



CUD

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

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Clinic News

Easter is over, the children are back at school and we've had our first good frost – we're well through Autumn, and almost completely through our Autumn Consults. Thank you to everyone for getting these booked in, and done and dusted so promptly. We hope you found the slightly altered format to our usual Milk Quality Review beneficial.

On the vet front we are scanning a number of beef herds as well as getting through End of Season scanning. Teatsealing will be underway very soon and free slots are becoming scarce, so if you haven't done it before, and are interested give us a call.

We had an interesting email from our travelling vet, Steve, recently and thought you might enjoy a couple of excerpts.

“The differences (and similarities) in practice between countries has been fascinating. I am still impressed at how well equipped we are. The lack of an annual PAR process increases the workload of the vets needing to constantly approve drugs at the counter and with a paper-based diary scrawled in unreadable English (in England?) it has sometimes been a challenge to work out where to go (not withstanding the total absence of road names and numbers!).” “The new KPIs for fertility has taken a bit to adjust to (target conception rate is 37%!) and the farmers seem surprised if a cow is pregnant. Scotland and Ireland have just about eradicated BVD through a compulsory scheme that England is looking at now with automatic tissue samples taken as the mandatory ear tag is placed (EID is compulsory only in sheep, cows have paper passports!).”

Johne's

Johne's Disease is widespread on dairy farms in New Zealand and in particular in the South Island. DairyNZ currently has a figure of 20% of farms nationally infected with the disease, based on a survey in the last couple of years. From our own laboratory test results we know that the prevalence of this disease for farms in the Clutha district is 28%, which is a gross underestimate because many farms do not submit lab tests for the disease, relying on clinical diagnosis alone.

There will be very few farms in the district that have not seen a case of Johne's disease in their herd, and without putting in place preventative measures to reduce transmission of the disease it is more than likely that the number of cases will only increase. We now have over 20 farms utilising the Johne's milk test through the LIC herd testing service and are now introducing a Johne's Risk Assessment consult for anyone who would like to find out how the disease is spreading in their herd and what steps they can put into place to minimise the spread of this disease.

If you would like to find out more about what we can do to prevent Johne's disease becoming a major problem on your farm contact us at the clinic and we will be more than happy to talk about the options with you.

BVD

The Bulk Milk Antibody Elisa determines immunity to the BVD virus of the herd. This indicates the herd's exposure to the virus or contact with a persistently infected (PI) animal. Antibodies will rise to high levels if the herd is infected with BVD virus or constantly exposed. Over time in herds with no BVD exposure the antibody level will gradually fall.

We have put together a data base of all the BVD Bulk Milk results we have got from the farms that have tested in our area. These results will be discussed with you at your Autumn Consult.

Interesting stats: Clydevale / Hillend	74% of herds had high to very high exposure
Clinton	55% of herds had high to very high exposure
Owaka / Paretai	55% of herds had high to very high exposure
Inch Clutha / Kaitangata	58% of herds had high to very high exposure
Wangaloa	0 % of herds had high to very high exposure

What this indicates is that these herds have either had exposure to a PI recently, whether this is in the herd (and hopefully the Bulk Milk PCR Test should rule this out) or they are being exposed in another way – carry over cows, introduced cows, ineffective boundaries etc.

When we know the status of the herd we can use this information to put a BVD plan into place which will help prevent this virus having a devastating effect on your herd.

If your herd is in the Low – Moderate exposure range you need to ensure you are extremely careful about introducing new stock as your herd has very little immunity. To protect your herd against BVD requires an integrated approach which may include Bulk Milk testing, screening of all imported stock (especially bulls) and the replacement calves as well. BVD vaccination is a useful tool and should also be considered, especially for high risk situations e.g. grazing off the farm, poor boundaries with regular break-outs etc.

If you would like to know any more or to sign up for the Bulk Milk monitoring package please contact the large animal vet team at Clutha Vets.

Lameness

Can you name this disease?

Prize for the first correct answer; bonus prize for the two alternative names for this same disease.

Who cares what it's called? ...don't forget what it looks like! This is a contagious cause of lameness with the potential to cause severe painful disease. Thanks to a few beady eyed farmers we have unfortunately now identified three cases in our area. Please contact us if you see a lame cow with a raised, painful lesion between her digits on the back of her foot. We can advise on appropriate treatment and control measures and continue to monitor disease levels in our area, and feedback to national monitoring.



Scabbling

Don't forget to get in touch, or call Sure and Safe on 0800 666 754 if you want to arrange a long term, cost effective improvement in grip for your concrete yards by scabbling (see April's CUD newsletter available on our website – www.cluthavets.co.nz)

Seminars and Training

We have secured DairyNZ funding again this winter to run more subsidised workshops on Cow Health and Condition, and Lameness Prevention. These will be the same as the workshops provided last season and are aimed at entry level farm staff, or as refreshers for more senior farm staff.

We can try to provide workshops on other topics if you let us know what you want! Please email kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz if you are interested in sending staff to training sessions over the winter period. Let us know what topics you would like covered, and we will do our best to arrange appropriate sessions for your area.

Things to do in May:

- Make sure all stock are vaccinated for Lepto, and records are complete
- Order calf scours vaccine (phone Balclutha 418 1281 or Milton 417 8032)
- Get heifers booked in for Teatsealing
- Sort out inductions for Spring, and get the necessary paperwork signed off
- Pre-winter trace element testing and supplementation for all age groups

This Month's Retail News:

- **Boss Combination Cattle Pour On 5 litre** – receive either a Morphy Richards kettle.
- **Combat Topline Cattle Pour On 5 litre** – Great price, great product – only \$2.34 per 500kg cow (nett incl. GST)
- **Eclipse 2.5 litre / 5 litre Combination Cattle Pour On** – receive a Merial Ancare sleeveless oilskin vest – while stocks last
- **Eclipse E Combination Cattle Injection 500mls** – buy 3 packets get the 4th packet free
- **Eclipse 11 litre Combination Cattle Pour On** – receive a pair of RM Williams Boots
- **New product – Nexeptrin cattle injection 500mls** – dose 1ml per 100kg. Receive a Morphy Richards kettle per 2 packets of injection.
- **Eprinex Cattle Pour On** – nil withholdings. Buy 3 x 5 litres and receive the 4th 5 litre free – only while stocks last
- **Genesis Pour-on 16.5ltr/20ltr Packs** – cost at 500kg dose is \$2.22 nett incl. GST per animal. Withholdings – NIL milk and 35 days meat
- **Dectomax Injection 1200ml Starter Pack** – buy 2 x starter packs and receive a free Emergency kit which includes bandages, torch, whistle, fluoro vest and everything you might need in an emergency!
- Check out our **Kaiwaka children's range** of wet weather clothing – very reasonable prices and very cute and practical!