

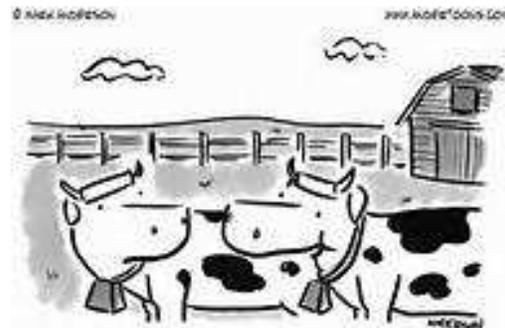
Clinic News

Welcome to the first CUD of 2014. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and maybe even squeezed in some holidays! It seems the weather is bound to improve now the kids are back to school.

Things have been busy at the clinic and we also have a few changes to staff coming up this month as we welcome recent Massey graduates Bevan and Izzy Topham. We also farewell Steven Butler and our locum Andrew Cobner, and so are currently recruiting for another vet.

Following the success of last winter's workshops - we are offering further training opportunities over the coming months. As always, these workshops will be practical, hands on and fully interactive. Check out the flyers included with this newsletter for further details.

Since it is also time for shed audits, please let us know if you require a copy of your Induction plan or RVM and we can either post or email it out to you.



The sunburnt cow

At this time of the year we often get called to examine cows with photosensitivity, particularly where summer turnips are being fed. This is caused by the liver being unable to breakdown substances within the feed. These substances then spill over into the blood stream, and when they come into contact with sunlight in the blood vessels close to the skin, they react. This then damages the skin causing the characteristic sun burnt look on non-pigmented (pink) areas of the skin.

Early in the disease process it can be difficult to diagnose these cases as they present with a range of symptoms including: kicking at their guts, getting up and down, fidgety in the shed and kicking their cups off. At this stage the skin, particularly around the udder, will usually be hot and inflamed. Over time all the non-pigmented areas of skin will become thickened and will eventually die and fall off. These animals should be immediately removed from the brassica crop and provided with shelter. Antihistamines and anti-inflammatory drugs are beneficial if given early in the process, a filtabac cream should be applied to affected teats with a sunblock available for the larger areas of skin. If a lot of your herd is affected then try reducing the amount of Brassica crop they are eating by ensuring they only go onto the crop after they have had a feed of grass or silage.

Antibiotics are ONLY warranted if the skin becomes infected and should this or other complications occur please contact your veterinarian.

Sciatic Palsy

Following a few reported cases recently, Massey University and the Ministry for Primary Industries want to get a better understanding of Sciatic Palsy and how common (or uncommon) the disease is. This disease affects the sciatic nerve and results in hind limb weakness, short stepping gait and the hind legs appear very straight. The forelimbs are not affected. This disease will typically affect both back legs but one side may appear worse than the other and the tail may be floppy. The onset might take days or weeks and as the disease progresses the animal become recumbent. If you have (or had) a cow like this, we would be very interested to hear from you.

Vitamin B1 Deficiency/ PEM

Polioencephalomalacia (PEM), a disease primarily of calves, has been poking its head up again. It is a disease that is caused by a change in the availability of vitamin B1 (thiamine) to the animal. Ruminants normally don't need thiamine to be provided in their diet as it is able to be produced by the rumen bugs. An upset to these bugs or the presence of thiaminases (substances that break down the thiamine before it is absorbed) can lead to

animals developing this disease. Clinical signs noticed are weak calves that stumbling or wobbly in the hind legs and appear to be blind even though the eye itself looks normal. Treatment is possible, so not all is lost- please refer to your vet. We have had a few farms affected; in one case 18 out of 74 calves had it. We would be interested to hear if there are any more farms in the area with animals showing these symptoms.

Heifer vs wooden rails:

When a mob of heifer calves was run through the yards for drenching one of the calves pushed its head between two horizontal wooden rails on a gate and caught its lower lip on the rail, tearing the lip away from the jaw. Although quite gruesome it was a relatively simple fix. The calf was sedated, the wound flushed and as much dirt and grit removed as possible, the lip was then sutured back in place along the gum line and the calf treated with antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs. Within two weeks the wound had completely healed.



Tips for growing calves into quality heifers

Calves are your future investment. A little time and effort spent in the next 8 months will have calves a lot closer to the optimum pre mating weights.

- Premium quality feed and water supply
- Move calves **BEFORE** they need moved
- Ensure essential minerals for growth have been given e.g. copper and selenium
- Ensure essential vaccinations done e.g. 7-1, BVD if required
- A regular, timely drench programme
- Try to avoid large mobs- less than 150
- Weigh regularly- or get us to do it for you
- Draft lighter/smaller calves into a smaller mob

Clutha Vets have a skilled team available to help you- please contact your nearest clinic for further information if required.

This Month's Retail News:

- **Genesis Pour-on 5 litre-** buy 2 X 5 litres get the 3rd one free. Cost \$1466.60 nett incl GST- that's \$2.44 per 500kg cow (nett incl GST).
- **Eclipse and Genesis Pour-on/Injection** – receive a Swandri oilskin vest (only on qualifying product sizes)
- **Eprinex Pour-on 5 litre-** buy 3 x 5litre, get the 4th one free
- **Dectomax Promo-** purchase two starter packs of Dectomax injection or a herd pack of pour-on and receive a 100 litre handy storage box.
- **New Product-** dog and cat food made with kangaroo meat. Available in treats and tinned wet food.
- Winners of the Merial Ancare we've got you covered' Christmas Promotion – Donald and Jo Murray (Waitahuna).
- Merial Ancare/Clutha Vets 'Take a mate fishing' winners are - Lionel Bugden (Waitahuna), Hamish Wilson (Rongahere), Doug Robertson (Arthurton), Maurice Judson (Awamungu), Jason Greer (Lovells Flat), Ivan Steel (Hillend), Jeff Young (Lawrence), Marcus Sutherland (Clinton), Matt Lawlor (Waiwera South), and Peter Johnston (Port Molyneux).
- Winner of the Eukanuba In Store Summer Promo - Chris Roughan (Glenomaru).