MARCH 2023

Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Six Week In-Calf Rate (ICR)

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

The industry 6 Week ICR target is 78% and every year we like to celebrate those who achieved a 75% 6 Week ICR or better. This season to date our district average figure is 67%, compared to 66% in 2022.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15	**6**	**8**	**18**	**28**	**26**	**24**	**27**

This season we have 27 farms – well done everyone.

Roll of Honour

Name	In-Calf Rate (6 Weeks)
Graham & Jocelyn Butler - Gareth Fraser-Wood (Manager) - Mu Kau Ltd	82
Robin & May Murphy - Kieran Byrne (Manager) - Murphy Farms Ltd #3 (Paul Byrne)	80
John & Nicola Guy - Te Waiu Ltd	79
Tim & Kim Richards - Nottingham Dairy Farm Ltd	79
Rodney & Kelly Herrick - Seven Mile Dairy Ltd	79
Richard & Karen Willans - Josh Cochrane (Manager) - Hilderthorpe Farm	78
Mark & Ciara Hodder - Belvue Downs Ltd	77
Luke Campbell & Sam Laugesen - Nayana Barbosa (Manager) - Westmere Farm Ltd	77
Hamish & Fiona Winter - H F Farming Ltd	77
Lucien & Lynley Verkerk - Simon Chamberlain (Manager) - Verkerk Dairying Ltd	77
Mike & Christine Holland - Jackson Attfield (Manager) - Holland Farming Ltd	77
Duncan & Phillipa McLachlan - Otewai Holdings Ltd	77
Matt & Julie Ross - Daniel & Charlotte Montgomery (Manager) - Kokoamo - Domett View	76
Hamish & Rachel McFarlane	76
Lachlan & Roslyn McConnachie - Rylock Farms	76
Allon & Hannah Wood - Longview Dairies 2018 Ltd	76
Will & Katie Sinclair - W & K Sinclair Ltd	76
John & Sam Harper - Snaplulu Ltd	76
Clyde & Jan Douglas - Dave & Jasmine Lindsay (Manager)	76
Grant & Ele Ludemann - Craig & Amy Kingan (Manager) - Challenge - Middle Farm	76
Hayden & Lisa Watson - Glen & Brylie Constable (Manager) - Lisburn Farms Ltd	75
George & Sarah Barnish - Appleton Dairy Farm Ltd	75
Beaven & Nancy Burrows - Tim Sloss (Manager)	75
Marty & Nuki Sinkus - Retell Holdings Ltd - Dairy Holdings Ltd	75
Bernard & Merlyn Lauglaug - Vaca Farms Ltd	75
Edward & Becca Finlay - Raymond Serilo / Steve Kirkman (Manager) - Flag Farms Ltd	75
Robin & May Murphy - Brent & Debbie Tiffen (Manager) - Murphy Farms Ltd #5 Rivercliff	75

In this Issue

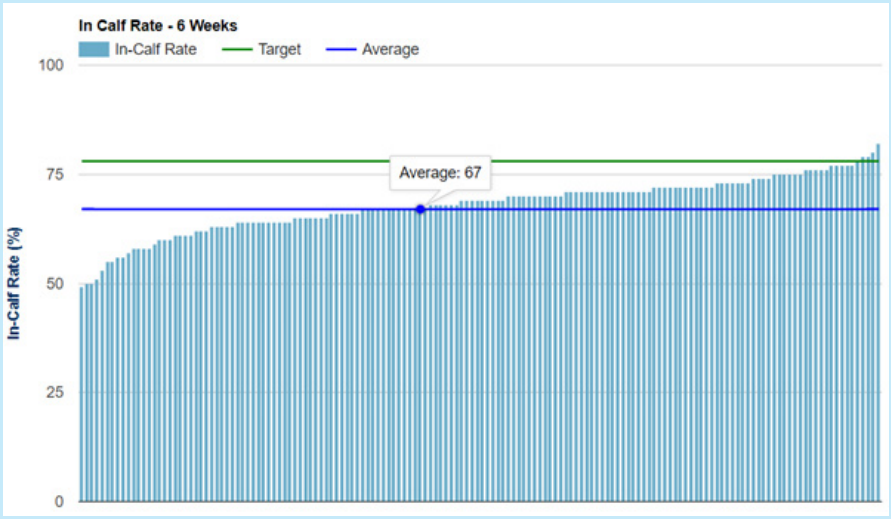
Mating Commentary 2023

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

In December we reviewed the submission rates for the district and found these to be down by 2% on the previous year. This averaged 79% (target >90%)

Below is a compilation of the farms in the clinic that have uploaded pregnancy test data (155) to date that we can benchmark. There are still about 60 additional farms to come into the data set. The average (mean) for all farms is at 67%, with the median being 69% (and the median last year was also 69%). The target rate is 78%. We don't tend to see large fluctuations in the average between seasons, but it is always worth noting that improvements for most farms are achievable and possible once the limiting factors for improvement have been identified.

For some farms the recorded results which are derived from the Fertility Focus Report, are lower than what has actually been achieved because the herd records still contain cows which were culled or died in the spring. If not removed these are listed as 'not in calf'. Please contact your Prime vet if you need a list of these cows.



February Production Drop and Heat Stress

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

For many of our clients (especially those more inland), late January/ February saw some significant drops in production. Many farms reported cows being listless and inappetant, despite them going into some good quality feed.

I don't have to labour the point that this summer has been hot (and humid on many days). For a period there was little reprieve as night temperatures failed to dip below 20 degrees. Friesian cows are comfortable in temperatures less than 20 degrees (Jerseys less than 24 degrees). Above these temperatures cows must work to keep their body temperature under 39.0 degrees.

Cows are essentially a large fermentation tank on legs. The rumen produces a lot of heat. This is great in the winter but in higher summer temperatures it means they will struggle to keep their body temperature low. Night time should provide some reprieve if a cow over-heats during the day, but when temperatures stay high throughout the night they may be starting the new day already in heat stress.

Cows in heat stress will open mouth breath (pant), seek shade and spend more time standing to try to reduce body temperature. Think back to when we had bountiful shelter belts as to where the cows would have been standing on these hot days. Once the body temperature raises above 39.5, cows will be less inclined to eat, will have poor immune function and production and body condition may drop.

We cannot replace tree shelter quickly where it has been lost, but other shorter term strategies may be used.

- Cool drinking water is hugely important. Install multiple water troughs in main lanes to and from the shed.
- Wet down the hot concrete before the cows come on the yard.
- Install sprinklers on the yard (these might be used morning and afternoon if the night was hot).
- Put sprinklers on the shed roof (and/or misters inside the shed).
- Try to avoid milking in the heat of the day.
- Milk smaller herd sizes to minimise the time spent on the yard.
- Let cows move at their own pace – chasing slow cows down the lane will just heat them up more.

GrowSmart

Jess McKenzie BVSc (Dist) – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Young Stock – Relocation & Animal Health Reminders

January/February are big months for calves. Many hours of hard work and care have gone into them to get them to the point where they can finally go away to grazing. But it doesn't stop there….! Relocation and settling into a new environment is a stressful and worrying time for them. And when not well managed it can result in growth checks and be a trigger for other animal health issues such as pneumonia, parasitism and scouring (Yersinia/Salmonella).

A few reminders to help keep the stress levels down during this time:

Sources of stress for calves include things such as:

- Poor nutrition
- Adverse/extreme weather
- Transportation
- Changes in environment
- Competition in new groups
- Parasite challenge
- Lack of trace element supplementation
- General husbandry practices (e.g. diet changes, vaccinations etc.)

1. **Feeding levels are KEY** – if you don't feed them enough, they won't grow.
   - It is extremely common to get a check in growth rates for 2-3 weeks after relocating calves, despite being well fed and everything else being well managed. This is largely due to the stress of transportation, settling into a new environment and often rearrangement into a new mob. Aim to minimise by ensuring feed quantity and quality are adequate on arrival – make this your key focus.
2. **Animal health is also KEY** – stick to and maintain a good animal health plan.
   - Regular drenching programme (drenching intervals of 4 weeks for orals, 5 weeks for pour-on's/injectable).
   - A triple or double combination drench product containing levamisole should be used for R1 calves right up until their first winter (and as their first drench in spring). Levamisole is the only drench active that will kill the GI parasite Cooperia - use of a single active drench product will lead to a build-up of this parasite and possible signs of stress/GI parasitism.
   - Calves by now should have received:
   - Copper supplementation (10g copper bullet)
   - Selenium/B12 supplementation
   - Lepto sensitiser + booster vaccination
3. **Regular weighing is essential** – to monitor progress and catch any problems early.
4. **And last, but not least – a good relationship with the grazier is crucial**, as you work towards a common end goal. Keep in touch regularly and discuss any issues as they arise, before they turn into a problem too big to handle.

Every stressful event can suppress the immune system, but when combined and the stress becomes great, disease is more likely to result. To minimise the risk of disease in calves, aim to reduce the effect of stressful situations as much as you can and try to avoid multiple stressors occurring at once.

Collar Fertility Review Reports – Watch this Space!

Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology) – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Access to collar data has provided an untold wealth of data that allows us to drill down to get answers to questions we previously had to "guess" about. At the Vet Centre we have been passionate about helping our collar users to make the most of this technology, and try and gain advantages beyond that of just simple heat detection, or sick cow alerts.

As part of this focus we are currently building a comprehensive fertility review report. This report will allow us to pinpoint areas of success and work-ons for a farm, both in terms of timeline (i.e Springer feeding vs pre-mate vs 3rd cycle of the mating period) AND with different cohorts (i.e 1st lactation animals vs late calvers vs early season MA cows). The report will use anonymised benchmarked data from across the practice so that farms will be able to see what is truly achievable within farms in our district.

Watch this space for more details in April!

Introducing

Anna Macfarlane BVSc

VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I grew up in Rotherham, North Canterbury on a sheep and beef farm. Through growing up being very involved with farm work as well as spending much of my time competing horses, I've always been passionate about all aspects of animal health and veterinary medicine.

Outside of work I can be found getting outdoors whether that be on the water; sailing or fishing, or getting up the mountains for a bit of hiking or skiing.

Within the dairy industry my particular interests are revolving around nutrition and lameness, but I'm excited to get stuck into all aspects of dairy practice.

Claire Lin BVSc

VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I grew up in Taiwan and came to New Zealand to work on a dairy farm in 2014. Since then, I have found my passion in large animals and decided to pursue a veterinary career in a rural practice. Outside of work, I like being outdoors and enjoy hiking, biking and water activities. Spending time with family and friends also plays a big part in my spare time.

I like all aspects of cow health in the dairy industry, and I have particular interests in reproduction and milk quality. I look forward to getting stuck in and learning all areas of the job!

UdderNEWS

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD - Veterinary Centre

Strep dysgalactiae

We are seeing an increase in the number of mastitis cases caused by *Streptococcus dysgalactiae (Strep dysgalactiae)*. This is a bug that behaves as both an environmental bug (like *E.coli* and *Strep uberis*) and also as a contagious bug (like *Staph aureus* does). *Strep dysgalactiae* can be found in infected udders and importantly in, or on, teat lesions. It can also be found in cows' mouths, vaginas and the cows' environment.

Finding that *Strep dysgalactiae* is a cause of mastitis in your herd should trigger a critical look at your teat teatspraying and teat condition.

Teatspray

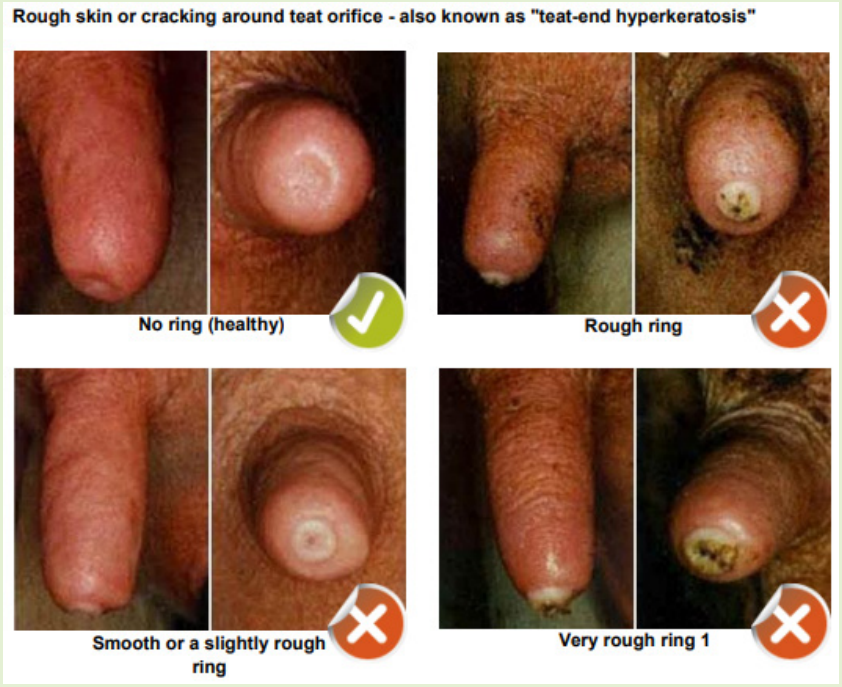
How is it being mixed? If I couldn't walk into your shed this afternoon and follow your mixing instructions this then it is probably not "idiot proof" enough, and likely not being done properly every time by everyone.

How much Teatspray is being used a milking? A target value is 20 ml of spray per cow a milking – don't get too hung up on this value though, use it as a guide to decide how often you should be having to refill the teat spray tank. It is far more valuable to actually look at the teats post spraying to see that they are covered and have a drop of teat spray on the teat end. Using more teatspray that actually gets onto the teats is far better value than using a bit less and missing the teats. Teat spray does not work unless it is on the teats.

Is the teat spray getting onto the teats? You need to watch a round of cows at cups off if you have a rotary with an automatic teatsprayer. Unfortunately automatic teatsprayers are not "set and forget". Some have many moving parts and multiple sensors and nozzles do get blocked. Usually problems are easy to correct (wipe a sensor, or twist it back into alignment) but your milkers need to firstly recognise if teatspray is getting on the teats, and if not, what are the first things to check for in your system.

Teat condition

When the cups come off, the teats should look very similar to when the cups went on. If there is swelling or colour changes then there is likely to be over milking occurring, too high vacuum, pulsation failure, or liners with not enough tension (old liners). The teat ends should not have rough callouses or "warty" looking projections on them. Any of these changes suggest the milking machine and milking routine needs to be examined. Teat lesions and, cracked or dry teat skin provide places for bugs to hide away from teatspray.



Yersina

William James BVetMed – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Intro: *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*, is a bacteria normally present in the gut of healthy cattle, and causes disease more commonly in New Zealand than in other countries. Disease mainly involves young animals after weaning till around 12 months of age. The infection causes inflammation and ulceration of the gut lining and abscessation of the gut wall. These changes can result in long term damage to the gut, resulting in poor absorption of nutrients and poor growth. Therefore clinical signs associated with Yersinia are diarrhoea- potentially containing mucus or blood, poor growth/ stunting, dehydration and depression.

Risk Factors: There must be a stress element for the bacteria to cause disease. Events such as bad weather, transportation, feed shortages or a concurrent infection (gastrointestinal worms, coccidoisis, BVD) are often triggers of this.

Often it is an individual animal affected, however outbreaks can occur when these infected animals with diarrhoea cause heavy pasture contamination, resulting in rapid exposure via the oral-feacal route to the other members of the mob.

Diagnosis: Due to many different pathogens causing diarrhoea in youngstock, it is vital to attain a prompt feacal sample to identify the cause. We diagnose Yersinia by feacal culture but we can also look at worm and coccidia burden with the same sample. This is useful as worming will not treat Yersinia and by the time we realise that this hasn't worked, it is often too late. The bacteria would have potentially caused too much gut damage and spread to the rest of the mob.

Blood testing for BVD could also be beneficial in these cases.

Treatment:

1. Antibiotics- Yersinia usually responds well to long acting Tetracyclines (eg Bivatop). Treatment is successful if instigated early before excess gut damage has occurred. Cases that don't appear to respond are probably due to the long term gut damage rather than antibiotic failure.
2. Metacam- anti-inflammatory has shown to be beneficial in treating youngstock diarrhoea.
3. Supportive care- electrolytes and restoring fluids to correct dehydration.
4. Treating concurrent disease- Coccidia/ worms/ pneumonia etc...

Prevention and control:

1. Prompt diagnosis and treatment.
2. Decreasing stocking density and isolating any animals affected to reduce spread.
3. Increasing plane of nutrition- quality and quantity.
4. Minimising stress factors- such as offering shelter (bales etc..), minimising handling and nutritional changes.
5. Staying on top of worm management with regular fecal egg counts and drenching when required.
6. Understanding of BVD status- testing as necessary.

Metacam ACVM A011754
Bivatop ACVM A006867

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EXTRA

Drench Strategies for Autumn

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

Moving into the autumn period, it is time to start thinking about shedding the worm burden your herd has accumulated over the season. During the months of March and April we see the highest seasonal load of larval parasites on pasture.

Using long-acting pour-on products allows you to remove the existing burden, while continuing to control any newly ingested larvae for a period of around 4-5 weeks. Therefore, the optimal time to use the likes of Eprinex or Cydectin would be around mid-April. One area of consideration here though is that if treatment occurs too early in the autumn there may be opportunity for lice to repopulate over the winter/spring and require retreatment.

As a reminder pour-on products that contain abamectin may no longer be used in lactating cattle (35 day milk withhold). Genesis is no longer available but we do stock an abamectin product which is suitable for treatment of lice and internal worms (little persistent activity) at dry off.

Eprinex ACVM A007191
Cydectin ACVM A006203

RECENT CASE
Severe Parasitism in Calves

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

Last week one of our dairy farms noted the rapid deterioration in health of their calves. A large percentage of the group had notable weight loss, were tucked up (empty gutted) and were exhibiting a very fluid, large volume smelly scour. Two calves in the mob had died overnight initiating an investigation.

One very sick calf was euthanised and post-mortemed. The most immediate notable feature was a very thickened abomasum (4th stomach). The stomach contents were taken back to the clinic and a wash performed. It contained a very large number of worms. Faecal samples were also collected from 4 other affected calves – two of these contained 1200 eggs/gram which is indicative a very high worm burden.

Interestingly the calves had been drenched only 30 days previously. This indicates either an issue with drench resistance or rapid acquirement of a new infection. The warm humid conditions experienced earlier in the month may have resulted in rapid larval development and may be occurring on other farms. We will comment more next issue after further testing.

Photo of affected abomasum