

CUD

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



February 2018

Clinic News

As I write this I can hear the wonderful sound of rain on the roof, and more importantly on your parched paddocks. The drought has been the biggest challenge for most of our dairy clients, often necessitating reduced milking frequency (16 hour or OAD) and rapid demolition of summer crop. Pregnancy testing has dominated our workload, with initial results encouraging but not breaking any records! One or two have shown significant improvements in 6 Week In Calf Rates, demonstrating that positive management decisions around calving spread and Body Condition Score management can make a big difference.

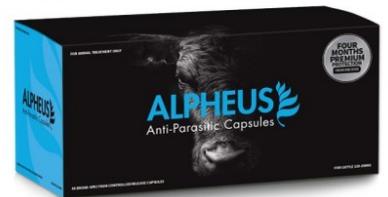
We will be saying farewell to Bevan, Marek & Sarah later this month and we wish them well on their travels. Erin Caswell (English vet) has joined the team at Balclutha, and Dario Mendoza (Chilean vet) will soon be starting based at Milton. Andrew Comerford (Irish vet) will be starting at Balclutha in early March. We take great pride in the fact that experienced vets and promising new graduates from around the world view Clutha Vets as a great opportunity to start or further their careers, and South Otago as a great place to call their home.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our farmer meeting - Drought Buster. The meeting opened with a brief address from Hamish Walker, MP for Clutha-Southland. Guest speaker Doug Avery, author of “The Resilient Farmer”, made a tremendous impact, and he has asked us to recommend the reading of the book “Peaks and Valleys” by Spencer Johnson. Wayne Nichol - PGG Wrightson, Jillian Clark - Clutha Vets, and Mark Olsen-Vetland - DairyNZ all gave informative and practical addresses on planning immediate and long-term strategies for recovery.

Alpheus Anti-Parasitic Capsules

During the autumn with the increase in moisture, the number of parasite larvae on the pasture increases dramatically. Gut damage caused by ingesting high numbers of these larvae can contribute to loss of production.

Alpheus Anti-Parasitic Capsules have been developed to prevent this damage. The unique formulation delivers a high dose short acting combination of oxfendazole and levamisole along with a low dose slow release of abamectin. Trials have shown growth benefits of 12-15kg over and above the growth achieved from drenching with a triple oral drench every 28 days.



Clutha Vets recommend that FECs are monitored at 50 and 100 days when using this product. If there is any evidence of patent infection then an exit dose (e.g. Arrest-C) is recommended.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Gives 125 days broad-spectrum protection.
- ✓ Kills ingested L3 larvae preventing possible gut damage and the development of patent infections.
- ✓ Unique Captec technology prevents regurgitation. 100% retention in all trials to date.
- ✓ Capsule floats in the rumen so it can be given concurrently with other capsule treatments e.g. trace element boluses.
- ✓ Applicator allows simultaneous administration with other CR boluses.
- ✓ Unique flat head design of applicator makes it easy to administer.

Mastitis treatment for 16 hour milking intervals

Mastitis drugs are not licensed to be used with an milking interval of 16-18 hour, so what should you be doing? Using mastitis intra-mammary tubes for milking intervals other than the labeled 12, 24 or 48 hours use is off label, so veterinary advice should be sought. We have therefore put together some guidelines to help you make an informed decision in the table below:

Product	Normal licensing	Recommendation for 16-18hour milking interval	Recommended milk withhold for off license administration
Penclox™ 1200 (Virbac)	Administered every 24 hours	Administering every 32 hours (every 2 nd milking) for 3 doses	144 hours (licensed 120 hours plus 24 hours) i.e. 9 milking's
Mastalone® (Zoetis)	Administered every 24 hours	Administering every 16 hours (i.e. every milking) for 3 doses	8 milking withhold
Orbenin™ LA (Zoetis)	Administered either every 24 or 48 hours	Either: Administering every 16 hours (i.e. every milking) for 5 doses OR	16 hour treatment interval = 8 milking's withhold
		Administering every 32 hours (i.e. every 2 nd milking) for 3 doses	32 hour treatment interval = 120 hour withhold (licensed 96 hours plus 24 hours) i.e. 8 milking's
Lincocin® Forte (Agrihealth)	Administered either every 12 or 24 hours	Administering at every 16-18 hours (i.e. every milking)	4 milking withhold

Maximise the productivity of your heifer replacements

Did you know a heifer that reaches her live weight targets will produce 8.5kg more milk solids in her first lactation than if she was 10% below her live weight targets; there is a direct correlation between reaching target live weights on time & milk production. This is why it is paramount that your heifer calves are growing to their targets. Their live weight targets are also the main player in onset of puberty at 12months of age to then get in calf at 15months of age (60% live weight), this will equal to a 1.5% lower empty rate when she is at her targets. Would you know what live weight targets your calves should be growing to at certain stages of their lives?

To get the best results calves should ideally be weighed on a regular basis to see how they are tracking and if there is any intervention needing to take place. This will allow you more time to make changes before it is too late.

Clutha Vets offers a weighing service with trained technicians, where the information is uploaded to MINDA for your convenience. Calves can be weighed when they are being brought in for their 7in1 vaccination or regular drenching.

Popliteal Abscesses

The popliteal lymph nodes are deep structures associated with the muscles at the back of the thigh, *see photo right*. They help deal with infections of the lower limb, but can occasionally become infected themselves, resulting in abscesses. These can be large and painful, and may hold several litres of pus. Because they are so deep (often several cms) we recommend calling a vet out to lance & flush.

Please do not treat these with antibiotics.



Things to do in February:

- Pregnancy testing - needs to be done now for accurate aging of the first few weeks of calving
- Lepto vaccinate calves
- Johne's testing on milk samples from herd testing on herds with a known problem
- Vet Certs for lame (or any other injury) bulls going to works - bear in mind these have a strict 7 day expiry