



CUD

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

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September 2014

Clinic With the weather finally warming up ground conditions are drying up and grass growth taking off, particularly in the areas of the practice that were exceptionally wet through the latter part of winter. We are getting into the first round of metrichecking, and debudding is well under way. If you have groups of calves almost ready for debudding, give us a call asap as we are often at least a week down the track from having free space. It's a good idea to pre-book a regular space every couple of weeks to make sure the calves are done as soon as you would like and you can get them out on grass.

On the staff front Steve is back on deck after his stint overseas. He and Liz (who worked in our admin department in Balclutha) returned newly engaged to be married. Hamish and Sarah became the proud parents of a little girl last Thursday, 4th September, so big congratulations to all of them.

Paddle positives

A paddle positive cow is just one that has a high SCC in its milk – above 300,000. Somatic cells are not infection themselves, but are the body's response to infection. They can be present without any detectable infection (i.e. subclinical)

There are several possible reasons for paddle positive cows –

- Many cows take longer than 8 milkings to drop their SCC after calving. These will remain paddle positive for several days, but will not develop clinical signs of mastitis. Keep checking them for a few more days and enter them into the milking herd once you are sure they are not developing mastitis, or their SCC has dropped.
- Some of the cows may have mastitis. Remember to disregard the first 3 strips of milk when evaluating the milk, especially if using the paddle. If one of the first strips is watery, lumpy, or discoloured, but later strips are normal looking and she has no pain or swelling, just mark the cow to monitor her for a couple more days.
- Some cows have a subclinical infection – the milk and udder will look normal but the milk will be positive on the paddle test. Often these will clear by themselves and so can just continue to be milked in the colostrum herd for a few more days. If you have a large number of these cows, or a high bulk milk SCC issue, you can consider treatment. Treatment of subclinical mastitis can be unrewarding, but it is possible to pick winners! Younger cows with recent infections are more likely to respond to treatment; older cows that were high SCC last season (and had Dry Cow Therapy) are less likely to respond. Please speak to a vet to discuss treatment options. Also consider sampling some subclinical cases.
- At the start of the season, particularly this one having been so muddy, environmental bugs (often Strep. Uberis) are going to be your main concern. These are treated using a penicillin such as Lactapen, Clavulox, or Penclox, or an injectable such as Penethaject. Orbenin LA is not as effective against these bugs, and is best reserved for later season mastitis. We also frequently see resistance to Mastalone.

Swede related illness and deaths

You will have received communication from DairyNZ about a number of cases of cows becoming ill, and in some cases dying, while (or shortly after) grazing on swedes. These cases have been across Southland, although we have had a case suspected in South Otago.

Signs appear to be related to liver damage, and include:

- Weight loss and ill-thrift
- Down cows that are unresponsive to metabolic therapy.
- Photosensitivity (i.e. reddening of udder; peeling of white skin areas; seeking shade; irritability)

The exact cause is not known at this stage. Please look out for any of these signs in your stock (or inform grazier of these potential signs). Remove any affected animals from the crop and provide shade. Speak to a vet for further treatment advice. If feeding swedes it would be sensible to reduce the swede component of the diet to 50% or less, and provide baleage before offering the next break of swedes.

Bulls

This may seem really early but now is the time to make sure you have your bulls sorted for mating, especially for your heifers. What happens to a bull now will affect his performance in 6-8 weeks' time. Make sure the bulls are free of BVD and have also been vaccinated. If a bull is infected, or contracts BVD, not only will it affect his fertility, but he will spread it rapidly through the girls affecting their conception rate. Don't forget about trace elements for the bulls, especially the ones you kept from last year and put in a back paddock. You might also like to consider a 7 in 1 vaccination for them, as not only are they a leptospirosis risk, but due to their nature also a higher black leg risk.

Also consider the number of bulls you will require and an appropriate breed (this year there are a lot of big calves). A ratio of 1:15 to 1:20 for your heifers (depending on the age of the bulls, can reduce after 3 weeks if necessary), and a 1:30 ratio for your cows. We recommend having 2 sets of teams for the herd, so that they can rest for 2-3 days to reduce lameness etc. For example, a 500 cow milking herd with 40-50% pregnancy rate at the start of bull mating would require 20 bulls to be available.

Give us a call if you would like some advice on bull numbers for this season.

KetoMax 15% (repeated from last month)

Pain in cattle is well recognised to be a cause of decreased appetite, and inflammation increases the time it takes for some diseases to be cured. We will soon be getting in a new product for pain relief and anti-inflammatory effects in cattle. It has the same active ingredient as Ketofen 10% but has a higher concentration. This means that for a 500kg cow the dose would be 10ml (i.e. 2ml per 100kg) instead of 15ml. Like Ketofen, there is no Milk WHP on this product. There is however a 2 day Meat WHP.

If you have already been prescribed Ketofen, this prescription will also apply to KetoMax. Please speak to a vet to discuss further.

Things to do in September:

- Book in Metrichecking
- Book in calf debudding
- Book in pre-mating bloods or livers. If you indicated at your Spring or Autumn Consult you would like these done you will receive an appointment slip in the mail – please phone the clinic to confirm this appointment.

This Month's Retail News

Eprinex Pour-on – Withholdings are important. Nil milk; nil meat; nil bobby. Great results!
Purchase 3 x 5lt Eprinex get 5lt FREE.

PLUS go in the draw for 2 x \$10,000 travel vouchers on selected Merial Ancare drenches.

PLUS go in the draw for a trip on the Wanaka Wine Tour.

Cydectin Pour-on 25lt – SPECIAL only \$2250 incl GST. Nil milk; nil meat; nil bobby & only \$4.50 per 500kg dose. Very limited stock!

Merial Ancare Cattle drench – treat with Merial Ancare products this spring and you'll be rewarded with Fiskars or Joseph Bentley gardening tools on qualifying purchases.

Kaiwaka Wet Weather Clothing – come and check out our children's range – very well priced. Would make a great gift.