

CUD

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



October 2015



Clinic News

Heavy winds have made the last few days a struggle, but at least the grass is growing now. As the feed deficit rapidly changes to a surplus, management of that surplus and maintenance of quality is what sorts the men from the boys (and the women from the girls!).

Calf debudding, Metricheking and Body Condition Scoring have kept our vets and techs busy enough. We've also had some interesting sick cow cases to deal with, and a lot of abomasal displacements and torsions. Surgical correction of these has generally been successful, although torsions need to be dealt with promptly! If a cow goes off her milk and has no obvious infection, think abomasal and don't hesitate to call the vet.

Pre-Mating Checklist

- **Metricheking** – hopefully you have checked the bulk of the cows by now, but important to recheck treated cows and get onto late calvers.
- **Trace Elements** – blood tests (Selenium, Magnesium) & liver biopsies (Copper). This is important stuff to get right before mating!
- **Tail Paint** – should be on by now! Thin strip only (20cm x 5cm) + remove loose hair.
- **PG Programmes** – “Why wait?” – these are simple to organise, not v. expensive and offer a great Return on Investment (approx. 8:1). Speak to us now!
- **Non-Cycling Cows** – Early treatment of Non-Cycling Cows with a CIDR programme is a proven method of getting cows in-calf earlier (approx. 16 days compared to non-treated cows). This means more days in milk, and approx. 3:1 Return on Investment.
- **Bulls** – how many? BVD testing/vaccinating. Bull testing.
- **Heifers** – Trace Element status? Can inject Multimin + Cu (Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Manganese) 3 to 4 weeks prior to mating.
 - BVD status? We can blood test 15 heifers for a pooled Antibody test.
 - Considering AB? There are some great synchrony options. Please ring to discuss.
- **Book in your Repro Ready Consult** with a vet now

BVD

With mating fast approaching one of the things we need to think of is the potential exposure of your R2 heifers to BVD if they are away grazing. This can happen very easily across the fence (nose to nose), or even more likely when visitors join the mob. The virus can be present and then the spread intensifies during mating with all the extra activity.

Keeping the calves of the first calvers as replacements, is a common way for a persistently infected animal (PI) to join the herd. If you plan to keep heifer-born replacements, it would be sensible to vaccinate the heifers against BVD before they are mated for the first time. This will protect the heifer from the effects of the disease, and protect the unborn calf (which will be introduced to the herd later) from becoming a PI. For the vaccine to work most effectively, two injections (given four weeks apart) are required prior to mating.

Bull Testing and Management

AI is looming... A great time to get organised and on top of things for when the bulls go out. On average 30-40% of your herd will be non-pregnant at the end of AI and will require bull power to get in calf.

Getting the most out of your bulls:

- Did you know that around **1 in every 20 bulls FAIL** semen quality testing and should not be used as breeding bulls? There are another 8% of bulls on top of that who have marginal semen quality. As the price of a bull is often in excess of \$1800-\$2000 it is worth considering getting your bulls tested prior to their arrival on farm. Any bulls that fail are then able to be rejected and replaced before you need them. Clutha Vets has recently purchased a new bull probe and microscope for the purpose of bull testing and this can now be done in house very cost effectively. A full veterinary soundness exam can also be performed at the same time.
- So how many bulls will I need?
 1. A rule of thumb is 1:30 2yr old bulls in the paddock at any time for all estimated non-pregnant cows; and 1:15 or 1:20 for your heifers.
 2. Be conservative when estimating the pregnancy rate; a 90% submission rate with a 50% conception rate over six weeks of AB will produce a 70% in-calf rate. This means: **for a 500 cow herd with a 70% in-calf rate, two teams of 5 bulls are required** + a couple of spares. Don't underestimate the amount of semen you need! *Each bull only needs to get one cow in calf and he's paid for himself.*
 3. Well-grown yearling beef bulls are fine over smaller crossbred cows but don't expect these bulls to serve as many cows - an approximate ratio is 1:20.
- Every bull should be BVD tested, and have completed the two dose course of BVD vaccine at least 4 weeks prior to going out. Lepto vaccination status is worth considering when selecting your bulls. 7 in 1 vaccination covers this, plus prevents clostridial diseases, bonus!
- Make sure your bulls don't get shagged out – rotate them frequently. Any longer than three days and all the required parts start getting tired.
- Having two teams is ideal. Establish the bull groups well before mating, and keep them the same throughout to reduce the amount of time bashing heads, and maximise their useful energies.
- Try to keep the bulls off the lanes and off the yard if possible, it really helps to save their feet.

Clutha Vets AGM

This year Clutha Vets AGM will be held at the Rosebank Lodge on Tuesday 24th November, 2015, at 8pm. All members are cordially invited to attend. Prior to the meeting we hope to be able to show anyone interested round the completed (hopefully!!) part of the clinic redevelopment.

This year the board have decided not to post out printed copies of the Annual Report. There will be limited numbers of hard copies available to anyone who would like one. It will also be available on our website or by email. Please contact the clinic or email smcnutt@cluthavets.co.nz to request a copy.

Retail

Eclipse 2.5lt Pour-on - Each pack comes with a Powerbuilt 23 piece socket set.

Eclipse 5.5lt Pour-on – Receive 1lt extra free on top of the 0.5lt bonus product already in the pack.

Eclipse E Injection 500mls – A great deal here – buy 1 pack & get another pack free.

Nexeptrin Microjet – Buy 2 X 500ml of this eprinomectin injection get a third free; or put another way, treat 200 cows and get the next 100 free.

Dectomax Injection – Purchase 2 starter packs (4 x 500ml) and receive an extra 400ml free plus a free Bluetooth speaker.

Cydectin Pour-on for cattle – Receive 10% extra free in the 2lt and 5lt packs. Also a 17lt pack for the price of a 15lt pack.

Eukanuba Premium Dog Food 20kg – All purchases go in the draw for 1 of 2 bar fridges full of goodies.



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