

Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Reproduction Matters

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Hitting 3-week Submission Rate Target – the Countdown is on!

In the next few days most farms will be nearing the mid-point of the first three weeks of mating.

In theory at least 45% of the herd needs to have been put up for insemination by day 10 to be on track to exceed the 90% target.

Day 11 of mating is the last chance to initiate a CIDR program of non-cycling cows to ensure they are mated by day 21. Not only does this 3-week submission rate drive 6 week in-calf rate, but in a time where most farms are now mating for little more than 10 weeks, cows which are not submitted in the first 3 weeks will only have 2 more opportunities to get pregnant before the end of mating.

Second Round of Mating

The second 21 days of your AI period is just as important as your first. Staff motivation can however drop meaning heat detection rates can reduce.

- Heat detection aids (K-mars, ScratchE's) will improve heat detection sensitivity if scrutiny of tail paint drops.
- If using tail paint, use a different colour to paint cows inseminated in the 2nd round of AI.
- Refer to your AI chart if in doubt about whether a cow is a return. If she was last inseminated 18-24 days ago, there is a good chance she is a genuine return.
- As mating continues the number of cows in sexually active groups (SAG's) reduces. Ensure cows which are AI'd are returned immediately to the herd to form new SAG's to encourage tail paint loss in new cows coming on heat.

- Use paddock checks to increase sensitivity. These should be done 2 hours after the morning and evening shift

The Cost of a Missed Heat

For the average producing farm in our area which AI's for six weeks and mates for a total of 10 weeks the cumulative cost of missing one heat in the first round is as follows:

- 17 days lost milk x (1.4kgMS/day x \$7.50kgMS) = \$178
- \$1,000 net cost of empty cow x 12.5% higher chance of being empty = \$125
- 30% reduction in chance of producing a heifer replacement = \$26
- Less the cost of extra feed above maintenance (17 days x 30c/kgDM x 6kgDM) = \$30

Total opportunity cost = ~\$359/missed heat in the first round.

- **A missed heat in the second round costs increases to approximately \$463 due to higher empty rates (25%) and no heifer replacements!!**



Day 24 of Mating Have all the cows been put up?

If a farm has done early intervention with non-cyclers during the first 3 weeks of mating, then by day 24, in theory, the whole herd will have been mated. This is seldom ever the case!

There will be a mixture of unmated cows by this date which will include cystic ovaries, late calvers, missed heats, pyometras and genuine anoestrus cows.

If you have a significant number of these cows, it is worth getting them scanned or palpated at day

24-26 and provide them with specific treatments.



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**NEW
Ranfurly
Partner
Announced**



Vanessa Love BVSc
Veterinary Centre - PARTNER

We are very excited to announce that Vanessa Love, resident Veterinarian in Ranfurly, is now a partner of our Veterinary Centre business.

Vanessa's partnership is a major milestone in the future of the Ranfurly practice, which this year marks 10 years of operation since opening in 2013.

Vanessa has anchored our Ranfurly clinic in a manner that has impressed both large and small animal clients. Her leadership and ability to work easily with others has contributed greatly to the development of a very cohesive Ranfurly team.

Outbreaks of Calf Pneumonia

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Last year we had four separate outbreaks of calf pneumonia in late October/early November in our district. Calves which contracted pneumonia had a rapid deterioration in health with obvious breathing difficulties. Mortality rates reached as high as 8% on one farm. The causative bacteria (isolated by culture) on all farms was found to be *Pasteurella multocida* which had a very aggressive strain type. This bacteria appears to be on the increase in NZ.

Last week saw another outbreak of pneumonia. This was on a calf rearing operation that had 500 calves in six mobs. All mobs were affected with coughing and rapid deaths. In the space of 48hrs, 12 deaths had occurred. The lesions in the lungs of these calves looked different to what we observed last year. Bacterial culture of the damaged lungs revealed heavy growths of a bacteria called *Histophilus somni*. This bacteria can live in the mouth and was probably spread via the calfateria.

Both of these bacteria are fortunately sensitive to oxytetracycline, and in all cases, this was successful in controlling outbreaks. In these cases weather conditions had been good leading up to the outbreak so it was hard to determine what triggered them.



The small amount of pink lung is healthy, whereas the dark purple is diseased and no longer inflates with air

h HIGHHEELS

Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons) – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



We are stocking a new block to go on the feet of lame cows called **High Heels**. This has been designed by a vet working in the Taranaki.

Advantages of the high heels:

- They are quick and easy to apply. The glue is fully bonded within a minute.
- The glue bonds just as fast in cool temperatures and you don't have to mix the glue.
- They are made of rubber which squishes slightly making them more comfortable than rigid plastic or wooden blocks.
- They are 25mm thick as opposed to other products which are thinner. This ensures the diseased claw is kept well off the ground.
- You can position them further back on the claw making the cow more comfortable when they walk on them.
- We have trialed the High Heels on 7 cows on a local farm. These have stayed on from 3 weeks to 8 weeks and counting! The claim is 80% retention at 3 weeks.
- High Heels come in a six pack and retail at \$23.80 +GST/block.
- In order to get them to stick, it is imperative you use a grinder disc to create a flat bonding surface for the glue. The recommended grinder disc is the 'Domotec DL soft' that is sourced from VeeHof. Our retail cost ~\$360 +GST.
- We are happy to show you a few tricks when applying them so that they stick well. The link to the website and instructions is <https://www.highheels.net.nz/instructions>



Effect of Lameness on Reproduction

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Lame cows continue to be among the three main problems we are seeing on our clients farms together with mastitis and infertility. Lame cows are clearly visible but often not treated promptly.

At this time of year with peak milk production and AB well under way, the economic effect of lame cows can be huge due to lost milk production, lost body weight and the fact that lame cows are less likely to cycle on time.

Lame cows are half as likely to conceive and take on average 40 days longer to conception, compared to their healthy herd mates.

If you need help with lameness contact Andrew, Luke or Ryan at The Veterinary Centre.



Calves enjoying the sunshine in Poolburn

Calf Weaning

Jess McKenzie BVSc (Dist)

VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Making sure a calf is fully prepared before weaning reduces the chance that they will need preferential treatment post-weaning. Preferentially managing small groups of animals to 'catch them up' is time consuming and can be difficult to manage, so it is best avoided by good management early on.

Factors to consider before weaning calves:

- 1) **Rumen Development** – Are they consuming the desired amount of feed? Is its rumen sufficiently developed to be weaned off milk?
 - The only way this can be assessed is by measuring the amount of concentrate or pasture they are readily eating, which should be at least 1kg/day of meal or 2kg/day of pasture.
- 2) **Weight** – Individual calves should reach a minimum weight prior to weaning.
 - No specific weaning weight has been defined by research, however common weights used are 70kg for Jerseys, 80kg for Crossbreds, and 90kg for Friesians.
 - Reaching a minimum weight is an important milestone as it indicates that they are ready to transition from individual to group management.
- 3) **Age** – A combination of weight and age is often good to use when making the weaning decision eg. a minimum of 8 weeks AND 90kg.
- 4) **Ability to Compete Within a Group** – Is the calf able to compete within the group before they are weaned? Any that aren't should be held back until they are.

The aim is to have calves that continue to gain weight post-weaning - they should never lose weight or remain static. Some animals don't thrive post-weaning so it is a good idea to weigh them 7-10 days post-weaning to make sure they have gained weight. Any that haven't may need continued access to calf meal, regardless of weight or age, or examination by a vet.

Relocating Calves

Relocating calves can result in growth checks, or be a trigger for other animal health issues including pneumonia, scouring and parasites. Recently weaned calves are at particular risk as they are also undergoing changes in diet, rumen development and are usually younger in age.

A few criteria to consider for relocating recently weaned calves include:

- Fully weaned and off milk for at least two weeks.
- Meet the minimum target weight for their age.
- Transitioned onto a full pasture diet or supplement provided for transition.
- Competing and coping well within the group.
- Drenched and vaccinated.
- In good health.



Minimising Coccidiosis Outbreaks

Jess McKenzie BVSc(Dist.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease which primarily occurs in young cattle between 3-8 months of age. Occasionally the disease is seen in animals as young as 4 weeks. Coccidia are widespread in the environment, however disease only occurs if large numbers of the parasite are ingested or if their resistance is lowered due to stress, poor nutrition, concurrent disease, or heavy worm burdens. Coccidia can survive for long periods on pasture - grazing calves on the same paddocks each year increases the risk due to significant build-up of oocysts on paddocks, especially in wet conditions.

Calves present with diarrhoea typically containing mucous and blood. They frequently strain to pass faeces, swish their tails, are often off their food and appear uncomfortable and unhappy. Faecal staining on the back of the thighs is often evident. Affected calves lose weight rapidly due to gut damage and growth rates can suffer for months after the disease. Most calf meals contain a coccidiostat which prevents the infection becoming established – however the protective effect relies on calves consuming about 1kg of meal/day. Often mobs are eating more than this **on average** but there are always some calves that eat less than others.

Treatment is with Toltrox (as a single oral dose) or injectable Amphoprim (antibiotic) and are usually effective, especially when instigated early in the disease. History and clinical signs are often enough for a presumptive diagnosis, however faecal samples are required to confirm and are relatively quick and cheap to perform.

Turbo Initial is also a good product to keep in mind – a dual action double combination drench (Eprinomectin and Levamisole) with added Diclazuril for coccidia control. Post-weaning off calf meal, some calves will become very susceptible to coccidiosis. Calves at risk can be strategically treated with Turbo Initial once at 18-20 days after weaning off meal. This allows them time to establish an infection and gain some immunity, then treating the infection before it can cause disease.

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. Turbo Initial ACVM A011703

Active ingredients:

- 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)

Dose rate:

1ml/10kg

Withholding periods:

35 days meat.

Not to be used on bobby calves.

2.5L \$749 Incl GST
\$2.35 plus gst per 90 kg calf



BVD Testing of Calves



Testing your replacement calves is an easy and effective way to nip BVD in the bud on your farm. It means that infected calves can be removed from a herd while they are young and before they cause more problems especially if they come into contact with cows or heifers during mating. If you are considering DNA testing your calves doing a BVD test only requires ticking an additional box on a form if they are over 35 days of age. If you aren't going to DNA test then getting a blood sample or an ear notch is an easy way to check your calves.

Enjoy a FREE Festive Ham-on-the-Bone

Receive a FREE Festive Ham when you purchase indicated quantities of selected drenches exclusively from the Veterinary Centre by the Big Blue Cross



* Offer valid while stocks last. To qualify a single purchase must include the indicated quantity of drench ie ...

Timely Reminders & Hints for November

- Covexin 10 – If you have unexplained deaths in young stock every year despite using 5 in 1 vaccine, you should consider using Covexin 10 in 1 vaccine, which provides additional protection against two other major clostridial diseases – Clostridium sordelli and Clostridium perfringens type A.



- Pink eye in calves – We are coming up to the Pink eye season in calves. A single dose of Piliguard vaccine given 3-6 weeks before the risk period will significantly reduce the risk of an outbreak.



Oral Calf Drenches

Double Combination

TURBO ADVANCE

First Eprinomectin-Levamisole Oral Combination Drench

Actives:

- Eprinomectin
- Levamisole
- Selenium
- Cobalt



Dose Rate

1ml/10kg

Turbo Advance ACVM A011714

5L	\$459.00	BUY 2
15L	\$1,085.00	BUY 1

Including GST

Double Combination

COOPERS

SCANDA Selenised

Actives:

- Oxfendazole
- Levamisole
- Selenium
- Cobalt
- Zinc



Dose Rate

1ml/10kg

Coopers Scanda Selenised ACVM A007368

2.5L	\$184.20	BUY 3
10L	\$395.00	BUY 2
20L	\$769.00	

Including GST



Uddernews

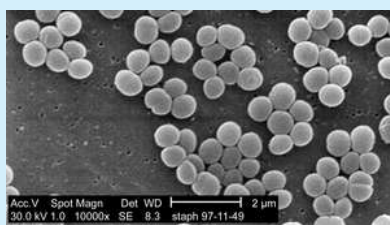
Hamish Newton BVS PhD
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Staph aureus Testing

At the next herd test (2nd herd test) consider using the samples collected to identify cows that are carrying the *Staph aureus* bug. If you have a stubbornly high BMSCC, it is likely there are cows in the herd that have a subclinical infection (an infection that is not causing obvious signs) and many of these infections will be due to *Staph aureus*. While these infections may not appear to be causing mastitis, they are a source of bugs to infect other cows and will be raising the BMSCC. If you can halve your BMSCC you will end up with >2% more milk into vat. It is now cost effective, and easy, to test for this bug in the herd test samples. Cows that are found to be carrying *Staph aureus* could be managed separately,

be put on a potential cull list, or a list to receive an antibiotic dry cow therapy if she is not able to be culled. You can nominate individual cows to have their milk tested or give a list of criteria such as "test cows greater than 4 yrs. old that have a SCC greater than 400 at the current herd test". Give one of the Veterinary Centre clinics a ring and this testing can be arranged through LIC.



Watch out for a Rise in BMSCC

We expect to see many BMSCCs spiking in the next week or so. "Stress" has been implicated as a cause of increased SCCs but experimentally this has not been demonstrated convincingly and estrus and stray voltage probably do not directly raise SCC, but do so by cows delaying their milk let down. When cups are on a cow that is not letting her milk down, at either end of her milking, the risk of mastitis increases. This highlights the importance of not over milking. You obviously want cows to express estrus but don't compound some unavoidable over milking with excessively long row times due to drafting etc. Your milking team may have to hang some cups between rows when large numbers of cows are being drafted or when touching up tail paint etc.