



# Veterinary Centre MoozNews



## 2022 Milk Quality Awards



**Hamish Newton BVSc PhD**  
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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BUSINESS	MANAGER/SHARE-MILKER/OWNER	Avg BMSCC ('000)
<b>1 Le Emari Trust - Willowbridge</b>	<b>Leo Omamalin / Hugh &amp; Darla Le Fleming</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2 Lisburn - Teschemaker Shed</b>	<b>Glen &amp; Brylee Constable / Hayden &amp; Lisa Watson</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>3 Rylock Farms</b>	<b>Lachlan &amp; Roslyn McConnachie</b>	<b>67</b>
Minus One Trust	Andrew & Barbara Richardson	73
Alperna Farm Ltd	Robin Mattison / Joseph Paton	74
Meyer, Gerald	Gerald & Janet Meyer	74
Pomona Dairy Farm	Mark & Vanessa Shefford / Geoff Hay	75
Brunswick Downs 2014 Ltd	Trevor & Rebecca Lemmens	79
Palmdale Farms Limited	Jonathan & Joanna Dyson	80
Willowview Pastures Ltd Kaik Road	Gavin & Georgia Taylor / Geoff and Katrina Taylor	80
Tamac Farms Ltd	Tim & Deborah McKenzie	80
Bonnie Doon Farms Ltd	Lorenzo Cavinta / Karl & Emma Guy	82
Hinemoa Riverlands Company Ltd	Ben & Chloe Smith / Quintin & Dana Paul	82
Le Emari Trust - Morven	Casey & Bonnie Sparrow / Hugh & Darla Le Fleming	83
Kowhai Dairy Limited Shed 2	Andrew Bishop / Geoffrey Sewell	85
Papakaio Dairies Ltd	Peter & Emma Smit	85
Peebles Siding Dairy Ltd	Bernard & Merlyn Lauglaug	85
Willowcreek	Stu Smith / Paul & Sarah Smith	85
Hoofing-It Dairies Ltd	Mark & Louise Jellyman	86
Riverside Park Ltd	Georgie McFarlane & Matt Fades	86
Northdairy Ltd	Alex McLeod / Ken & Brenda McLeod	87
Corona Farms Ltd	Braden & Rebecca De La Rue / Corrie & Donna Smit	88
Dogterom Farming - Glenmoa	Julius Sanidad / Otto Dogterom	88
Waterstone Farm Ltd	Troy & Donna Yaxley/ Mark and Carmen Hurst	90
Steward Dairy Ltd	Julius Caballero	91
Verkerk Dairying Limited	Simon Chamberlain	91
Greenhills Dairy Ltd	Ben & Kim Hart	92
Te Waiu Ltd	John & Nicola Guy	92
Maerewhenua Investment Limited	Grant & Lucy Tremewan	94
Snaplulu Ltd	John & Sam Harper	96
Kauroo Flats	Alex & Lena Berezin / Robert & Sylvia Borst	97
Westbrook Ltd	Adam Joyce / Ewart & Elizabeth Joyce	97
Hilderthorpe Farm	Josh Cochrane/ Richard & Karen Willans	98
Waitaki Partnership	Gerard & Sarah Coutts	98
Eden Dairies Limited	Chris & Rebecca Eden	98
Tahora	Hayden & Robyn Williams	99
Kokoamo Farms - Domett	Mark Nateri / Daniel & Charolote Montgomery / Matt & Julie Ross	100
Windsor Park Dairies Ltd	Callum & Twyla Kingan	100
Seamist Dairies	Terry Wells / David Legg	100

## Zoetis Teatseal Milk Quality Awards 2022

Here is the list of the lowest average bulk milk somatic cell counts (BMSCC) from our client base until the 14th of December 2021. This season there were 39 farms with average BMSCC of 100,000 or less, compared to 24 farms last season. Well done!

Zoetis have sponsored prize money for the top three place getters (\$1000, \$750, and \$500).



# Health Alert Decision Tree

**Finja Schmidt BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

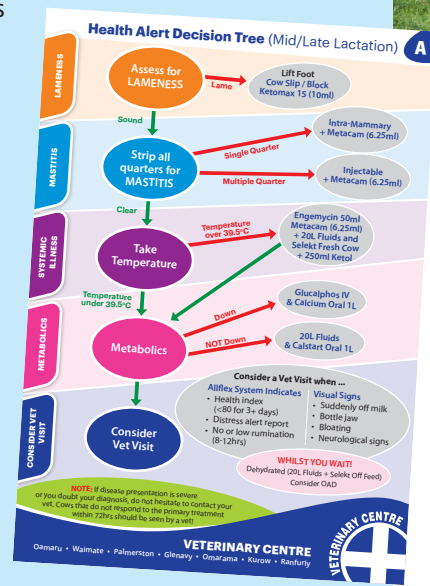
Heading into summer, the number of sick cows has thankfully eased up a bit! We've now modified the decision tree (you might have used it over spring) to help guide your decisions over mid/late lactation.

As always, any sick cow should be examined thoroughly, sometimes this can be assessed visually or with the aid of the Allflex collars. Using the Allflex collars, any sick cow will be drafted as a health alert cow if their rumination and activity falls in relation to their peers. Rather than the numbers of animals being overwhelming and ignored, we have made a simple flowchart (see right) that can be utilised by all staff to follow. This ensures that all animals are examined in the key health areas: lameness, mastitis, metabolics, systemic illness and vet visit if required.

Over mid/late lactation, the diseases that cows get don't follow a pattern and are far more unusual than what we see over spring (we're not

dealing with underlying levels of metabolics or endometritis). We are mainly dealing with mastitis and lameness at this time of year, so these are very important to rule out. After this point, the issues causing cows to have lower rumination / changes in activity get more specific. For these, it's quite hard to be prescriptive in a flow chart and we'd strongly recommend getting a vet visit organised. We've tried to make the trigger signs clear so you can see what would be useful to investigate further.

The decision tree is customisable to your farm. So, if you have invested into collars, OR you just want to enhance and upgrade staff systems, get us out early for a health alert training day (HealthCheck) to help customise a decision tree with you and your staff!



## Lameness

**Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons) – VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

The summer period is often a time when lame cow numbers increase which has been made worse this year with all the rain.

- It is worth taking the time to improve track drainage. Take a spade and open up the grass, a spades width wide at regular intervals to allow water to drain off the track.
- If you have an underpass, keep it free of water and slurry. Make sure that sump pumps are working properly, sumps are cleaned out and pumps are turned on when it rains.
- If you have a section of lane that is chronically wet, especially just prior to the yard, consider scrapping the surface. Wet areas slow cow flow which means that more pressure has to be put on cows to get them on the yard and the moisture increases foot problems. Scrapping lanes can damage the top surface of the lane, but these are often damaged when you get to this stage anyway, however it can allow them to dry out faster and improve cow flow. Look at a more permanent fix over the dry period.
- Have someone treat lame cows every day, or every other day. Cows get worse if they are left and it becomes a much harder job psychologically when there

is a large mob.

- Make sure that staff are being careful with the backing gate and walking them to the shed (no heads up) and that the yard is hosed out properly (no stones). Cows with soft feet can't tolerate extra pressure being put on them.
- Consider using 3 in 2 milkings to reduce walking if the weather stays really wet and you are getting lots of lames cows. Dairy NZ flexible milking work has shown a herd on 3-in-2 from December had 3% lameness for the season compared to 12% if the herd was milked twice a day. 30 days of 3-in-2 milking will cost about 3kg of milk solids. There can be a lift in BMSCC but this tends to happen after the short milking period (12hours). Work with Fonterra or Oceania so that milk isn't picked up after only a short milking interval.



## Product of the Month



10 Litre  
**\$659.00**  
Incl GST

ACVM A010132

## Matrix

MINI DOSE HI-MIN

### Recommendations

- Triple Drench Technology delays the onset of drench resistance
- Triple action drenches are best practice for calves over 100kg

### Also Contains

- Cobalt (4.4mg/ml)
- Selenium (1mg/ml)

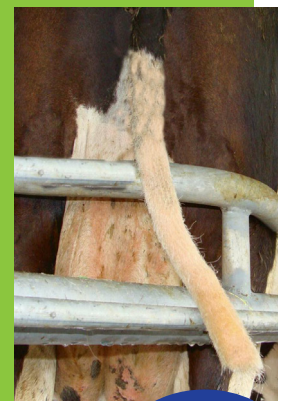
**Pricing \$0.57** per 100kg (Excl GST)

## Tail Trimming Service

**NEW Service**

### Why is trimming cow tails important?

- Reduces faecal and urine contamination of milk in the vat
- Improves cleanliness and health of the cow
- Improves hygiene and health of milking staff
- The recommended twice yearly tail trimming ensures staff stay safe and milk maintains its highest quality



Per Cow  
**80c**  
Excl GST

**Our veterinary technicians are available with efficient equipment to trim your cows tails.**

**Contact the clinic today if you'd like to book a time.**

# Yersinia in Calves

**Jess McKenzie BVSc**  
**VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate



In December we start to see outbreaks of Yersinia in weaned calves, typically from post-weaning through to about May. Yersinia bacteria are found in the intestines of most calves – 85% of herds (calves) have Yersinia as a normal gut resident. Stress/immunosuppression associated with parasites, nutrition, trace element deficiencies and BVD may result in an overgrowth of this bug in the intestines. Overgrowth results in a severe scour. Because of a constantly irritated bowel, faeces are often seen dribbling down on to the back legs.

As infection spreads, so does infection pressure and faecal-oral transmission then occurs. Large percentages of a mob are often affected severely checking growth rates. Mortality rates of 5-10% are not uncommon. Faecal culture confirms the diagnosis; however, a presumptive diagnosis can often be made on history and clinical signs. Isolation of affected animals to reduce the spread and treatment with oxytetracycline antibiotic for 3-5 days is an effective treatment/ control.



## Product of the Month

# Turbo Initial

Turbo® Initial is an oral drench specifically designed for weaned calves. It provides broad worm parasite coverage as well as helping to protect against coccidiosis. This bridges the 'susceptibility' gap after calves come off coccidiostat-treated meal and before they develop natural coccidiosis immunity.



**ACTIVES:** 2g/L Eprinomectin, 80g/L Levamisole HCl, 10g/L Diclazuril, 4.4g/L Cobalt (min. 33.6g/L Cobalt disodium EDTA), 1g/L Selenium (2.4g/L Sodium selenate).

2.5 Litre  
**\$789.00**  
 Incl GST

Dose Rate: 1ml/10kg

**Pricing \$2.74** per 100kg (Excl GST)



# GrowRight MONITORING

## Weighing Calves to Aid in Weaning Decisions



**Ella Swann BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

This spring we have been working with a local farm to weigh replacement heifer calves pre-weaning in order to aid decision making on when the best time to wean is. At the initial weighing appointment (late October), the entire heifer mob was weighed and drafted based on weight. The heaviest group was to be weaned immediately (over 90kg) and the lightest mob, consisting of later born heifers were to remain on milk. At the second appointment 40 days later, we saw a significant improvement in the lightest mob with some impressive growth rates. Growth rates averaged 830g/day and the highest exceeded 1kg/day. This has allowed the farm to be able to have all calves weaned by the start of December. The lightest mob of calves had been receiving milk once a day at 5-7L/calf, meal at 2kg/calf/day, as well as a fresh break of grass each day to encourage grazing behaviour.

This farm (table right) is a good example of how having good calf rearing

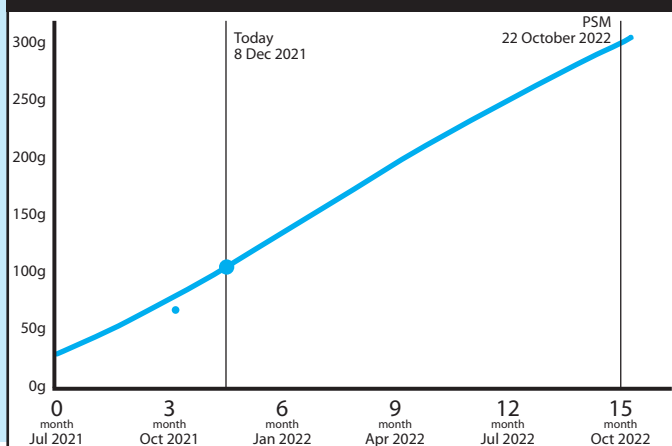
systems in place and how ad lib feeding of young calves can optimise replacement heifer growth rates to ensure all calves reach 100 kilograms by early December. This ensures calves remain on track to meet the following weight targets later in life. A good start is essential.

Key weight targets for heifer growth:

- 30% of mature weight by 6 months of age
- 60% of mature weight by 15 months of age (mating)
- 90% of mature weight by 22 months of age (pre-calve)



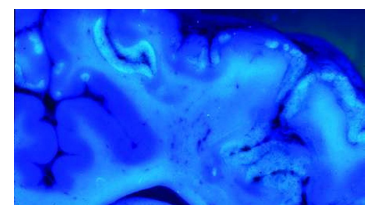
### YOUNG STOCK TREND



# Polioencephalomalacia

We are once again seeing several cases of P.E. (polio encephalomalacia), a nervous disease seen primarily in calves and younger stock. P.E. is caused by a lack of vitamin B1 (not to be confused with a cobalt deficiency, which is associated with a vitamin B12 deficiency). P.E. is thought to be nutritionally induced, when there is a sudden change in diet from stinky, higher DM diet, to a lush, low fibre diet. A high dietary sulphur intake, especially with brassicas, has also been incriminated as a cause of P.E.

Calves with P.E. appear blind, may walk aimlessly, appear wobbly, have muscle tremors and head press. If calves are treated early in the disease process with a series of vitamin B1 injections, survival rates are good. In an outbreak situation we have had good success, by prophylactically treating the remaining, unaffected calves, in the group with an oral vitamin B1 drench. This has proved a very cost effective preventative measure.



The brain of a calf with PE, fluoresces under a UV light.



# UdderNews

Hamish Newton BVSc PhD  
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



## Avoid (excessive) Over-Milking

Over milking is a risk factor for the spread of mastitis. DairyNZ Technotes have an arbitrarily defined flow rate of <200ml per minute as over milking. One or two minutes at these flows, with otherwise well-functioning and maintained machine are not likely to cause an issue but repeated over milking for longer times will result in damaged teats and hence increased risk of mastitis. What does happen in a herringbone shed particularly if your milkers are concentrating on not “under milking” is row times extend as they wait for that one slow milker. This results in a degree of over milking for all of the cows of the next row that already have their cups on, this gets worse as yields drop as the season progresses. It is now apparent worrying about flow rates is no longer necessary

as the MaxT strategy has been shown to work. Put simply alter your platform speed or row times so that 80% of your cows are milked out (you don't wait for the lowest 20% of your herd). There is an app downloadable from the DairyNZ website and plenty of information there as well to help you implement MaxT. If you are a Fonterra supplier, in the milking efficiency section of the Farm Insights Report, there is a calculation of the possible time savings you could get by implementing MaxT.

## Farm Insights Report

For you Fonterra suppliers you will have received a Farm Insights report. If you have not seen it, lost it, or not looked at it, contact your area manager for another copy. It gives a great overview of your farm's nitrogen surplus over time and greenhouse gas emissions (Environment). It also reports on “Milk” and “Animals”. Right now, I think the most interesting or valuable part of the report looks at your “milking efficiency” by examining both cows per hour, and litres per cluster per hour. The data is derived from what you have told Fonterra about the number of cows you milk and the number of clusters you have and what the Levno system tells Fonterra about when milk flows stop and start – this data is not just used to help tanker scheduling but gives a great tool to see if time can be clawed back from milking to do other things. From these measures you will have an estimate of how many hours a week potentially could be saved by increasing milking efficiency from 80 to 100% efficiency by adopting a MaxT strategy. It seems from the data many farms could potentially save an hour a day.



Compass  
Explore the potential

### Milking Efficiency

More efficient milking leads to better outcomes for people, cows and farm profitability. Simple changes that save seconds per cow can quickly add up to minutes saved per milking, and hours saved per day.

This section of the report uses milk vat monitoring data for your month of peak production to benchmark your milking efficiency. It uses DairyNZ research to provide an estimate of the amount of time that could be saved by changing the way your dairy is operated.

Your Farm's Peak Milk Production Data		
Shed Type	54 bail rotary	
Herd Size	1050 cows	
Peak Month	October	
Peak Volume	25347 L/day	
Milking Frequency	TAD (9.2-14.8 h interval between milkings)	
Milking*	Times	Volume
1	03:52 to 08:28	15 L/cow
2	13:02 to 16:28	9 L/cow
3	-	-
Total	8 hours/day	24 L/cow

\*Milking is defined as the start of milk flow to the end of milk flow into the vat

### Based On Your Information We Estimate You Could Save

11 to 20 hours per week

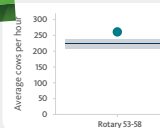
This estimate is based on your farm reaching 80-100% of its potential milking efficiency using the maximum milking time (MaxT) strategy.

The insights provided in this section of the report will not be accurate if you are a split-calving herd. For more detailed information please use the DairyNZ Milksmart App.



www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/milking-efficiently/milksmart-app

### Average Cows Milked Per Hour During Your Peak Month

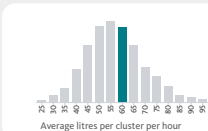


This benchmark is influenced by the number of clusters in the dairy and the herds level of production. Therefore, you are benchmarked against similar sized dairies nationally.

261 cows per hour

Your farm  
50% of your benchmark's group are within this range  
Your benchmark average

### Average Litres Per Cluster Per Hour During Your Peak Month



This benchmark allows a fair comparison of all dairy types, sizes and production levels. For context, if your cow's average milk flow rate is 2 L/min, then the maximum potential would be 120 L per cluster per hour (2 L/min x 60 min/hour).

58 L/cluster/hr

Your farm  
All Fonterra farms

## Correctly Identifying the Lamé Claw

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Over the years I have had witnessed multiple occasions where farm staff have attacked hooves with knives, grinders and hoof trimmers before correctly determining the site of lameness. This will have frequently resulted in an exacerbation of the overall lameness in the cow.

Before putting any lame cows into the crush, it is important to determine which leg is affected. Our vets tend to record these on a recording sheet. Look for:

- obvious swelling (and hoof shape)

- weight bearing while standing still (the lame foot will be positioned so not to carry as much load)
- a head nod while walking in the case of front leg lameness
- the stride length and speed (the lame leg will have a short stride before taking weight, then the sound leg swings through with a longer stride and is weight loaded for longer.

Once you have determined the lame leg, have tied it up, washed it down and checked for footrot, use hoof testers to confirm where

the lameness is located. This simple tool works by squeezing and putting pressure on the claw. Watch for a repeatable pain response which is easy to recognise in the hind legs by a tensing of the 'hamstring' muscles and the front legs by a tensing of the shoulders. Cows with sole bruising will often have very soft hooves and you will see that the testers easily depress the sole. If there is no response to either claw to hoof testers, then chances are you either have the wrong foot or the cause of lameness is located further up the leg.



**Lameness is painful** – Get them off the painful claw as quickly as possible. Cow slips and hoof blocks are ideal. The use anti-inflammatories to reduce pain, swelling and speed recovery should be routine. Ketomax can be used once daily for 2-4 days and has no milk-withhold period.

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