



MOOZNEWS

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Important Dates

- **Tues, Wed and Thurs 8th, 9th and 10th of July.** Our popular 'Spring Calving Seminars' for farm staff will be held at the Veterinary Centre Oamaru on Tuesday 8th July and Wednesday 9th July at 7pm. Veterinary Centre Waimate will host their seminar on Thursday 10th July at 7pm at Waimate Golf Course.

WINTER DAIRY SEMINAR

"THE CUTTING EDGE"

Where & When

Glenavy Hall
3.00pm - 5.00pm
Wednesday 9th July.

There will be a number of short presentations (5 to 7 minutes) - aimed at Farm Managers, Herd Managers and Farm Owners.

Topics include

- "Transition: From the Dry to Lactating State - How can I supercharge my cows?"
- "Internal Parasites: the adult cow and the milking platform"
- "Welfare standards on the Dairy Farm -Are my cows happy?"
- "Dairying with No Inductions - less empties in 10 weeks"
- "Mastitis - key prevention messages"
- "Metabolic disease - why are my cows going down?"
- "My herd stinks! - Uterine disease - prevention and treatment"
- "Johnes Disease - At last we can do something about it!"
- "Getting the best from Protrack - is it your hardest working labour unit?"
- "Where have all the cows gone? - Cow wastage uncovered."
- "High blood NEFAs in colostrum cows - a big deal?"

"the leading light in animal health"

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Transition Management of Cows

For many farmers when we say 'cow transition' they immediately think about the dietary change from crop to grass when the cows come home. In fact transition is a whole lot bigger than this.

In a matter of days between the period before and after calving, a cow's:

- energy requirements almost double
- she starts making milk
- about 30-40 grams of calcium are lost through the milk daily
- she has a greater demand for blood glucose, which requires a change in metabolism

To accommodate these changes well, the cows must:

- eat more
- increase the size of the intestines (absorptive area)
- increase the size of the liver (to meet demands of increased metabolism and drive appetite)
- increase the amount of mammary tissue
- mobilise bone calcium (70% of calcium in the colostrum comes from the skeleton!)

- increase dietary absorption of calcium through the gut
- mobilise body tissues for extra energy (but not too much!)

When cows are transitioned poorly, they are:

- more prone to ketosis
- more prone to mastitis
- more prone to milk fever
- more prone to metritis
- will not peak as high or as early in milk production
- lose more weight post-calving
- have poorer reproductive performance

So to get optimal results from a cow this season, she needs to reach a BCS of 5.0-5.5 by 3-4 weeks before she calves, ideally be on a very slight negative energy balance during the

last 3-4 weeks of gestation (this will pre-condition the liver to the post-calving demands), have increased feed quality over the last few days before she calves (as voluntary dry matter intakes tend to drop), be supplemented with magnesium for at least 3-4 weeks before she calves, be on at least 70% of the post-calving diet for 7-10 days before she calves and finally be offered high quality and ab-lib feeding immediately after calving.

By definition the transition period in a cow is the period between 3 weeks pre-calve and 3 weeks post-calve. Look after them well over this time - it will make the difference between an ok season and a great one.

Calving/Spring seminars

To be successful we have to plan for it to occur. Build the knowledge and enthusiasm in your team for this spring.

The Veterinary Centre is once again running our highly popular spring first aid seminar for dairy farm employers. This seminar is targeted at new entrants to the dairy industry and those wishing to brush up on or rediscover existing knowledge.

The seminars will include the theory and practice of:

- Mastitis and antibiotic residues/inhibitory substances.
- Downer cows and metabolic's.
- Calving a cow.
- Calf rearing.
- Spring emergencies and how to tell if you're out of your depth!

The evening seminars cost \$25/person, this includes a copy of the notes and a light supper.

This is a great chance for your staff to meet and build a relationship with our vets.

Rumenox Agitator Kit



Buy three 12kg pails of Rumenox and receive an innovative agitator kit worth \$400 for free.
(one per farm)

On Farm Staff Training Modules

The Veterinary Centre is offering two new farm staff training modules. These modules, 'Calf Rearing - From Pick-Up to Paddock' and 'Animal Health - The Hands-on Approach' will be run on farm, and moulded to suit the needs of your individual farm. Remember - around 30% of workers on dairy farms this season will not have put cups on a cow before.

These modules represent a sound investment in your farming season. Contact us to have one of our experienced vets to deliver one or both of these modules on your farm to your staff, with your stock.

BVD bulletin



BVD is highly prevalent in our region however many of our dairy farmers don't know the status of all classes of stock that make up their herds. This includes last year's calves which are due to be mated in just over 3 months. Having a persistently infected (PI) animal amongst your heifers can have a major effect on their conception and pregnancy rates. They can also be a source of infection when they return to the milking herd in 12 months time. Fortunately it is relatively easy to get an indication of whether there are any PI animals amongst your calves by blood testing 15 of them now that they are 10 months of age.

Reminders about induction of cows for this season

1. This season the level of inductions in a herd, should not exceed 4% of the herd's total size.
2. To fulfil the requirements of the Operational Plan each farmer must no later than 60 days before the first treatment, with assistance from their vet, determine an Induction List comprising cows to be induced, that meet the selection criteria.
3. These criteria include stage of pregnancy ie cows should be no more than 12 weeks and no less than 8 weeks from due calving date, cow age ie cows should be 3 to 8 years old, the cows should be in a good state of health and a minimum body condition score of 4.5
4. The Induction List should be supplied to the vet clinic as a MINDA or MAESTRO report, or an InfoVet report, or other farm database records.

Calf Health and Management

We are more and more aware of the impact our heifers will have on the future success of our herd. Getting valuable replacement heifers off on the right foot in the pre-weaning period is a crucial step in bringing in top quality, well grown heifers as two year olds.

The Veterinary Centre can offer a full range of calf health and management advice.

Dairy veterinarian and veteran calf rearer Nicola Neal can assist with the set up and design of your calf shed systems and management. Nicola completed a Masters paper in 'Calf Health, Disease and Management' last year and is keen to apply some practical on-farm knowledge, along with the latest scientific advice. This service is tailored to suit the individual farm and could include on farm training of calf rearers, developing quality assurance

systems when you can't be there to supervise, developing calf health plans and making the most of your facilities. Don't wait for a problem to develop in the third week of calving when you haven't got time to deal with it, call now to book a time to review your calf shed systems.



Restricted Veterinary Medicine Consults

Over the last 2 weeks or so, we have just started our annual consultative process in the area of Restricted Veterinary Medicines (previously referred to as PAR drugs). RVM consults provide an opportunity to discuss: current drug usage, what newer products are available and to also aid in the development of procedures and

programs to suit your farm system. A forward allocation of drugs for your farm can be made for the following 12 month period. This will allow us to identify excessive usage and is now a condition of supply for Fonterra. RVM consultations will be performed on an annual basis and will be charged according to time.

Calculated Minerals For Cows (CMC's)

The Veterinary Centre 'premium mix' of CMC's comes in a 25kg bag, with a dose rate of 5gm/cow/day - and is competitively priced. There are 5000 doses per bag. It contains copper (both as sulphate and chelate), zinc (as sulphate and chelate), cobalt, iodine, and selenium.

CMC's are an ideal way to supplement cows during the dry period, as they can be dispensed through a Peta dispenser.

For farmers who have had high liver coppers diagnosed, or are feeding diets high in copper ie Palm Kernel, we also have a 'Palm Kernel Mix' that has no added copper. Contact one of your Blue Cross veterinarians to discuss this further if needed.



Prime Vet

The Veterinary Centre operates a 'Prime Vet' system. The 'Prime Vet' will have a group of farmers and he/she will be their first point of call to arrange seasonal work, including Annual Mastitis Reviews (AMR's) and Restricted Veterinary Medicine (RVM) consults, offer advice and ensure all queries are answered. The prime vet may not necessarily be the vet who actually does a specific veterinary job on the farm ie pregnancy testing, trace element testing, but he/she will ensure the work is booked in, in a timely manner. Prime Vets will contact all their farmers early in the new season.

Uddernews



Finally we have had some dry weather and "under hoof" conditions are improving. Hopefully we will be calving down on pastures that are free of mud, but whatever the weather turns out like there are management practices you can put in place that are proven to reduce the amount of mastitis you have to deal with in the colostrum mob.

- Try to calve on clean dry pasture and remove calved cows as soon as possible to reduce the stocking density
- If possible calve heifers separately
- Have the heifers trained to the shed and yard
- Teatspray heifers every time they are in the shed
- Avoid udder oedema
- Milk the cows as soon as possible after calving
- Milk cows before calving if necessary - "if she is dripping she should be milking"
- Find mastitis cases early (strip every quarter in the colostrum herd and

no cow leaves the colostrum herd without being RMT negative)

- Treat early and aggressively
- Teatspray every quarter every milking
- Ensure adequate magnesium levels so you deal with less metabolic disease
- Ensure optimal Selenium levels so the

immune function is not compromised

- Get a machine check done and follow the recommendations made

Start the season with new liners

The more of these procedures you can introduce to your system the less mastitis you will have to deal with.



Snaps from a highly successful Ladies Night recently held at the Papakaio Community Centre.

Staff Training - Mastitis Management

For the cost of two cases of mastitis, we can provide 'on farm' training to your staff. These are practical, 'hands on' sessions, which focus primarily on the prevention and secondarily on finding and treating mastitis.

When staff have a better understanding of how mastitis is contracted and spread, they are more likely to take a greater initiative in mastitis control.

At the end of this training session your staff will appreciate the important role they play in limiting the amount of mastitis in your herd.

They will understand why

- cows must be milked correctly every time
- the importance of teatspray
- finding mastitis early is critical
- it is important to follow the farm's treatment protocols

Contact Hamish Newton on 03 434-5666 or Ryan Luckman 03 689-7213

SmartSamm

Spring Reminders



- BCS cows pre-calve
- Start Magnesium supplementation at least 3-4 weeks pre-calve
- Check Trace element status if necessary after winter grazing
- Rotavec vaccination is due for early calvers
- Consider Salmonella vaccination - discuss with a vet.

Just a reminder of our free delivery service. Orders made before 10am - delivery that day. Orders phoned in after 10am - delivery the following day.

