

Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Fodder Beet Feeding in Late Lactation

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Feeding up to 5-6kg of Fodder Beet (FB) in late lactation has multiple benefits.

- It allows the round to be extended, with a relatively cheap supplement.
- Is very good for encouraging condition gain.
- Cows are partially transitioned before heading off farm for the winter.

Providing that there is still a significant quality grass portion in the diet (9 kg plus), it is unlikely that at 5-6kg/DM of FB that cows will be protein deprived. However, at 5-6kg of FB in the diet, a lactating cow still producing 1.7kg of MS will be in a negative balance for Calcium. She will be drawing on bone stores and have a higher chance of clinical milk fever. Calcium supplementation (~150g lime-flour cow/day) is important to maintain health and production, and reduce bone calcium exhaustion before the next lactation.

One problem that we repeatedly see with FB transition is the creation of space for cows to get onto the crop. Creating a headland in the crop by using a Beet bucket and feeding this in the paddock initially works very well. Once on a crop, a herd needs 1 linear metre/cow on the face and 6 square metres (minimum) of room/cow on the headland.

Cows should start on an allocation of not more than 1-2kg/cow/day. Maintain this for 3 days until all cows are eating and then increase by 1kg every second day. Cows are best to go onto the crop hungry to encourage shy eaters.

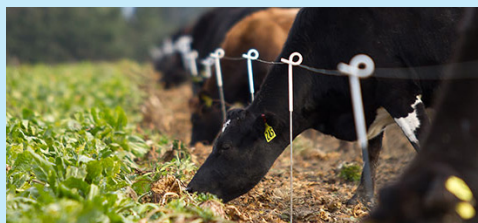
Using an 'increasing time allocation technique' and using a big, long break (6-7m²/cow) to enter a paddock can be risky. Those that use it usually start with 15 minutes (precisely!) and increase the time by 5 minutes every 3 days. Once a long headland is established (fully eaten), then move to using accurate measured daily allocations. Use a stop-watch and wait with the cows!

When setting an allocation, it is easiest to calculate if the fence is shifted parallel to the rows. Cows will graze 12-18 inches under the wire so will effectively always be eating the next row.

Train the cows to stay and eat their allocation. Even if most is eaten in 20 minutes, cows should stay on the break for 2-3 hours so they all learn that they need to eat.

Never allow beet to build up in a break. You have over allocated and need to pull back. Day 7-10 on crop is where problems often occur when cows will suddenly click and eat the accumulated surplus.

You must accurately measure your crop yield to enable accurate per cow allocation!



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Balancing the Winter Ration

**Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

To ensure a successful outcome to cow wintering, consideration needs to be made around cow requirements for energy, protein and minerals (Ca, P and Na). Knowing the content of the diet, the proportions to be fed and the likely utilisation will enable you to fine tune where required. A dry cow needs a

minimum of 10-11% crude protein and this increases to 16% as she nears calving.

Last year our practice did a large amount of feed testing on Fodder Beet crops. The range and variation in protein and macro-mineral content was enormous. A very low crude protein/calcium FB crop coupled with a low protein/calcium cereal silage will

not adequately support a pregnant cow or set her up for the following lactation (and reproductive season).

Look to get your winter diet tested now to provide time to make tweaks if these are required. Contact your Prime Vet about collection, testing and diet balancing.



Collar Repro Analysis Reports

Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology)
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This season has seen some people celebrating massive improvements in their reproductive results. However we've also seen some farms limping towards the end of the season having survived low growth rates in Spring, wet weather over mating, and a challenging Autumn! Overall repro results have reflected these differences, with the wins being balanced out by losses (often very regionally). As a consequence the overall results have ended up fairly similar to last year.

repro reports to use within the practice. The information in our custom report pulls together 7 reports we've written to extract data from the Allflex systems, plus 5 reports out of Infovet. We've also been able to combine the data across all of our farms to build some very useful benchmarking tools which will help us identify targets (and alerts!) when examining the data in real-time this coming season.

The reports allows analysis of:

- **Transition Period**
- **Health Events**
- **Pre-Mate Heats**
- **Conception Rates**
- **Submission Rates**
- **Empty Cows**
- **The "Engine Room"**
- **Feeding over the Mating Period**

	Non-Collars (n=152)	Collars (n=26)
Average 3WICR Change	-0.3%	1%
Average 6WICR Change	0.3%	0.4%

As we look towards next year, we've been very keen to learn as much as possible from the HUGE amount of data available out of the collars. To this end we've been building some collar specific

We have just started using these with clients and have found the level of detail incredibly helpful in diagnosing likely issues, as well as identifying areas where real-time monitoring can be set up next season. We will look to present this benchmarked data, alongside some of the common issues and potential solutions we've identified at our Winter Seminar so keep an eye out for dates.

In the mean time if you have collars on and would like to catch up with your Prime Vet to go through your report then please get in touch with the clinic.



We missed one ...
An addition to March's Six-Week In-Calf-Date (ICR) ROLL OF HONOUR

Jan & Clyde Douglas
 from Coniston

77%



BVD Bulletin

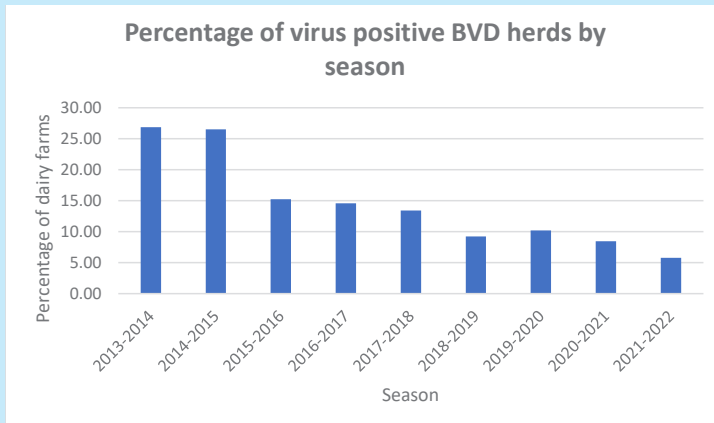
Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



This month we look at the number of herds infected with BVD during the spring period. There has been a further decline in the percentage of herds that were infected with BVD in the pre-mate period. This year only 13 herds or 5.78% of farms went positive, a more than 3% decline on the previous season. This is fantastic to see.

What is even more exciting is that all but 2 of the herds eliminated the infection from their milking cows over the season, also an improvement on last season.

Of the 13 farms that were found infected this year 10 were new infections, ie the dairy herd wasn't infected at all during last season. This fits nicely with NZ data which shows that 3.8% of herds will go from being negative to positive in any season. The guts of it is, "new" infections will turn up in milking cows and the really important thing is to control BVD in other aspects of the dairy operation (young stock) as this is where it is likely to be coming from.



Nitrate Toxicity Alert

Brassicas (Kale, Chou, Rape, Turnips and Swedes), Fodder Beet, Italian Ryegrass and Oats can all produce nitrate toxicity. Of this group, rape is the most notorious – winter rape crops continue to gain popularity in this area for heifer grazing.

Before introducing animals to crop this season, we urge that it be tested first. Nitrate test kits can be purchased from any of our clinics, representing a cheap investment. Alternatively bring in samples to be tested by our staff.

UPDATE: Spontaneous Humeral Fractures

Luke Smyth BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Unfortunately, the issue of humeral fractures in first calving heifers hasn't gone away and is an ongoing problem.

More than 120 fractured humeri along with rib bone, liver and blood samples have now been submitted to Massey University for analysis. Most of the cases collected came from the South Island (77.5%), mainly from Otago, Canterbury, and Southland. The most affected breeds are the kiwi cross and Friesian with only a few cases in Jerseys. Most fractures occurred in early lactation with a decreasing incidence until around December.

98% of humeral fractures were spiral due to a twisting force, this type of fracture is uncommon in cattle due to the protection of the large muscles that surround the bone.

Analysis of the liver samples sent with the bones showed liver copper levels are low in most cases. Interestingly the fracture occurrence in heifers wintered on fodder beet started and peaked much earlier in August compared to heifers wintered on pasture which had a peak occurrence in October.

Findings so far suggest that under nutrition could be coupled with copper deficiency during important growth periods leading to skeletal fragility and a reduction in bone strength.

This reinforces the need to focus on the basic principles of monitoring growth rates in replacement heifers and early intervention if any issues are identified with:

- Nutrition
- Trace element deficiencies
- Parasitism



OAD Milking & 16 Hour Milking in Late Lactation/Wet Tracks

This late lactation strategy is commonly adopted to increase cows condition (or minimise condition loss!) before dry off. Cows which are producing less than:

- 1.2kgMS/day will have minimal reduction in milk yield (<10%) when placed on OAD.
- 1.6kgMS/day will have little reduction in yield on a 16 hour milking routine.

Because milk production at this stage of lactation is not necessarily compromised, condition gain will only occur if cows continue to be fed like a twice a day milker. At most a cow on OAD will require about 1.5kgDM/day less than a TAD cow to remain in the same energy state.

Possibly the biggest advantage from extending milking periods is lameness reduction. Cows are very prone to going lame in late lactation due to extended periods of walking on wet tracks. Cows which are lame, spend more time sitting and therefore do not eat as much ... so they lose weight.

Expect a spike in BMSCC for the first 48 hours after going on OAD, but be cautious about using this strategy if your BMSCC is already over 200,000.

Drenching Dairy Cattle in Autumn

- There is considerable trial work available both nationally and in our district showing that drenching lactating dairy cattle is likely to result in an increase in milk solids production.
- Cydectin Pour-On and Eprinex are two of the most effective anthelmintics, both having significant persistent activity against Ostertagia species of 4 weeks or more.
- Both Cydectin and Eprinex have nil meat and nil milk withholds making their use in

lactating herds very easy to manage.

- Genesis cattle pour on is a premium abamectin product with 14 days persistent activity. It has 35 days meat withhold so needs to be managed carefully when making culling decisions.

Whatever your approach to autumn drenching of your herd we are always available to give professional advice on the products available that will optimise your herd performance.



Eprinex ACVM A007191, Cydectin ACVM A006203, Genesis ACVM A007353

Oceania Dairy suppliers, as a condition of supply, can not use abamectin based products.





UdderNews



Hamish Newton BVSc PhD – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

How you insert any product into a teat makes a difference

A few cows will start to get dried off soon. Regardless of what product you use the way that any product is inserted has measurable effects on its efficacy. The way Teatseal is inserted is critical as Teatseal has no ability to kill bugs. Any bugs that get introduced into the udder when putting teatseal in have a “head start” and are not going to be flushed out at the next milking. Care is also required when inserting the antibiotic dry cow products. The antibiotics in dry cow tubes are primarily selected to cure and prevent infections against bugs that are Gram positive (includes *Staph aureus* and *Strep uberis*). The antibiotic(s) in Dry Cow Therapy (DCT) tubes are not as potent against many of the bugs found in cow poo such as *E.coli* (which is Gram negative).

Regardless of what is getting inserted into the udder (mastitis tubes, DCT tubes, or internal teat sealants ITS) make sure the teats are dry and cleaned and that the teat ends have been scrubbed with teatwipes until the teat wipe is clean. To do the job properly requires time and staff who understand what is required. We are very aware that there is a shortage of people on many farms at present, with this in mind when planning your drying off, consider doing it in batches over several days, so it is not a mammoth task that becomes compromised in sterility.

Regional days below 150K

I was speaking with Pam Phipps from Fonterra and our region is doing extremely well with the quality of milk that is being sent from North Otago, southern Waimate district and the Mackenzie. Over 60% of farms have had more days of milk quality excellence season to date until March vs the same period last season. We are currently sitting at 30M kgMS with an excellence milk quality rating (61% of all kgMS supplied so far this season).

Let's make the very best decisions possible about a cow at dry off

We will be sitting down with you all soon to go through the process of making appropriate DCT decisions for the cows in your herd. The push towards reducing the amount of antibiotics used in the dairy industry (and across all species) continues. With each season we are getting more and more comfortable with what is called selective DCT, that is identifying cows that don't require to be treated for an infection and using Teatseal alone in those cows with the sole aim of preventing her getting a new infection. For the cows that are infected the aim of dry cow therapy is to eliminate the infection and prevent a new one. To make the best decisions about what a cow gets at drying off (or if she is a good candidate for the cull truck) please get your mastitis treatment records into MINDA, we can then collate those with the other information we have access to about your cows such as herd test data, milk test Johne's results, milk test Staph results, preg test result and age.

Cow Culling and Herd Improvement

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This season has seen the practice average BMSCC fall by 10% on last season – currently at 146,000. This will in a big part be due to the incentivisation of the Co-operative difference.

One of the major players in reducing BMSCC is identifying those cows which are likely to be chronically infected and removing these from the herd before the next season.

Many of our clients engage us in identifying and prioritising these cows well before the Milk Quality Consult. This enables planning for works space and consideration of replacement purchases to be made where necessary. Herds with high retention rates of chronic infections will tend to steadily get worse over time and are often the highest users of intramammary drugs. Contact your Prime Vet for assistance.

Heifer HINTS



TEATSEAL

Check teats and quarters

While you are cleaning the teat ends, take the time to palpate the quarters. It is normal to find swollen quarters in one in every hundred heifers.

- If swollen, strip the quarter to assess.
- If a quarter has clinical mastitis, DO NOT INFUSE WITH TEATSEAL. Record the heifer and administer a lactating cow antibiotic treatment.

The opening of the teat canal may be hard to find in heifers. Squeeze the quarter to eject a little udder secretion to identify the opening, then re-clean and infuse the Teatseal.

It is normal to find 1% of heifers have a blind quarter. Record the heifer and quarter for future reference.

ACVM A007294



teatseal

Our skilled teat sealing teams will be out visiting your heifers soon!

Book today!



We've got teams covering the Waitaki District, South Canterbury and Maniototo ... looking after your dairy herds!

**Call 0800 VET 111
(0800 838 111)**

