



# MOOZNEWS



## Early Pregnancy Test Results

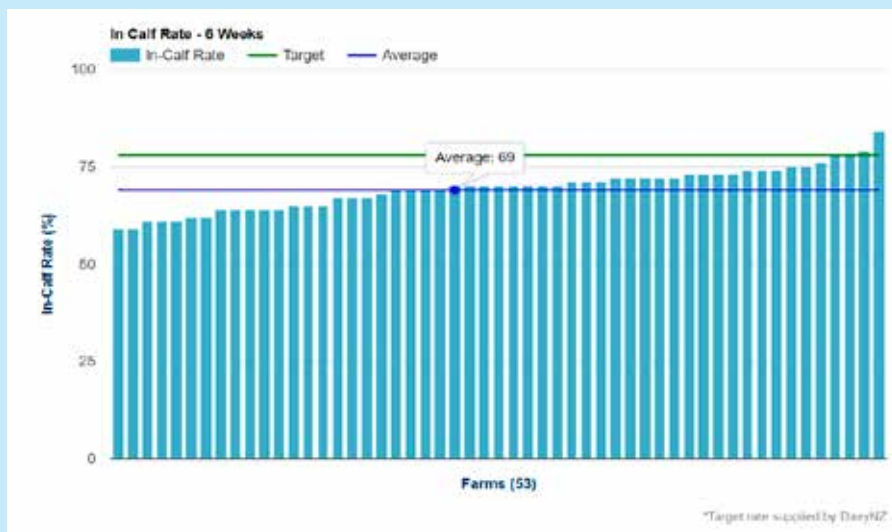
**Mat O'Sullivan BVSc**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The key measures of optimal reproductive performance are the 6-week in-calf rate (ICR) and the final not-in-calf rate. To achieve the industry target of a 78% 6-week ICR you will need a >90% 21-day submission rate and >60% CR.

At the time of writing, we were able to benchmark 53 herds that have done an early pregnancy test in our practice. The exciting news is that we have made

a massive gain in 6 WICR (to date) of 4% on the previous year. Currently the average is sitting at 69% whereas 2019/20 season this was 65% and the 64% the season previous. A large driving force behind this will be the 2% increase in 3 weeks submission rate.

The green line below indicates the industry target goal of 78% (of which four farms have currently achieved this).



**George Smith BVSc BSc**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## Round the traps in the Maniototo

- Many farms had some form of clean up to do following the Christmas deluge.
- Warm weather and an abundance of moisture has lead to phenomenal grass growth rates.
- Pasture quality is at an all time high for mid January. High percentage of clover in swards.
- Significant amounts of good quality silage has been made.
- Graziers are reporting that young stock are thriving with current weather conditions
- Many graziers are aware of heightened risk parasites pose with optimal growing conditions for worms to complete their life cycle.

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## The Veterinary Centre – Boehringer Ingelheim calf parasite monitoring project

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

Thank you to all who have sent us in 10 faecal samples from your calves 10 to 14 days post drenching with a Boehringer Ingelheim product. We have now processed 185 sets of samples. Most of you will have received a phone call saying we have not found any eggs. There have been a few sets of samples with a low number of eggs found (22 sets) and we can usually find an obvious reason for the presence of eggs other than the drench not working. I think what we can say, at this stage of the project is, that if calves are not drenched "well" the drench can't work. Weights need to be accurately measured/estimated, check the gun is doing what it meant to do, and make sure there is not big air bubble in the gun between calves (I think this particularly important for the pour on products). This project is still running, and we are keen for more samples as we move towards more pour on products and injectables. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

## 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





# When it Rains, it Pours

**Euan Tait BVMS**  
Waimate Veterinary Centre

It was great to see such a good amount of rain over Christmas and New Year – K-lines were switched off, grass was growing and farmers were smiling! Unfortunately, with that has come a big increase in the number of lame cows we have been seeing and treating.

Increases particularly in white line disease and footrot have been marked. With the rain, tracks have started to wear more quickly causing pools of water, stones to be uncovered and surfaces becoming increasingly uneven, thus creating a pretty poor environment for cows walking big distances. It is pivotal for staff bringing cows

to the yards that care is taken not to push them too hard and allow extra time for them to get to the yards if track quality has deteriorated.

Prompt treatment of lame cows, as ever, is essential. Those with white line disease benefit from both a block/cow slip AND an anti-inflammatory to speed up recovery and decrease incidence of lameness again. Clinical cases of footrot should be treated with penicillin and recovery is quick. If large numbers are being seen, foot

bathing is a good option to get on top of it – baths should be long and deep enough to get effective control.

Track maintenance, while hard at this time of year, should be upkept to a good standard and any areas of increased wear and tear should be sorted as soon as possible.

If lameness is becoming an increasing issue for your farm, please speak to one of our healthy hoof advisors for advice and further staff training, if required.

## Welcome to New Vets in Oamaru



Tena koutou; I hail from Taranaki, where I grew up on my parent's dairy farm. This gave me a real passion for dairy cattle production.

**Ellen Hodder**  
I am particularly interested in calving and calf health. We know can make a real difference to long term herd production in ensuring we raise good quality young stock. I also like getting stuck into lameness and mastitis cases, as well as nutrition. In my off time I enjoy tramping, running, and skiing in the right seasons. I also love theatre, so you might catch me on stage in Oamaru! I look forward to meeting with you all soon and helping you to achieve your production goals.



After living in the North Island all my life, I figured it was high time to head south and have an explore of everything on offer here. I'm really excited to get into the overnight hikes, try all the new ski slopes and meet some new people. I'm really looking forward to getting onto the dairy farms down here, meeting the teams, and getting my hands dirty. In particular I'm excited about doing some repro work in the near future, and then getting into some calvings later on in the year.

**Natasha Vivian**



**Recent treatment of a cow with bad white line disease in Waimate – a wooden block on the good toe and an injection of Metacam should make for a speedy recovery.**



**Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## BVD Bulletin



Over the next couple of months we will receive the final part of the BVD monitor packages. This test will only measure the level of BVD antibody in the bulk milk sample, it doesn't measure if there is any virus. This gives an indication of whether there have been any incursions of virus into your herd since mating, namely from bulls. It is important that the result isn't interpreted in isolation, but the previous results are considered and the history of the farm. Your prime vet will be able to discuss this with you more fully.



# Horns- Unwanted in Dairy Cattle

Luke Smyth BVSc.  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Primitive cattle needed horns to fight off predators and to sort out the social ranking within the herd. But in modern dairy farming these duties are redundant so there is no reason to persist in running cattle with horns. I've been surprised how many dairy cows still have horns, particularly when our vet techs are pushing down the front of a herring bone shed reading ear tags and recording aged pregnancy testing data.

### What can you do?

- Check calves that have been disbudded carefully when they are being run through the runoff yards for drenching or Lepto vaccination. If the disbudding was botched, the scurs will grow into nasty small horns that can still do damage and should be removed.
- If you have horned cattle on your farm now be aware that from 1 October 2019, it was prohibited to dehorn cattle without the use of local anaesthetic. Talk to one of The Veterinary Centre vets about getting

these cows dehorned. There are ways to minimise the pain and distress and other potential negative health consequences (such as infection) that can be caused through this procedure.

- Ingrown horns are painful. If you allow horns to become ingrown, or transport an animal with an ingrown horn, you can be fined and risk an animal welfare prosecution. So get them sorted out now.



Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## Johne's News



Johne's results are coming back from farms that have signed up for testing during herd testing. LIC are still offering free lab testing on blood samples for high positive animals, circled red below. This isn't necessary to do, but can give you peace of mind if they are cows in the group that are valuable to you or you are new to the testing and are skeptical of the results. There is still a charge for the blood sampling of the cows.

Results Summary		Johne's (EI ISA)
High POSITIVE		16
POSITIVE		2
Suspect		4
No Ab detected		550

Don't forget about the suspect cows. If there are cows in the suspect list, circled in blue that are going to be culled for other reasons, being empty, mastitis etc, that is fine, however anything that you are thinking of retaining for next season should be blood tested as well. You have to pay for lab fees for these cows.

### CORRECTION/ADDITION

Zoetis Teatseal Milk Quality Awards 2021 Apologies to Alex Berezin at Pleasant Creek Ltd, Borst Holdings who had an average BMSCC of 91,000 and was missed off our Honours Board last month. Well done Alex.

## Reminders in February

- Heifer pregnancy testing.** It is still possible to date your late heifer pregnancies. Please book in as soon as possible though.
- Lung worm.** We saw numerous cases of lung worm outbreaks in January. Lungworm typically affects younger stock but we have had environmental conditions (earlier in season) that promoted larval survival on pasture. This season older animals have been affected as well. Lungworm is sensitive to most drenches - contact your Blue Cross Vet for advice.



disease of calves spread primarily by close contact with infected animals and by flies. Vaccination with Piliguard (A8192 RVM) can be a cost effective control method although vaccination must be

given prior to disease occurring. In the affected animals topical ointments or sub-conjunctival injections with appropriate antibiotics are usually effective in curing the affected animals.

## Product of the month

Matrix Minidose Oral Calf Drench

20 litre large deal special

\$1195 incl gst

- Triple combination drench (white/clear/mectin)
- Triple drench technology is best practice for calves over 100kg and delays the onset of drench resistance.
- Just \$0.78 per 150kg calf
- Expiry 31st May 2021





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



## Get the most value out of your remaining herd tests

Many of you will by the end of this month have another herd test completed and have your pregnancy test results. This information can be used to make decisions on early culling or how you are going to manage the herd from now until drying off, to slow the spread of infection by putting all your problem cows together and separating them from the cows that are uninfected (a bit like managed isolation except they do not leave the isolation herd until they have had a dry period).

If you are in the fortunate position of having some room to cull, your last herd test is a

good opportunity to easily get some more information on your cows. There is the ability to screen for cows that are carrying the Staph aureus bug. You can nominate the cows you want tested or else provide a list of criteria that need to be met for a cow to be tested e.g. Pregnant and had 2 of 4 herd tests this season exceeding a threshold. The other test you can ask for is the Johne's milk test. If you feel you have culled a few Johne's cows this season there will be more lurking in the herd that are not apparent. This milk test will find those cows and you then have option of culling them while they are still fat and able

to go to the works.

Finally, if you enter the cases of mastitis from the dairy diary into MINDA as "mastitis clinical" your culling reports and dry off treatment decisions will be so much more accurate.

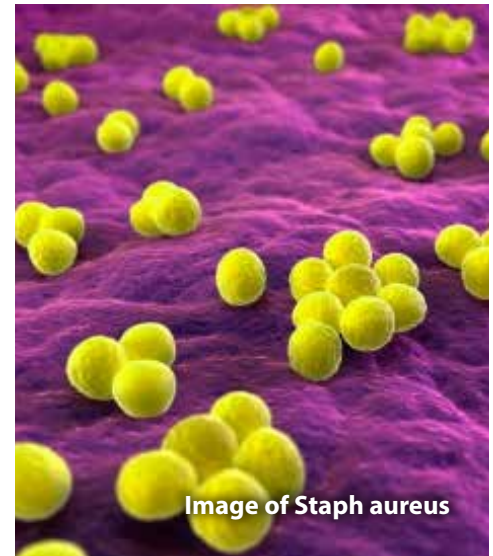


Image of Staph aureus

### Ear Tags

- Our Oamaru clinic stocks yellow numbered tags 1-500, in sizes Maxi female and Large male.
- All of our clinics stock a range of coloured tags from button through to Maxi.
- You can order your NAIT tags, with matching Management Tags through the Veterinary Centre.
- You can also order printed tags of all sizes and colours sent directly to you on farm.



**Jess McKenzie** BVSc  
Veterinary Centre Waimate



Post-weaning the aim is to have calves that continue to gain weight - they should never lose weight or remain static. Some animals don't thrive post-weaning so it is a good idea to continue to regularly weigh. Any calves that are not thriving may need to be separated out/taken home, continued access to calf meal (regardless of weight or age) or examination by a vet.

As a rule of thumb, the amount of feed to **OFFER** youngstock from **weaning to post mating** is:

3 kg DM per 100 kg liveweight
+ 3 kg DM per 1 kg liveweight gain/day

**Example - For a 150 kg calf gaining 700 grams/day = 4.5 kg DM + 2.1 kg DM = 6.6 kg DM/day.**

The aim is to have continued growth rates of at least 600 grams/day to keep young stock on track.

Regular weighing is important – it is the only way to get an 'accurate' assessment of how well they are actually growing and allows you to take action straight away if

individuals or a group are performing below target.

Timely Animal Health Reminders:

By now most calves will be off the dairy farm and January/February can be busy months keeping up with animal health treatments....

#### 1. Parasites/Drenching

- Regular drenching of R1's should be continuing using a triple oral combination drench (Matrix Mini-dose) until such a time that Pour-ons/Injections (Eclipse/Eclipse E) become easier to administer.
- Drenching intervals of 4 weeks for orals, 5 weeks for Pour-on/Injection.
- The recent wet and warm environmental conditions promote larval survival on pasture and the challenge that youngstock are facing may currently be high.

#### 2. Trace Elements

Selenium, B12 and copper are generally requiring a top-up by now. Trace element deficiencies can be production-limiting in young stock.

- Both long and short-acting injectable selenium's are available and safe to use on young stock (when given at the correct dose).
- Injectable B12 is also a good idea about now as a top up if it hasn't been given already.
- A 10 gram copper bullet is a safe and effective form of slow-release copper that can be given to calves about now. As we know from an increase in R2 heifer fractures seen over the last few years copper is essential for the proper cross-linking of collagen with regards to bone growth and supplementation should not be over-looked.
- Sustained release trace element boluses are also available which can provide up to 6-8 months of trace element supplementation.

#### 3. Lepto

- By now R1's should have received at least their first Lepto vaccination, followed by a booster 4 weeks later.
- Don't forget about the R2's – a Lepto booster vaccination is due for them also.