

# Dairy Farmer Newsletter June 2013



**CLUTHA VETS**  
Animal Health Centre



## Balclutha Vets

John Smart	B.V.Sc.
Jason Darwen	B.V.Sc.
Rob Mills	B.V.Sc.
Teresa O'Riordan	B.V.M.S.
Hamish Moore	B.V.Sc.
Catherine Copland	B.V.M.S.
Peter Heslip	B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc.
Alice Lee	B.V.Sc.
Steven Butler	B.V.Sc.
Annie Jackson	B.V.Sc.
Murray Gillies	B.V.Sc., D.V.M.
Elsbeth Dunne	B.V.Sc.
Lewis Sparrow	B.V.Sc.

## Milton Vets

Peter Kalb	B.V.Sc.
Jillian Clark	B.V.Sc.
Sid Taylor	B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc.
Keara Brennan	B.V.Sc., MRCVS
Barbara Christensen	B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc.

## Telephone Numbers

Balclutha Clinic	(03) 418-1280
Balclutha Fax	(03) 418-1750
Retail Direct	(03) 418-1281
Milton Clinic	(03) 417- 8032
Clydevale Store	(03) 415- 9121

**Web:** [www.cluthavets.co.nz](http://www.cluthavets.co.nz)

**Email:** [admin@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:admin@cluthavets.co.nz)

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## Clinic News

Welcome to all the new arrivals to the area. We hope the move has gone well, and look forward to catching up with you soon. Heifer Teatsealing is now well & truly underway, so we are hoping for plenty of fine days over the next 6 weeks or so. We welcome Mark McElrea & Dave Urquhart onto the team as technicians, and welcome back to Carol Adams.

We have had to say farewell to our Canadian vet, Murray Gillies, who has accepted a job back in his home state. Murray has made quite an impact over the last 2 years with both colleagues & clients, and his passion for dairy cows was never in doubt! We wish him all the best for the future. Jason will be away until late July, visiting family & friends in UK & Ireland. The British & Irish Lions have started their tour of Australia, and we all (except Elsbeth) wish them every success.

## **Mastitis Post Dry-Off**

With many of you now either completely or partially dried off for the season it is important to remember to look for signs of mastitis in your recently dried cows whether they have been treated with dry cow therapy or not.

Signs of mastitis in dry cows are the same as those in lactating cows; swelling, oedema, firmness and heat in the affected gland, with clots or flakes present when the gland is milked.

Remember that once a cow has already been dried off, with DCT or not, you should not administer DCT as it is designed for use in cows producing 5litres or more of milk and this will likely result in residues in the milk in spring.

If you notice one of your dry cows with signs of mastitis call the clinic for advice or to have one of the vets come out to see it.

## **Feeding Fodder Beet to Dairy Cows**

With the cows heading out onto crop for the winter we need to be thinking about management of cows on crops like fodder beet to avoid running into problems.

### **Some key points to think about are:**

- When first going on to fodder beet, cows must be fully fed beforehand (silage/baleage), at least two hours before going onto the crop.
- Common for cows to be offered too much on first day, when opening up a paddock. Just allow 1 hour grazing and pull the cows back off.
- Best for cows to eat a mixture of tops and bulbs. Again, if too big an area is offered, the tops will be grazed off first and then will just be eating bulbs
- Roughage must always be available (silage/baleage/straw)

Further explanation of these management issues and others around feeding fodder beet can be found in an expanded article on our website.

## **Check out the calf shed and your rearing methods**

How did your calf rearing go last year? Did you have many problems? Calves routinely have the highest death and illnesses of any age group on the farm. There are many steps that we can take to

minimise these with good colostrum management, environmental hygiene and sound nutrition.

We at Clutha Vets provide a calf rearing shed and systems check. We can visit your calf shed and advise ways to improve your calves performance. It is a holistic approach that will look at all aspects of the calf rearing system from birth to weaning.

Contact the clinic to organise it during this quieter winter period. (Adapted from DairyNZ Best Practice Guidelines)

## **Calf Rearing**

Spring is the busiest time of the year for vets and farmers alike. We often arrive on farm at unsociable hours, those midnight calvings and the 5am prolapsed uteruses, but means that we often miss catching up with those who are putting the hard yards into the future generations, the calf rearers.

Calf rearers often have those little questions about when to give electrolytes, what to do with those navel infections and that one calf that just looks a bit not right but just don't see the vet to ask. To help with this we are forming a calf rearing club, with regular emails throughout spring to answer those questions and help get those off to the best start. If you, or your calf rearer, are interested in receiving these emails, please send your name and email address to Elspeth ([edunne@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:edunne@cluthavets.co.nz)).

## **Bovine Digital Dermatitis**

We have had a laboratory confirmed case of Bovine Digital Dermatitis (Hairy Heel Wart) in the practice area.

Be on the look out for mutiple animals who come up suddenly lame with severe swelling of the hoof, especially around the hind legs. When you pick up the leg you will notice a hairy wart like lesion between the claws at the back of the hoof.



If you see this, contact your veterinarian at Clutha Vets as a biopsy is needed to confirm the diagnosis.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) testing options for cattle**

There are two different basic tests for BVD, one is for antibody or exposure, and the other is for the virus particles themselves.

When buying bulls for example, they should have been tested for virus to make sure you're not purchasing a PI or TI bull. This is best done well before you plan to use them as a transient infection can depress semen production and quality for 3 months. So even if they're not persistently infected they need time to recover from a transient infection before mating. And need to be vaccinated if clear to stop them picking infection up.

On the other hand, R1 heifers can be tested once 10 months or older for antibody to assess the likelihood of there being a PI in the mob

The following table summarises the main testing options.

Type of test	Possible samples	Age at which can be tested	Uses
Antibody/Exposure	Blood or milk	Calves need to be 10 months or older for the blood test.	Asses level of exposure and likelihood of there being a PI in the mob.
Virus/Antigen	Blood, milk or skin	Any age	Identifying the presence of PI and TI animals.

PI = persistently infected

TI = transiently infected

### **Induction Consults**

Just a reminder that if you are planning to induce cows this coming season you are required to have carried out an induction consult 60 days before the cows to be induced receive their first injection. This means that if you are going to induce cows that are naturally due to calve from 30 October on, for example, then they would get their first injection on 7 August at the earliest, so you would need to have done your induction consult before 8 June.

Please call us if you need to make an appointment.

### **Body Condition Score Service**

Clients involved in the In Calf programme have their cows condition scored at four critical times of the year (pre-calving, pre-mating, mid-lactation and pre-drying off). The appropriate management decisions can be made using this information to optimise cow body condition and improve the 6-week in calf rate.

This service is available to all of our Dairy clients and there are several options –

1. We can provide a 'snap-shot' of cow condition by scoring a minimum of 70 randomly selected cows from each herd (in the paddock or in the shed) and providing an average and range for the herds.

2. More in-depth information can be gained from a 'Full Herd Recorded' score against score against individual animal ID.
3. Full Herd or Snap Shot in the shed + Low BCS Marked. At certain times of the year it is appropriate to identify the lighter cows for special attention. Cows BCS 4 and less are marked when the herd is condition scored.

If you are interested in using this service talk to your vet or contact the clinic.

### **Anti Calf Scour Vaccinations**

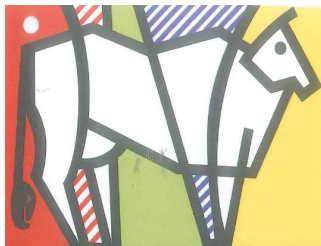
If you have had a problem with scouring calves in spite of excellent hygiene and adequate feeding of quality colostrum then an anti-scour vaccination may be useful for you.

There are a couple of products available which are given to the cows either 3-12 or 2-12 weeks (depending on the product) prior to the cow's due to calve date. They mean that her colostrum will be extra rich in antibodies against pathogens that cause scours like Rotavirus, Corona virus and E coli.

Feel free to call us if you'd like to know more.

## Rumensin

Clutha Vets recommend using Rumensin in dairy cows to increase productivity, reduce ketosis and help with bloat control.



There has been some recent debate about the value of Rumensin in grass-based grazing systems (with respect to increased production & reduced ketosis), but we are convinced by the extensive trial work that backs up this product.

With regard to bloat control, Rumensin can be regarded as a key component, but should not be the only consideration.

The advantage of Rumensin here is its length of action, but it should be used in conjunction with good management practices and strategic use of bloat oil.

Rumensin is available in a number of different forms: slow-release capsules; as a premix to go in feed, and as a water medication. The use of Rumensin as a water medication (Dositron) is becoming increasingly popular, and Clutha Vets have 3 options for you to consider:

1. Our Clutha Vet Trace with added Rumensin gives you the convenience of including Rumensin in our approved trace element formulation;
2. Rumensin Max is a liquid formulation;
3. Rumenox is a new dry, flowable granular formulation, only available from your vet. It measures and pours like a liquid, and rapidly dissolves in water.

Clutha Vets are keen to promote Best Practice with regards to Dositron management and maintaining clean waterlines. We can provide practical advice in these areas and can supply a free agitator with your purchase of Rumenox

Please speak to any of the vets or Retail team for more information about any of these products.

### ***This Month's Retail News:***

- ***Eclipse E Injection & Eclipse Pour-on*** – With 4 x 500 ml injection & 2.5 or 5 lt or pour-on receive “The Angus Book”, a glossy colour book celebrating 150 years of the Angus breed in NZ.
- ***Eprinex-Pour-on*** - Buy 3x5lt and get another 5lt free.

- ***Genesis Pour-on*** - Purchase 2x2.5lt and get the third 2.5 lt free.
- ***Dectomax Injection*** - Receive an electric knife sharpener or a high quality sheath knife with every 2 starter packs
- ***Boss Cattle Injection*** - a new combination injection of ivermectin, eprinomectin and levamisole for cattle treatment for new company Alleva. Also effective against lice.
- ***Cydectin Pour-on*** – Receive an extra 10% free.
- ***Combat Topline Pour-on*** - only \$468.21 nett incl GST or \$2.34/500 kg cow.
- ***Milligan's Calf Milk Powder*** - Our price for this season will be \$92.67 nett incl GST for a 20kg bag. Get your orders into retail now to secure supplies at this price.
- ***Meaty Bites Working Dog 20kg***- Currently on special at \$60.70 nett inc GST

## Driving Etiquette

A man is driving on a narrow country road. At the same time, a woman is driving in the opposite direction on that same road. When they narrowly pass each other at high speed, the man rolls down his window and loudly shouts, “Donkey!” Immediately the woman shouts back “Asshole” The woman laughs.

She is proud to have reacted so quickly to the shouting man and takes the next turn in the road maintaining her speed.

Moral of the story: Women never listen and when they do they don't understand one word a man says.

