



**CLUTHA
VETS**

www.cluthavets.co.nz

CUD

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

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June 2009

May was a bit of a miserable month in the weather stakes. So fingers crossed for some frosty mornings which herald the onset of clear, blue sky days!

Clinic News

With the cows dried off and most people taking time to have a quick breather, a number of vets at the Clutha end are taking their yearly holidays or will be away to conferences. John Smart will be away until late June, Jason's heading back to the U.K and will be away until late August and Hanneke's back to Holland until mid-July. Sid Taylor has a confirmed starting date of 15th June in Milton and we're all looking forward to having another skilled and experienced vet joining our team.

Nutrition - Cows on Brassicas

June is typically the month that we start to see a few cases of rumen acidosis in cows that have been ingesting Brassicas. The rumen acidosis occurs due to the fact that Brassicas are highly digestible and carbohydrate rich and can cause a pH imbalance in the rumen. The severity of the condition can vary between cows but in general it is a serious situation and cows can die. The problem can be avoided by introducing the cows to the crop gradually and providing plenty of supplementary roughage. Start by allowing the cows to have a good feed of grass first and then allowing the cows' access to the crop for an hour. Step this up daily over a period of about a fortnight. It is best to feed the cows in two small breaks each day and spread the hay/balage in as many feeders as you can manage and over a large area (preferably in a line along a fence) to allow maximum access per cow. It is important to ensure that the cows always have access to water as well. In the event that you do get some animals affected by acidosis on crop, the first and most important thing to do is to remove them all from the crop and put them in a paddock with plenty of hay/balage and water. If the cows are down in the mud, you may need to use a tractor to pull them out. Then give us a call, as the moderately to severely affected cows may need vet attention (we will need about 2x 20L buckets of warm water per cow).

BVD

Many of you will now know the BVD status of your adult cows from bulk milk tests performed during the season. Now is the time to consider the status of your heifer replacements before they join the herd. Blood-testing 15 rising 2s and 15 yearlings (>10 months) will give us important information on the susceptibility of these animals, so that we can give you the best advice on further control measures such as vaccination.

Lame Cows

June and July are good months to carry out track maintenance, with the absence of cow foot traffic. The wet weather would have provided a good opportunity to identify any slippery sections which may need re-surfacing. Track maintenance might include filling in any pot holes, creating drainage gaps and checking the surface layer is in good order.

Teat Sealing Heifers

Katrina Roberts gave an excellent presentation at our Winter Seminar for Dairy Farmers, followed by on-farm demos the next day. We have no doubt about the benefits of doing this in some situations, particularly where you have had a high incidence (>15%) of heifer mastitis in previous seasons. Please contact us now to discuss further, as there is a limited amount of Teatseal left in the country, and we will need to pre-order.

Inductions

For those of you planning to induce late-calving cows this coming spring, the usual conditions will apply relating to the Induction Code. Please contact us now if you need to discuss anything regarding eligibility and management of cows for induction. Only 3 to 8 year old cows in good condition and with a known calving date can be induced. They must be induced between 6 and 12 weeks before expected calving date. These cows require special attention with regard to feeding, magnesium and selenium supplementation. We encourage you to invite us to view these cows over the winter, to discuss any of these potential issues. The Induction Code is currently up for review, and we will inform you as soon as we have any information.

Things to do in June:

- Bring the cows back in (at least seven days after drying off) to check for mastitis. Feel the udders, but don't strip any milk; it will only disrupt the teat plug that is beginning to form!
- Carry out track maintenance
- Order Rotavec for July collection (phone either clinic)
- Trace element supplementation for in-calf heifers
- Vaccinations 10 in 1; Salmonella
- Set up a shelter near the cow shed to use as a hospital area for downer cows and cows which have had tough calvings. Deer poles, corrugated iron and a cyclone gate, with sawdust bedding all work well.
- Organise a PAR consult.
- Have a milking machine annual check done.
- Organise your milk powder requirements.

TECHNIPHARM HIP LIFTERS

A set of these went missing out on farm last calving season. If anyone has noticed a spare set lying around could you please drop them back at the clinic (no questions asked. It was most likely a vet who left them there in the first place!).



This Month's Retail News

- **New product: Hi Trace with Rumensin**

Is a new supplement containing cobalt, copper, iodine, selenium and zinc. It offers the benefits of inorganic minerals as a combination of essential trace elements along with the benefits of Rumensin.

- **Rumensin**

Don't forget cashback is back. Get \$150 cashback off each 60L drum. Offer available for a limited time and orders must be in before the end of August to qualify.

- **Merial-Ancare Cattle Pour-Ons**

Selected pack sizes qualify for either a pair of Swandri muck boots or a windstopper jersey.

- **Dectomax Pour-on**

Back-country clothing packs to give away with every 15L Dectomax pour-on tub pack.

- **Tux 40kg bags**

Enter the draw to win a Nissan Navara with every 40kg bag of Tux sold. There are 2 Navaras to be won, one for the North Island and one for the South Island.