



# MOOZNEWS

## Booking In a Pregnancy Testing Date

Everyone is now fully aware of the tremendous benefits of doing an early aged pregnancy testing - these include;

- Providing information for strategic dry off dates
- Aiding in early culling decisions for destocking in the Autumn
- Formation of wintering groups for tailored feeding
- Feed budgeting for the winter period and early lactation
- Efficiency in time and transport logistics of cows from run-off back to milking platform
- Detailed reproductive analysis to help guide where continued future improvements may be made
- Bench marking against the rest of the district.
- Improving the saleability of a herd
- Identification of cows which have received multiple inseminations but conceived to the first mating (late test cannot differentiate these cows resulting in some cows calving early in the late mob)
- Ranking cows for culling
- Accurately identifying cows which conceived in the early bull mating

period

- Provision of detailed supportive material for possible induction dispensation requests

To provide this information accurately cows should be pregnancy tested 12-15 weeks after the PSM date. For a herd which started mating on the 23rd of October this would be between the 15th of January and the 5th of February. The accuracy when dating pregnancies beyond 15 weeks starts to diminish. Herds should have had bulls removed for at least 40 days before an empty diagnosis can be confidently made.

For herds which are limiting their mating period to strictly 10 weeks it would be possible to do a singular test at 15-15.5 weeks after the PSM. The reality however is that it would not be possible to get all herds tested in the district within this very tight time frame. We ask therefore that farms stick with the existing program of testing between 12-15 weeks after the PSM. Cows identified as rechecks can then be simply drafted out for retesting 40 plus days after bull removal.

## Milk Quality Awards

This season we will be seeking the lowest average Bulk Milk Somatic Cell Count, up to Wednesday 7th December 2016. (For farmers signed onto Infonet, and supplying Fonterra and Oceania, there is automatic access to this information.) Winners of these awards for the lowest average BMSCC will be announced in the January Mooznews

**Veterinary Centre Oamaru**  
**Veterinary Centre Waimate**  
**Veterinary Centre Palmerston**  
**Veterinary Centre Glenavy**  
**Veterinary Centre Kurow**  
**Veterinary Centre Omarama**  
**Veterinary Centre Ranfurly**

**Ph 03-434 5666**  
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## Christmas Promotion



With qualifying purchases of Arrest C, Eclipse, Eprinex, Genesis & Cydectin, you receive a tasty Ham on the bone or Crozier Turkey. (While stocks last).

**OR FORGET THE HAM OR TURKEY AND DEDUCT \$30 OFF THE PURCHASE PRICE**



# Timely Reminders for December

- **Yersinia in calves** - in December we start to see outbreaks of Yersinia in weaned calves. Yersinia bacteria are commonly found in the intestines of most calves. Stress associated with parasites, trace element deficiencies and BVD may result in an overgrowth of this bug in the intestines. Overgrowth results in severe scour. Large percentages of a mob are often affected severely checking growth rates. Mortality rates of 5-10% are not unusual. Isolation of affected animals and treatment with neomycin antibiotic for 3-5 days is an effective treatment/control.
- **Bull Removal In Heifers** - ideally no heifers should calve after the 1st of October, therefore bulls should be removed before the 23rd of December.
- **Covexin 10 in 1** - in the last month we have seen many cases of sudden deaths in calves attributable to clostridial diseases. Covexin 10 in 1 gives the best possible protection available against clostridial disease. Two doses are required 4-8 weeks apart.
- **Drenching Calves** - Most calves have now been moved to their respective run-offs or graziers. An important premise of rearing good quality heifer replacements is to have a robust drench program set up which prevents the population of worm larvae building up on pasture. Combination drenches are preferable in young stock with orals given at 3-4 weekly intervals and pour-ons at 5-6 weekly intervals.

## When lame cows get out of control

We are visiting a few farms at the moment where lame cow numbers have got out of control. The smart money is on picking up a foot ASAP and correcting any lesions before they get too bad. If lame cows are left they're likely to eat less, produce less milk, have lower repro rates, and ultimately have a greater risk of being culled.

On some farms, however, we are seeing lame cow mobs of 30-100 + cows. By this stage farmers are struggling with time, and the problem often seems insurmountable. Human nature takes over, and so these cows are often left in a close paddock under the "wait and see" treatment regime, rather than being picked up and treated. If you are in this boat, or want to avoid getting there then we have three options to help;

■ **Staff Training** - We can come out and teach your staff members about how to treat lame cows. This can help spread the workload across more



people on farm.

■ **Vets to Treat** - We can send out a team of vets (if available) to treat enough cows to get the mob down to a manageable level. To enable multiple vets to work at a time these animals would need to be treated on the platform/herringbone (rather than a race). Budget on a treatment rate of around 4-6 cows per hour (per vet).

■ **Healthy-Hoof Lame Cow Prevention Training** - Andrew, Luke, and Ryan are all trained Healthy Hoof providers and can come out on farm to teach staff about how their actions (i.e gate use, animal handling) can increase or decrease lameness. We have had some amazing results on farms following these courses, with dramatic reductions in lameness just from a change in staff attitude and knowledge around cow handling. A more in-depth package is also available looking at diagnosing track and shed issues that are having an influence.

The hidden costs of lameness can quickly mount up, and only get worse the longer they are left. Traditionally we've used an industry figure of around \$200 per lame cow. However DairyNZ recently proposed a figure of \$500 if you have to start taking cows out of the vat. If you think your lameness issues may be spiraling out of control then give one of our vets a call and we can work out how we can best help you get back on top of the situation.

**Lepto**✓**cred**

Veterinary Centre Lepto Assurance Programme



It's that time of the year again when we need to start thinking about Leptospirosis control on your farm. Many of our clients are now part of The Veterinary Centre 'Leptocred' programme.

It is vital for the dairy industry that we continue to have a robust programme

that strengthens Leptospirosis protection and at the same time allows you flexibility with vaccine use. The annual reaccreditation consult is an essential part of this process. It is also a pertinent time to take a step back and look at leptospirosis management on your farm and throughout the dairy industry. We require all existing Leptocred officers to make a time to sit down with one of our vets for their 2016 audit, reaccreditation for 2017. We'd like to get these consults completed before Christmas as once we reach Jan/Feb our workload increases significantly with early pregnancy testing.

## Merry Christmas from the Veterinary Centre administration staff . . .



## Bull Mating

There is often a huge sigh of relief, when A.I. finishes and the bulls are put out. Successful bull mating is an integral part of the mating period on the dairy farm.

- All bulls should be blood tested for B.V.D & E.B.L, before they come onto the farm. You cannot afford to introduce a B.V.D. carrier bull when your cows are in early pregnancy, from AB - especially if you have a naïve herd.
- For an average bull, after 4 ejaculations in one day, sperm numbers decline. Subsequent ejaculations will have lower sperm numbers & any cow mated will be

less likely to conceive.

- The number of bulls required for any given day is 3% of the cows to be mated plus one. For example, a 700 cow herd, with a 90% d21 SR, that has A.I'ed for 4 weeks and an assumed conception rate of 50%, will need 12 working bulls in the herd at the start of bull mating, reducing to 8 bulls after six weeks.
- We estimate, in the Waitaki area, between 30-50% bulls go lame.
- Farmers who teach their bulls to stay in the paddock & not go to cowshed at each milking, appear to have fewer

lame bulls. (Bulls are moved from paddock to paddock, rather than walking to the shed).

- REMEMBER, to check bulls at grazing i.e. heifers, carry over cows etc.
- While fertility testing of bulls to be used on dairy farms, is not commonly done;
  - i) Ensure you visualise each bull mate a cow i.e. extrusion of his penis & intromission.
  - ii) Beware of dominant bulls.
  - iii) Rotate working bulls regularly.
  - iv) Sperm output is correlated to size of testicles (in bulls) - ensure that scrotal size is 'normal'.

## Low B12 levels

As part of our pre-mate trace element monitoring package, we include serum (blood) B12 testing. This mating, we have seen unseasonally low levels - with some farms so low, the test has not registered on the analyser!

Cobalt in the pasture is used by the rumen micro-organisms for the synthesis of vitamin B12. Vitamin B12, which is mainly stored in the liver, is involved with two extremely important enzymes - one involved in glucose metabolism, and the other an essential amino acid (methionine), which is a building block for protein.

This season we have had periods of unprecedented rapid grass growth - where Dry Matter, and ADF/NDF's have been low, and clover growth has struggled at times. Clover has higher cobalt levels than most ryegrasses. This unseasonal grass growth will most likely have contributed to the low serum B 12 levels seen.

While most farms supplement cobalt through their trace element mix, via their dosatron, vitamin B12 can also be supplemented by injections like Prolaject B12. Should you have any queries about vitamin B12, please contact your Prime Vet.

# Uddernews



## Cell counting machine

We have recently purchased a Somatic Cell Counting (SCC) machine. This machine will give a good estimate of the number of somatic cells in a milk sample. The machine can be used to test a sample of milk from a single quarter, or more likely a sample from a whole cow (best sample will be from a test bucket as the milk from all quarters will be

represented proportionally). However we expect the greatest demand for this test will be to test the bulk milk prior to sending. The following scenarios are when we think this service will be of use to you.

- If you are withholding cows from the vat to get below the grading threshold towards the end of the

season.

- If you have a winter milk contract and you are having to drop cows out to avoid losing the contract but don't want to do a herd test.

- At the start of next season, if you are concerned about what the BMSCC will be at the first few pick-ups and want to go grade free.

## BSE (Mad Cow Disease) surveillance

New Zealand is in the enviable position of being free from transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), which includes BSE - Mad Cow Disease. MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) runs a preventative/surveillance programme which includes verifying to international markets that NZ's animal products are free of BSE. This targeted surveillance program involves testing of brains of animals that show signs of neurological disease.

Once again, for assisting with this surveillance, **farmers are being offered \$150 (excl GST) for the brains from a cow**, with nervous disease, that satisfy specific criteria. Animals need to be aged 30 months and up to 9 years old. Includes cattle with suspected metabolic disorder but failed to respond to treatment; downer cows with no obvious injury; cattle showing any signs of neurological origin (nervous behaviour) that do not respond to treatment; and cows with abnormal gait or stance that are not associated with musculo-skeletal disease. Please contact your local Blue Cross vet for any further information.

## BVD Bulletin



The initial round of bulk milk BVD testing has been completed for the season. The following table is a summary of the number of herds that have had persistently infected (PI) cows in the herd.

Season	Number of PI herds found (%)	Number of herds tested
2013-14	29 (27)	107
2014-15	36 (25)	146
2015-16	21(14)	154
2016-17	25 (14)	176

There are still herds that are infected or becoming infected with the virus, but we can see there has been a steady decline over the last 4 seasons in the proportion of our herds that are infected. At the same time there has been a large increase in the number of herds testing. This is a great result for our district.

## Aged Heifer Pregnancy Testing

With the continued uptake in early strategic pregnancy testing in herds using Infovet many clients are now starting to ask if R2 heifers can be age pregnancy tested to their A.I dates using Infovet.

The answer to this question is yes, provided we scan your heifers at the right time.

Traditionally most heifers have been pregnancy tested in mid-late Feb for a pregnant or empty test. By this stage of

pregnancy the foetus is no longer able to be accurately dated to A.I conceptions in mid-late October.

If you wish to age pregnancy test your heifers to A.I dates we need to do both an early and late scan like we would in your cows. The ideal time to scan and identify heifer A.I conceptions is early-mid December 2016.

Contact one of our Blue Cross Veterinarians if you are interested in this opportunity.



## Johne's News



Just reminder if you are going to use herd testing to screen the herd for Johne's, this test can now be done at any of the herd tests. Having the Johne's test results earlier in the season could well be of use if you want to make decisions about Once A Day mobs or drying off based on condition in the autumn.