

The Vet Link

Pink eye

Pink eye is a contagious bacteria that causes keratoconjunctivitis in all classes of stock. The infection can lead to severe ulcers of the eye and subsequent loss of sight and in extreme cases rupture of the eyeball. We often see mobs of calves/heifers with pinkeye throughout the year. Dairy cows are most likely to contract pinkeye in the summer due to the increased dust and flies which carry the bacteria. Some herds get a couple of cows with pinkeye here and there, some herds have outbreaks where large numbers are affected at one time. Cows with lesions need to be treated with orbenin eye ointment but may need surgical measures if severe. The trouble is you treat one, it just starts coming right, then another one pops up! And so on.... To aid in the elimination of the bug from the herd or mob all together we can mix up a solution to spray across all those exposed. This may need to be repeated 1 week later but usually manages to dampen down outbreaks well. In humans, pinkeye is usually contracted from your filthy flatmate farting on your pillow without your knowledge. Martine



TIPS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- ⇒ Book in Cidrs
- ⇒ Keep monitoring pre mate heats
- ⇒ Drench calves - Arrest C or eclipse/Boss pour on if over 100kgs
- ⇒ Weigh calves—at weaning—Keep monitoring
- ⇒ Pre mate Bloods—ASAP
- ⇒ Book in a mating refresher and/or reproduction consultation



Congratulations to Braden & Leanne Calder!!

For winning their \$\$\$\$ back in the BAYER Dry cow promotion. Seen here receiving his cheque from Bayer rep Stacey Waters.

A woman called a local hospital...

"Hello. Could you connect me to the person who gives information about patients? I'd like to find out if a patient is getting better, doing as expected or getting worse."

The voice on the other end said, "What is the patient's name and room number?"

"Sarah Finkel, room 302."

"I'll connect you with the nursing station..."

"3-A Nursing Station. How can I help you?"

"I'd like to know the condition of Sarah Finkel in room 302."

"Just a moment. Let me look at her records. Mrs. Finkel is doing very well. In fact, she's had two full meals, her blood pressure is fine, she is to be taken off the heart monitor in a couple of hours and, if she continues this improvement, Dr. Cohen is going to send her home Tuesday at noon."

The woman said, "What a relief! Oh, that's fantastic... that's wonderful news!"

The nurse said, "From your enthusiasm, I take it you are a close family member or a very close friend!"

"Neither! I AM Sarah Finkel in 302! Nobody here tells me anything!"

Vets:

Chris Peterson
Sandra Hegh
Joanne Allan
Martine Murtagh
Mark Howell
Gillian Hogarth
Sally Gummer
Anna Cochrane
Ben Miller
Heather Wise
Carolyn Hamill

Support Staff:

Bridget Malcolm
Kat Walsh
Janet Evans
Carmen Donner
Allister Watson
Maryanne McLay
Kathryn Palmer
Jude Anderson
Rebecca Wright
Lisa Ross
Melanie Goodburn
Petra Parkinson
Annie McKeown



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Newsletter to Clients of

Issue: OCT 2016

Despite all the wet weather recently, spring has been a good one for animal health. Overall metabolic problems were less than usual, no doubt due to good Magnesium supplementation. However, there are always cows that need calving. Those rotten calvings just keep coming. Vets have commented on a high number of calves with navel ill early this Spring. Over crowded pickup trailers from the paddock and rough handling were blamed, causing calves to stand on the fresh navels of other calves.

Lots of calf scours were reported, with Rotavirus the most common cause.

Mastitis incidence varied; some farms very low, others very high. This suggests on farm factors are much more important than seasonal factors.

Data from the DairyNZ Body Condition Score initiative was collected from nearly a third of our farms. Results are pending. Despite very good Autumn pasture growth very few farms reached the BCS 5 target. The current low sunshine hours and slushy pasture will affect submission rates. Act early if S/R is not on target. Remember the two major drivers of farm profitability are 6 week in-calf rates and amount of pasture eaten. Happy farming, CHRIS.

Are you ready to mate?

Here are a few questions to consider prior to mating season.

Have you decided when to start and stop mating?

In an ideal situation, you want at least 87% of the milking herd to be calved in the first 6 weeks of calving. If you want to tighten up your calving spread, good planning is essential. For example, if a cow is to calve next year on or before the same date that she did this year, then conception must occur within 12 weeks of calving. Late calving cows need to become pregnant much sooner than this in order to tighten up the calving spread.

Have you body condition scored your herd?

You don't want more than 15% of your cows to be below a body condition score of 4.0 at mating. Why not let one of our vets who are certified to body condition score come and do this job for you? We can help advise you, based on the results.

Have you reviewed your heat detection program?

Look at your submission rates to help determine if your current heat detection methods are working for you. If your 3-week submission rate is less than 85% then this should send up warning bells. Two reasons for having low submission rates are: poor heat detection or having lots of non-cyclers in your herd. Our CIDR programs are excellent for helping you with your non-cycler problems.

If we can help you with your body condition scoring, or non-cycler programs, or any other issues related to mating, please let us know.

GoodYarn

ENABLING FARMING COMMUNITIES TO TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Why have a good yarn? People who live and work on the land regularly have to cope with a number of challenges - from long working hours, to unexpected weather events, isolation and constant financial pressure. These factors can impact negatively on your mental wellbeing. What does it cover?

- Tips for maintaining mental wellbeing
- How to recognise the signs of stress and common mental health problems
- Practical tools to help you initiate a conversation when you are concerned about someone.
- How to access the right support services

I found this workshop to be very useful, was non-confrontational, encouraged participation and was in a relaxed environment.

If you are interested in going to one of these workshops there is another one on the 11th OCTOBER 2016 11am—2pm in OPOTIKI Contac either Kim Cawte on 0211330709 or myself on 07 3158474 or 027 7349745. Allister

Ps What you learn in these workshop can help with dealing with family, friends, work colleagues or employees



New Mastitis Study Shows Cure Rate and Fertility Gains

Treating mild clinical mastitis with an anti-inflammatory and an antibiotic can have a big impact on both cure rates and reproduction. Published in January 2016, the "Fertile Study" involved over 500 cows across 6 countries, and found cows treated for post-calving mastitis with the long-acting anti-inflammatory Metacam®, in addition to an antibiotic:

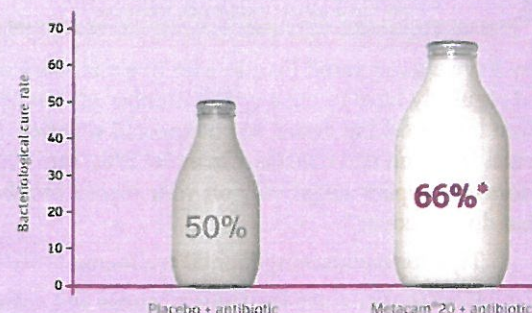
- Had a 16% improved cure rate.
- Had a 10% increased first service conception rate.
- Were 10% more likely to be pregnant 120 days post calving.

The negative effects of inflammation from mastitis on udder health and milk production are well understood, and it is now becoming clear that there are significant impacts on the ability to become pregnant. Cows which have had clinical mastitis have poorer reproduction than their herd mates. It is thought the inflammation caused by mastitis affects:

- The ovary and its ability to produce high quality eggs for fertilization and,
- The ability of the cow to maintain an early pregnancy.

In addition to this, the study demonstrated the additional use of Metacam significantly improved mastitis cure rates – a world first finding. Using a single dose of Metacam in combination with your standard post-calving mastitis treatment not only makes the cow feel better, but also has the potential to provide significant long term performance and economic benefits for your herd. To find out how Metacam might fit into your mastitis treatment plan, get in contact with our team.

HIGHER BACTERIOLOGICAL CURE RATE*



Metacam*20 cows had a higher bacteriological cure rate than control cows. (*p < 0.05)

Calving Report

We have been keeping track of the calvings that our vets have attended this season (and related problems). Here is a summary of what we have been up to:

Live calving's: 14
Freshly dead and rotten calvings: 47
Twisted uterus: 6
Uterine prolapse: 12
Caesarean: 1
Waterbelly calves: 4
Schistosoma (deformed calf): 3

**NB. This is not a complete list, but near to it!

Watch this space for the winner of the calving cup 2016...

Calf Scours:

We have recently seen an increase in the incidence of calf scours in the Opotiki region across a broad range of calf ages. We always encourage sampling and testing of calf scours to ensure correct treatment procedures. Some of the farms tested have confirmed Rotavirus as the cause of diarrhoea and the calves were then appropriately treated with Rotagen Combo. Many of the tests however, have come back negative for all the major infectious agents and the cause of the scours has been attributed to nutritional issues such as bacterial overgrowth of feed. It is important to recap some of the key points about calf scours:

Rotavirus is a highly contagious VIRAL cause of moderate-severe diarrhoea particularly in calves of 1-4 weeks of age. It can be fatal and cause major losses. Other nasty bugs such as Cryptosporidium, Coronavirus and E Coli can also affect this age bracket.

Antibiotics kill bacteria only, therefore they will not cure a Rotavirus infection. Scourban is an antibiotic and thus is not appropriate for a rotavirus outbreak. This is why it essential to get your scours tested.

If you battle with Rotavirus year to year, consider vaccinating your cows before calving next season to provide immunity through their colostrum. Have a talk to one of our vets and we will help review your calf-rearing policies to get you sorted.

For nutritional scours caused by bacterial overgrowth in milk, change in feed etc. Scourban or scour tablets are appropriate but do require a veterinarian to prescribe.

Maintaining hydration with electrolytes in ill calves is crucial. Please ask for one of our sick calf handouts at the clinic for more specific information.

The types of bugs which cause scours in calves change as the calves get older and progress onto grass through to weaning and beyond. Parasites, Coccidia and Yersinia are common causes of diarrhoea in older calves (weaning onwards) and have specific treatments.

Scours at any age cause growth checks. These growth checks affect production as your replacements then struggle to catch up to liveweight targets at your key times: 30% of mature weight at 6 months, 60% of mature weight at mating, 90% of mature weight at first calving.

If you are seeing scours in your calves – don't worry, you are not the only one! But we are here to help you get them back on track so please see us in the clinic for peace of mind and best results. Your babies are important.



Attack Your Calving Pattern!

The last 12 months has been full of industry experts spreading the word that 6 week in-calf rate and milk production before Christmas are THE key performance indicators for farm profitability in spring calving herds. Improving your herd's reproductive performance leads to:

1. Increased days-in-milk
2. Allows you to select for superior genetics and more efficient animals
3. Allows you to cull on unfavourable traits – many (staph) mastitis problems stem from low culling pressure.
4. Shorter calving improves staff morale

These 4 factors give you better production, better cows and easier workload!

Why is this improvement so difficult?

Maintaining a condensed calving pattern requires constant attention. Like paddling up stream; stop paddling and you go backwards.

A. Gestation length is 283 days, with only 365 days that leaves only a short 80 day window to get back in calf.
B. Most cows require at least 30 days for the uterus to return to normal, and to resume cycling activity. (Window is now down to 50 days)

C. First heat conception rate (C.R) is often only 35%, first insemination C.R is often 45%, this may improve to 55 – 60% in subsequent cycles - so they need to get those first cycles over asap.

D. Body condition loss for 6 weeks after calving is predominantly a genetic process – milk is being produced to feed the calf, reproduction isn't a high priority - so it is natural for cows to delay cycling due to BCS loss.

Increasing cows submitted is the key

A 10% (genuine) increase in 3 week submission rate will result in a 6% lift in 6 week in calf rate.

Now is the time of year to intervene and lift your submission rate.

Treating non – cyclers

CIDR programmes work. This is an area where solid trials involving thousands of cows have been done. Every treated cow buys you 16 days in milk the following season.

Even at a \$4.50 pay out that amounts to \$50 over and above the cost of treatment in extra milk alone!

Best bang for your buck is early identification and treatment at the start of mating. Get that tail paint on now!

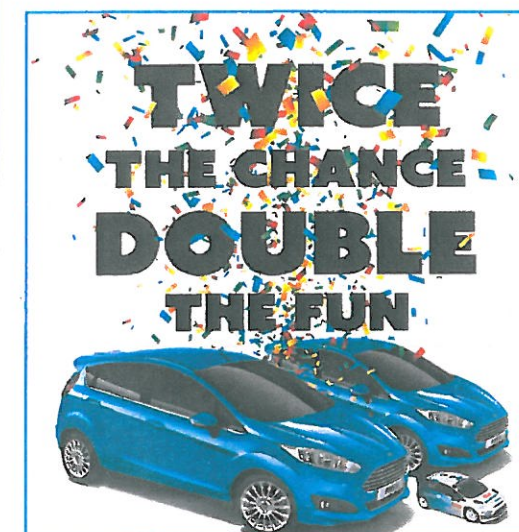
PG/ Why Wait Programs increase days in milk by attacking the front end. This approach improves the performance of the best of the cows in the herd.

It short cycles anything cycling before PSM so effectively condenses 3 weeks of mating into 10 days.

This leads to more days in milk, a shorter AB period and gives cows an additional chance to conceive during a short AB period.

This program will also detect any non-cycling cows that then can be treated with CIDRs.

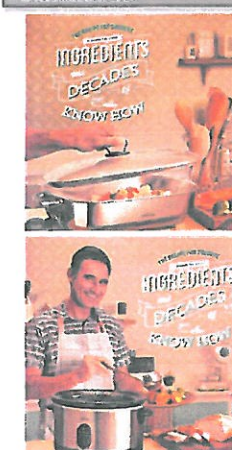
Talk to us for a repro plan that improves your herds 6 week in-calf rate and maximises the profitability of your farm system.



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