



MOOZNEWS

VETERINARY CENTRE

Winter Dairy Seminars Thursday 6 May 2021

Speakers

- **Unlock the potential of cow collars**

"What we've learnt, as well as how it can be applied across non-collar farms"

Ryan Luckman BVSc (Veterinary Centre Waimate)

- **Are our drenches working?**

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD (Veterinary Centre Oamaru)

- **Body Condition Score at calving and mating**

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc (Veterinary Centre Oamaru)



Waimate Event Centre - 2.30pm

Oamaru, Lower Waitaki Golf Club - 7.00pm



Late season feeding – Eating Time vs Production

Ryan Luckman BVSc.
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Most people will have their eye cast firmly on next season as we count down to the end of May. Rounds have been extended to ensure adequate cover for Spring, and the ability to fully feed cows every day is becoming a bigger challenge on many farms.

In response many farms are having to increase supplement feeding, and often wondering if this addition is economic? This graph from an Allflex Collar farm with in-line milk meters tracks the "Average

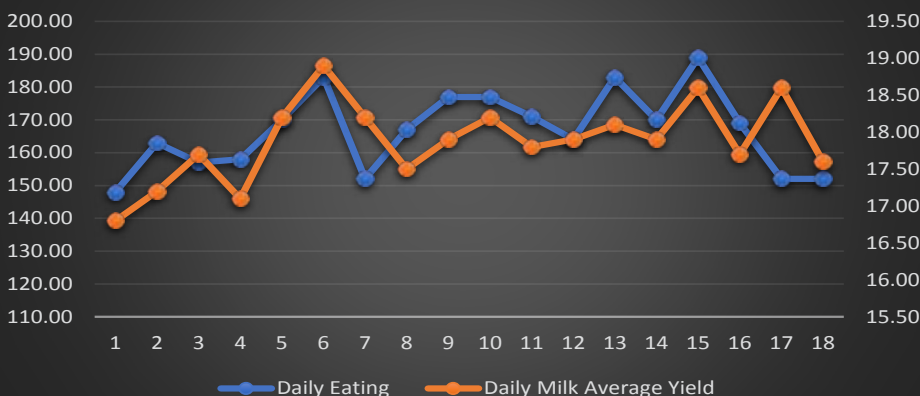
Daily Minutes spent Eating" (blue) vs the "Average Daily Production" (orange). Even in late season the production is tending to follow the daily eating time (note that the production is off-set by 24 hours here to reflect when you would see the milk in the vat).

This certainly won't fully answer the question of economics, BUT it does highlight that pinching feeding levels, even in late season, will be effecting production.

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Daily Eating vs Daily Production



OUR CLINICS

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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
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General Principles of Correct Fodder Beet Transition



Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

1. Measure your yield accurately

- Particularly important for the area that you will use to transition on. Get an expert to help and make sure DM % is measured at a lab.
- Rows are generally planted 50cm apart so there are usually two rows per metre square. A 25-tonne crop should contain 2.5kgDM/m² and 1.25kgDM/linear row metre respectively.

2. Allow at least 1 linear metre/cow along the face of the crop

- The 1m spacing means all cows can reach the face and ensures that shy cows can eat. NOTE: Any time a practice leads to differential feeding rates (i.e. shy cows unable to eat) then you will increase the risk of acidosis.

3. Ensure there is a 6m (minimum) to 10m headland that can be used for transitioning

- The headland provides space for

cows to enter the crop face and turn (important for less dominant cows). Using a beet bucket to harvest bulbs and create a headland is the most common method used. This headland can also act as an area where supplements can be fed.

4. Start at 1kgDM/day and stay there for 3 days until you are sure all cows are eating the beet and then increase by 1kg every second day

- over 14 days (to reach 8-9kg - cows which have never eaten beet before may/will take 21 days to achieve this). Ad-lib maximum intake is 10-12kg depending on breed size.
- Cows should not enter the paddock full on grass or supplement before-hand as some cows will not eat - leading to others overeating.
- Train 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.

5. Setting your allocation

- Cows can comfortably graze 18 inches under a wire. Set your fence 12 inches back from the row you wish to graze.

- Keep it simple – if you know your tonnage/ha, this will convert to kg/linear metre divided by two. Graze the length of your rows.

6. Feed a good quality supplement, but do not overfeed this.

- For dry cows, feed about 7kg of supplement initially. This should be a good quality supplement (not just Barley straw). Keep the supplement levels up around 7kg until the cows reach around 4kg of beet.
- Once at 5kg of Fodderbeet supplement can be reduced to 4kg (assuming it's not just barley straw!). Then keep the FB climbing
- 2-3kg of a hay or straw should be maintained even with cows at max feeding levels.

7. If you find beet underfoot BEFORE day 7, pull back – you have over allocated!

- You typically see the biggest issues with acidosis and deaths at day 7-10 of transition. It takes around 7 days for cows to reach maximum intake (but a further 7 days for the rumen to get ready).



Targeting BCS 5.0 at Calving

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

It is a well-known industry target that cows should be a minimum of BCS 4.5 at dry off at the end of May. If this is reached then cows only require a gain of 0.5 of a BCS over the winter to reach the desired target of 5.0 at the point of calving.

Cows which are at BCS 3.5, should be dried off now. Cows less than 3.5 are unlikely to get to BCS 5.0 by calving even if maximally fed. Most herds gain half a BCS over the winter and cows on true ad-lib beet feeding can gain 1-1.2 of a BCS if managed well.

Ideally cows would be wintered in groups according to predicted calving date. However, if there is a wide range in the BCS profile cows may need to be split up into BCS groups for tailored feeding through June and early July and then split into calving groups from mid-July.

An alternative is to winter the majority of cows in mobs based on predicted calving date, but also form a mob of light cows and a mob of fat cows.

Remember the aim is to restrict intakes of springers by 10-14 days before predicted

calving date, so the BCS target of 5.0 needs to be reached by 15th -20th of July for an early calver.

The Vet Centre offers a whole herd BCS service. We record this on Infovot (during milking) and then create mobs for wintering based on BCS and calving date. This information is also used to calculate required daily feed intakes for these mobs. Call you Prime Vet for more details.

Timely Reminder

Copper supplementation. Ensure heifers in late gestation have adequate copper supplementation to prevent humeral fractures in the spring. Talk to your Prime Vet about supplementation options.

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**Veterinary Centre –
By the Big Blue Cross**



Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Johne's News



A reminder as people are confirming culling lists that best practice for Johne's control is to:
Cull the positive and high positive animals from herd testing.
The suspects should either be culled or have a negative blood test result if they are being kept.



Clostridial Deaths

Jess McKenzie, BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Having recently dealt with a case of 'sudden death' in R1 dairy heifers (7-8 months old) due to clostridial disease, it came as a timely reminder of the importance and effectiveness of a vaccination programme against this group of diseases.

- 16 heifers out of 360 were lost sporadically over a period of 5-6 weeks whilst grazing a high clover content sward.
- Post-mortems were performed - a diagnosis of clostridial deaths was made.
- Although they had been vaccinated with a 10 in 1 as calves (Covexin-10) it is believed that they had not received their booster vaccination.
- They have since had a sensitiser followed up by a booster vaccination 4 weeks later.
- One week on since booster and we have had no further deaths.

Clostridial diseases are a group of infections that cause sudden death. Death is very rapid and usually occurs before the animals are even noticed. There are dozens of Clostridial species whose spores survive in the soil indefinitely. Control therefore relies on vaccination.

Calves usually receive their first vaccination at the time of disbudding. This should be

followed up with a booster vaccination four weeks later. Full protection is not achieved until 10 days after the booster vaccination. It is now also advised that stock grazing crops – particularly Fodder Beet – get a booster against clostridial diseases two weeks before going onto the crop, regardless of their previous vaccination history. The risk of clostridial deaths is higher for stock grazing crop due to a combination of factors but largely due the high 'sugar' level in the crop and high soil intake. When grazing fodder beet, once fully transitioned the main risk of disease comes from

clostridial infections.

Covexin 10 in 1 vaccine is considered the 'Rolls Royce' of clostridial protection covering 10 different strains of the disease. Cost = \$1.44 excl. per 2ml dose.

Vaccination is extremely effective at preventing and minimising losses associated with this group of diseases. It is also cost effective and losses of even small numbers of stock will cover the cost of vaccination. Because the bacteria form spores that are resistant in the environment, every animal is likely to experience a challenge in their lifetime.



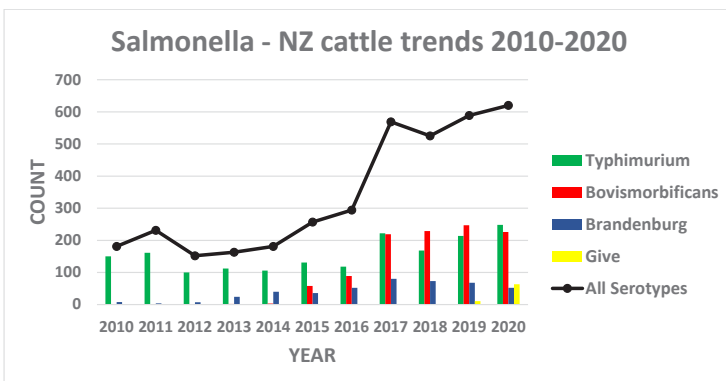
Maniototo & Omakau Late Lactation Update

George Smith BVSc BSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

- Irrigated land is continuing to perform well. Recent showers of rain have been a big help to grass growth rates and pasture covers.
- Temperatures in the Maniototo continue to be kind. The area has seen minimal frosts.
- Winter crops are on track for good yields. High potential yields in both Fodder beet and Swede crops have been driven by good amounts of rainfall throughout January.
- Most farms are now milking off fodder beet with good returns as we head into late lactation.

Salmonella cases on the rise

Salmonella is a significant disease of cattle. It is increasing in prevalence and is found throughout New Zealand. It is **3.8 times more prevalent now than in 2013**, as the graph below shows (Surveillance data, MPI).



Salmonella is a bacteria that is usually spread by healthy carrier animals which don't show signs of disease but shed bacteria (usually intermittently or at low levels). There are many serotypes, but the most important are shown on the graph above. *Salmonella* Give is a recent addition, currently only found in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Outbreaks happen when ingestion of an infective dose of *Salmonella* occurs at the same time as a stress (a change in feed, young calves, late pregnancy or immune suppression). It is at this time that animals become sick or abort from *Salmonella*; sick animals shed more *Salmonella* into the environment, which can infect other naive flock/ herd mates, making the outbreak worse. Recently we have seen a big increase in the number of sick calves due

to *Salmonella* bovismorbificans. As the name suggests, this serotype tends to cause high morbidity and mortality, especially in calves. Environmental conditions (such as wet weather) may also contribute, as it will favour *Salmonella* survival in the environment and/or help spread *Salmonella* around. Removal of aborted material or isolation of sick calves is essential as this is a source of bacteria.

The impact of an outbreak of *Salmonella* on a dairy farm can be devastating. On average 10% of cows become sick, and approximately 1-2% die.

Ways to reduce the risk of *Salmonella* on your farm are:

- Clean and disinfect yards between groups of animals
- Minimise time off feed when yarding/transporting
- Separate stress events (eg transport and vaccinating)
- Vaccinate at-risk animals prior to stress events or diet changes
- Double check magnesium supplementation forms/rates

If an outbreak occurs, consult your vet as soon as possible as different approaches are recommended depending on the situation.

In many cases, vaccination will be recommended. Salvexin+B is the *Salmonella* vaccine for sheep and cattle in New Zealand. Most farms only need to prevent one cow dying from *Salmonella* to justify the cost of preventatively vaccinating the whole herd.

For preventative vaccination, give two shots in the first year (sensitiser and booster) at least 4 weeks apart. The second shot should be at least 2-3 weeks before the risk period. An annual booster is required for ongoing protection. The booster shot (second shot in first year, or single annual booster in subsequent years) should be given at least 2-3 weeks before the risk period. A practical time to vaccinate for dairy farmers is around drying off, and this will allow colostral antibodies to pass into the calf.



Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



May has arrived so cows will start to be dried off. Regardless of what products you are using they will work best if they are applied correctly and to cows that don't lose some or all of the product after it has been inserted.

The following is a slide from the presentation you will have seen or will see at your Milk Quality Review and dry cow consult. It details some practices we have seen that result in good outcomes.

Keep an eye on the weather forecast and try to avoid wet weather as well. Finally please read the "Best practice administration" poster that we are attaching to all dry cow orders (Antibiotic DCT and TeatSeal) and make all of your staff aware of the standard of hygiene you expect when putting any product into a cow's teat.

1	2	3	4
At Last Milking	Set Up	Insertion of product	After Insertion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify/mark cows by treatment category with colour codes • Cows to stand on yard after milking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean down shed • All staff have a quick breakfast • Return for staff briefing – roles and process • Set up tables, water baths and towels. • Have an overseer that ensures area stays clean, restocks tubes, provides clean towels, watches job hygiene etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practice to have 1-2 pre-cleaners of teats • Follow best practice administration guide. Teats <u>must be cleaned again</u> before each insertion • Mark cows as treated, teatspray and clean-up tissues/tubes before exit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cows stand on yard till last cow treated in mob • Cows slowly walked back to paddock (controlled by bike in front) • Put cows in large area, low cover/tag to clean up, feed straw

Autumn Drenching

Genesis Pour on

Price

- From \$1.89 plus gst per 500kg cow dose

Active

- Abamectin
- Oil based

Features/Label Claims

- 14 days persistent activity
- 99% effective against lice

Withholds

- Milk Nil
- Meat 35 days

Notes -

Oceania Dairy

- Currently has a supplier ban on the use of abamectin in lactating cows
- Fonterra and other companies are aware of Oceania's ban but continue to accept milk as per the existing label claims from abamectin containing products.



Cydectin Pour on

Price

- From \$4.57 plus gst per 500kg cow dose
- Large farm deals available

Active

- Moxidectin
- Features/Label Claims
- 35 days persistent activity against Ostertagia
- Label claim against lice

Withholds

- Milk Nil
- Meat Nil

Notes -

- A flexible and effective product for use whilst still lactating.



Drying Cows Off

Luke Smyth BVSc.
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The goals of dry-off are to; cure existing subclinical mastitis infections and prevent new infections through the dry period and early lactation.

To achieve this, not only do we need to select the right cows to keep in the herd and the right dry cow product to treat them with, but we also need to adequately prepare cows nutritionally to successfully dry them off.

For cows doing less than 5L/day (0.4 kg MS/day) this is not a problem- Just do it.

- SCC will be increasing and the risk of an inhibitory grade in spring is much higher if milk volume is very low at dry off.
- For cows doing between 5-10L/day (0.5-1 kg MS/day), these cows will handle drying off fine.
- There is no need to change the diet prior to dry off. But reduce intakes to maintenance for 7-10 days after dry off, 8-10kg DM/day.
- But for cows producing between 10-20L/day (>1kg MS/day) it can be a challenge shutting down production.
- Nutritional changes must be made at least a week before the last milking and then again 3 days before dry off date.
- A reduction in both energy and protein intake will have the greatest effect.



Compass

Explore the potential

WHOLE HERD PREGNANCY RETEST \$1.67 plus GST

Identifying just 0.5% empties will off-set the preg testing in cow wintering costs.