



# MOOZNEWS



## Reproduction Matters

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

### 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.
- 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 10th 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.

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THE STAFF AT OAMARU AND WAIMATE VETERINARY CENTRES THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING 2020 AND WISH YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



### December Preg Testing/Phantom Cows

Every year we get an increasing number of farms that wish to scan non-returning cows in the month of December.

The main reason for doing this is two-fold.

- To identify cows which have not returned to service but are found not to be pregnant - known as phantom cows. Once identified these cows can then be treated with a CIDR device. High risk herds are those with high CIDR usage, low BCS or high rates of endometritis.
- For herds doing extended AI (no bulls) - identifying all cows which are already pregnant by mid-December can reduce the workload on heat detection as these can then be all run in one herd.

In both situations eligible cows for testing must be greater than 35 days since the last insemination. It is imperative that tailpaint be maintained, to ensure confidence that cows have not returned within the >35 day period.

#### OUR CLINICS

**Oamaru** Ph 03 434 5666

**Waimate** Ph 03 689 7213

**Palmerston** Ph 03 465 1291

**Glenavy** Ph 03 689 8118

**Kurow** Ph 03 436 0567

**Omarama**

Ph 03 438 9868

**Ranfurly**

Ph 03 444 1020



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



## Turning Quality Milk into a Life Saving Future

When Hugh and Darla Le Fleming won first and second place in the Veterinary Centre Zoetis Teatseal Milk Quality Awards last season they decided that it was a good time to pay it forward. Their focus was the Pacific, a region they had a strong affinity to, but also one that was being impacted severely with the loss of tourism with Covid 19. As Hugh says - "We've always enjoyed the Pacific, and they provided some of our best family holidays. We've been to remote parts of Vanuatu and got to experience the scenic beauty of volcanoes, and always made to feel welcome. However we're aware, especially after the measles outbreak in Samoa, that our visits also carry risks to these regions."

So the pair have partnered with The Rotary Club of Waimate on a project called 'Give Every Child a Future'. The programme is aiming to vaccinate 100,000 children across the 9 Pacific Islands, targeting three of the newer vaccines on the market (Rotavirus, Pneumococcal Disease, and HPV) which to date have been too expensive to add into their existing programmes. As many as 1 in 16 children will die before their 5th birthday if not vaccinated for Rotavirus and Pneumococcal disease, and the HPV virus has led to disproportionate numbers of cervical cancer in the Pacific Region.

Hugh and Darla are not only contributing the \$1,250 they won from the Veterinary Centre for their great work around cell count, but are also putting in an extra \$5,000. Each \$45 contribution will see a full round of vaccinations carried out on one child, so this amazing donation will help support over 138 children in the Pacific. In Hugh's words "we're fortunate in the agriculture industry to not be hammered by Covid, so it's our time to show support to the Islands

we've all enjoyed". As such they'd like to put out the challenge for more farmers to come on board and donate. Give as little or as much as you can – every \$45 makes a massive difference to one child and their family.

If you'd like to support the Give Every Child a Future project then contact Ryan Luckman ([ryan@vet111.co.nz](mailto:ryan@vet111.co.nz) 027 405 2772) or Peter Bell ([glenlone@farmside.co.nz](mailto:glenlone@farmside.co.nz) 027 448 8897) from the Waimate Rotary Club for more details. Or alternatively funds can be donated via Waimate Rotary Club account number 02-0892-0018934-01



## Zoetis Teatseal Milk Quality Awards

This season we will be seeking the lowest average Bulk Milk Somatic Cell Count, up to Monday 3rd of December 2020. (For farmers signed onto Infovot, 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

## CHRISTMAS HAM PROMOTION

With selected drench purchases, you get a tasty kiwi ham on the bone for Christmas





Mat O'Sullivan BVSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## Mating Commentary 2020/2021 – 3 Week Submission Rates

The two main drivers of six-week-in-calf rate (6WICR) are the conception rate (CR) and submission rate (SR). To achieve the target 6WICR of 78% a herd needs to achieve a 60% CR and a 90% SR.

The bar graph below shows the 3-week submission rates from 165 farms in our practice. The blue line shows the average at 81% (with the median at 83%). Compared to last year this is a slight improvement (79% average and 81% median). The important area to note though is how few farms are actually achieving the industry target 3-week SR (green line). Good heat detection, high natural cycling rates and a preparedness to act early on non-cycling cows remain key to reaching this target.



## Update on *Mycoplasma bovis*

Finja Schmidt BVSc  
Waimate Veterinary Centre

It is timely for an update on the M.bovis situation in New Zealand. As of 19th November 2021, there are 7 active confirmed properties, all in Canterbury (including Ashburton), and none elsewhere in the country. There have been a further 250 confirmed but cleared properties in addition to this (since the first confirmed case in July 2017 near Oamaru). Of these 257 properties, 64 were dairy herds, 137 were beef herds and 56 other (grazier or calf rearing property). On the whole, the dairy situation seems to be well under control. With dairy testing relying on bulk milk, herds are tested monthly from July to May as we speak for surveillance. With the 2018 born heifers now milking into the vat, (along with the

stress of calving increasing shedding) it does make sense to see a small increase as we have. This is not an outbreak; it is all linked to previous animal movements with infected animals.

Primarily, the focus is now on monitoring the beef herds. 4000 farms have already been randomly blood sampled at the same time as these animals underwent TB testing. Furthermore, contact tracing is still occurring. On the whole, the NAIT management system has markedly improved and significantly aided this situation and it remains a key part in establishing stock movements. No farms have been confirmed as infected from the beef surveillance programme to date.

## Farewell Jared Ovens



In November we farewelled one of our longest serving employees, Oamaru dairy farm Territory Manager, Jared Ovens. Jared started with Veterinary Centre in 2010 under the guidance of Rose Hyslop. Since then

he has built up an extensive knowledge of dairy animal health and used this to both advise and provide excellent service to Veterinary Centre's large North Otago dairy client base. During his time with Veterinary Centre Jared has also contributed to local sport, being the current president of North Otago Hockey. Jared's animal health learnings will be very useful as he and Meriana continue to expand their own calf rearing operation in Hilderthorpe. Although finishing as TM Jared will continue his Veterinary Centre connection and you will likely see him before Christmas introducing new personnel and then early next year assisting Mat with pregnancy testing. We take this opportunity to thank Jared for his contribution over 10 years of TM work and wish him, Meriana and their young family the very best for the future.

## Matrix Mini dose Hi Mineral – Triple combination oral drench for calves

- Triple action drench technology – (white/clear/ mectin active ingredients)
- Delays the onset of drench resistance - best practice for calves over 100kg
- Contains an oral dose selenium and cobalt
- Dose rate 1ml per 10kg – 10ml dose per 100kg calf
- 1000 x 100kg doses per 10 litre pack
- From 58 cents per 100kg liveweight dose





**Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



## A few things to do before Christmas

Mating seems to be progressing well on most farms and we have not noticed (or heard of) many complaints about the spike in BMSCC we often deal with at this time of the season. The average BMSCC for the season to date is about 170,000, which is almost exactly the same as this time last year. I hope most of you will all get some time away over in the next month or so. When you, or your shed manager, is not on farm does everyone know the systems and processes for identifying, marking, recording, separating, and finally treating cases of mastitis? It can't be any fun finally getting off farm and then receiving an alert about an inhibitory substances (IS)

grade. Most of the three titter's leg bands I have seen in the last week are now all the same colour (poo coloured). Now there is less drafting taking place, take the time to give the leg bands a scrub so a relief milker can see them, and not cup the wrong teat. Make sure any new or relief milkers in your team know what each colour means (e.g. a blue leg band on some farms means a dry back quarter but on other farms means the front quarter). There are also plenty of damaged teatspray wands being used. It is almost impossible to get good coverage with teatspray if the wand is not working well. Good teatspraying reduces the rate

of new infection by up to 50% but you can't teatspray well with a wand that is not spraying well.



Many of our clients are now part of The Veterinary centre 'Leptocred' programme.

Leptocred is a working plan between you and The Veterinary Centre to minimise the risk of anyone on your farm contracting Leptospirosis. It includes farm management practices as well as a planned vaccination programme. While the current Lepto vaccines are very effective in preventing the shedding of serovars Hardjo-bovis and Pomona in the urine of cows, recent NZ research has shown the nonvaccine serovar Tarassovi has emerged as a significant risk on many farm and needs to be managed. It is vital for the dairy industry that we continue to have a robust programme that strengthens Leptospirosis protection on farm, but at the same time allows some flexibility with vaccine use.

**The annual reaccreditation consult is an essential part of this process. All existing Leptocred officers will need to sit down with one of our vets for their 2020 audit and accreditation for 2021. This needs to occur before the 28th Feb 2021.**

With Leptocred you can have peace of mind that you are meeting your obligations under health and safety requirements.



**Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## Calf drench monitoring

Thank you everyone who has collected 10 calf fecal samples 10 to 14 days after drenching calves. We have had no concerning results yet. Could you all please continue with this monitoring program as the parasite challenge will change with time, as will the parasite species and the drench that gets used. Calves will start to move to

off the dairy farm soon, so please encourage your grazier to be involved as well. There is no cost to be involved with this monitoring – the lab fees and sampling packs are free with any Boehringer Ingelheim drench purchased from the Veterinary Centre but the information could be priceless.



## Pink Eye

**Finja Schmidt BVSc**  
Waimate Veterinary Centre



Whilst Pink eye can be tricky to see, it can certainly become an eyesore if left to brew away! Pink eye is caused by bacteria (*Moraxella bovis*). It becomes a pesky problem heading into the summer months as wind, heat, dust, flies and long grass can weaken the natural defences of the eye and cause an infection. Pink eye is incredibly contagious and can rapidly move through a mob so it pays to get on top of it quickly. Signs of pink eye begin with weepy, clear discharge and squinting which then can progress to discoloured/white eyes which can develop deep ulcers. If left untreated, it is very painful and uncomfortable. It can lead to nasty ulcers, blindness and reduced growth rates, as well as it being a significant welfare issue. Lesions quickly worsen for an animal and eye damage can be irreversible (partial or complete blindness).



Treatment of pink eye is either with Orbenin eye ointment OR injectable tetracyclines (Engemycin or Bivatop). If you are having particularly bad problems this year or it is becoming an annual problem then come talk to us to see what management factors may be of help. A single dose of Piliguard vaccine given 3-6 weeks before the risk period will significantly reduce the risk of an outbreak.





# MOOZNEWS



**Ryan Luckman BVSc.**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## HeatCHECK

DairyNZ estimates that heat detection is a major factor in poor reproductive performance in over 30% of dairy farms. Our ability to assess this has traditionally relied on either return intervals or scanning data, which means that we only find out when it's too late to make a difference.

This season we launched HeatCHECK, a tool designed to objectively assess heat detection in real time. The background to this came in the growth of farms with cows wearing Allflex Collars. This means we now have access to an amazing level of detail around matings. This includes being able to look at when cows come on heat, the interval between heats, strength of heats, and ultimately the ability to target mating cows in their optimal mating window.

This year we utilised this data to carry out a validation trial

to see if we could predict whether cows were in an optimal mating window based on ovarian follicle size. The results (to be published) indicated that this ultrasound scanning aligned strongly with the collar data and could be used to assess heat detection performance.

We'll have more detail available before next season's mating, but for those not using bulls, or considering late short gestation AI then get in touch if you'd like to discuss HeatCHECK this year. The process involves scanning the ovaries of cows drafted for AI plus assessing the use of heat aids and picking procedures against best practice recommendations.

Missed heats have a huge impact on farm profitability and it has been great to work together with the farm teams to optimise their performance.

### BREAKDOWN OF COWS SUBMITTED FOR MATING



### OUR CLINICS

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

- 311 Thames Street, Oamaru
- 128 High Street, Waimate
- 29 Stonsa Street, Palmerston
- 19 Redcliff Road, Glenavy
- 32 Bledisloe Street, Kurow
- 13 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama
- 16 Charlemont Street East, Ranfurly

- Ph 03 434 5666
- Ph 03 689 7213
- Ph 03 465 1291
- Ph 03 689 8118
- Ph 03 436 0567
- Ph 03 438 9868
- Ph 03 444 1020





Mat O'Sullivan BVSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

# New Drench Product - Turbo Initial – Coccidia and Worm treatment in one



Most of our farms use calf meals that contain a coccidiostat. These are protective against establishment of a coccidial infection when daily meal intakes exceed ~1kg/day. This is a very useful control measure for calves up until weaning but it does mean that on some farms the calves will never establish an immunity (as the coccidiostat have never allowed an infection challenge to occur). Post weaning off calf meal, some lines of calves will become very susceptible to coccidiosis. This may present as a grumbling scour and poor weight gain or in severe cases a bloody scour and deaths. Turbo Initial is the world's first dual action anthelmintic (contains Eprinectin and Levamisole) with the addition of Diclazuril. Unlike a normal coccidiostat, Diclazuril

is a coccidiocidal drug which kills existing infections at any stage. We recommend calves be strategically treated with Turbo Initial once at 18-20 days after calves have been weaned off meal. This time period has allow them to establish an infection, but that infection is treated before it can cause disease (coccidia emerge from the gut on mass 20-21 days after infection causing massive gut damage). By treating with Turbo Initial at 18-20 days post weaning, significant exposure to coccidia has occurred, thus allowing the immune system to become protective (in a couple more weeks), but also removing the infection before it causes

gut damage. Calves should ideally receive oral double combination (Arrest/Scanda) drenches every four weeks (while on grass) up until weaning. They should then receive Turbo Initial as a single drench and then move to triple combination (Matrix) up until a time that Pour-ons/Injections (Eclipse or Eclipse E) are easier to administer.



## Timely reminders for December

- Regular drenching programme – including choice of combination drench and optimal drenching interval (4 weeks for oral and 5 weeks for pour-on).
- Vaccinations - Covexin 10 booster/Muiltine 5 in 1.
- Use of selenium and copper supplementation.
- **REGULAR WEIGHING!!!**
- Polioencephalomalacia (PEM, B1 deficiency) – also commonly seen over the summer months. Calves may appear blind and staggy before becoming recumbent. Rapid and early treatment with Vitamin B1 can see calves respond well and make a full recovery.
- 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.