - All purchases go in the draw for \$4000 worth of Avanti or Scott bikes from Powerzone Suzuki Balclutha. Exclusive to Clutha Vets.
- **Cydectin Pour on for Cattle** - receive 10% extra free in the 2lt and 5lt packs. Also a 17lt pack for the price of 15lt. Nil meat withhold.
- **Dectomax Pour on 15lt Herd Packs** - Receive an extra 2.5lt free plus a Stoney Creek Recreational Jacket.
- **Dectomax Injection** - Purchase 2 starter packs (4 x 500ml) and receive an extra 400ml free, plus the Stoney Creek Recreational Jacket.