



MOOZNEWS

The Landscape Ahead

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



There is a growing nervousness about how this winter might play out if issues arise with the slaughter of empty cows and culls.

A bottle neck is already in play with offloading and slaughter of cull cows and we don't know what could happen around the next corner. If community spread of Covid-19 was to occur at an abattoir there is likely to be shut-downs for significant periods.

It may be prudent to run some scenarios on your farm operation if you had to retain cull animals through the winter period. This could involve importing feed, earlier dry offs, or identifying groups for staggered dry-off or feed prioritisation.

Everyone strives for optimal BCS at calving, but the welfare of non-priority groups is paramount.

Business, but not business as usual!

The primary sector is going to be held aloft over the period of the next 12-24 as the saviours of our economy. It is very important that the wheels are kept turning and veterinarians will play their part in making this happen. However just like every business there are some slight changes in how we will operate.

- We're still open for essential services
 - ♦ We are doing most farm calls. Most vet jobs either aim too:
 - Alleviate/resolve welfare or illness
 - enhance the medium-term productivity and sustainability of a farm.
 - ♦ Observe 2m distance from our staff.

- ♦ Have stock ready in the yards. We will stay in our trucks and not go on farm vehicles.
- ♦ We will supply our own food and drink.
- Delivery of product
 - ♦ Our TM's are still operating.
 - ♦ Please contact your TM directly or the clinic.
 - ♦ Supplies are dropped at your designated spot on farm.
- Pick up of goods
 - ♦ Ring ahead. Ring when you arrive.
 - ♦ We will leave out for you.



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Veterinary Centre

Dairy Farmer Autumn Seminar

Cancelled
Date: TUESDAY 21 April
Venue: 2.30pm - 7.00pm
7.00pm - 8.00pm
Oamaru Veterinary Centre, 111 St. Kilmartin St, Oamaru



Andrea Murphy
Dairy nutrition consultant
Best practice dry-off protocols to minimise mastitis risk and maximise cow health

Dr Neil Chesterton
NZ's leading lameness expert.
Strategies for prevention of White Line Disease (WLD)

All Welcome



- Veterinary Centre Oamaru**
- Veterinary Centre Waimate**
- Veterinary Centre Palmerston**
- Veterinary Centre Glenavy**
- Veterinary Centre Kurow**
- Veterinary Centre Omarama**
- Veterinary Centre Ranfurly**

- Ph 03-434 5666**
- Ph 03-689 7213**
- Ph 03-465 1291**
- Ph 03-689 8118**
- Ph 03-436 0567**
- Ph 03-438 9868**
- Ph 03-444 1020**





Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

'Pro-active' Management Post-weighting – what does it look like?

Jess McKenzie BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

We always talk about regular weighing of youngstock and how important it is, particularly as it allows for 'pro-active' management. If heifers are under target at weighing, action can be taken straight away to get them back on track.

The bar graph pictured here, taken from Minda Weights, is a good example of this. It follows a group of 75 R1 dairy heifers from November 2018 - November 2019.

- In the January 2019 weighing approximately 40% of animals in the 'underweight' category.
- There was then a large gap over the autumn and winter months where they were not weighed at all.
- Weighed again October 2019 – 42% of animals now 'underweight'.

Advice was sought and one of our Waimate Vets was called out to help get them back on track. Animal health treatments (drenching, trace elements, vaccinations etc) were all up to date and had been adequate. Disease was not an issue. Feeding levels were checked and although feed quality was good, they were simply not being offered enough. By quickly working out the feed requirements for the group (and accounting for the 5 bulls which had just joined them!) a big improvement was seen in the next weighing session 6 weeks later simply by lifting feeding levels.

This can be seen in the bar on the far right of the graph. We were able to decrease the number of 'underweight' animals from 32 down to 8 over a 6 week period simply by working out the feed demand/heifer/day, calculating the break size required and offering it.

For a heifer to reach her target weight by the planned start of calving, she needs to grow at an average of 600 grams/day over her first 22 months of life. This average balances out as you will typically get better weight gains/day over spring/early summer months (1kg +/-day) and lower weight gains possibly during winter as perhaps crop is introduced and animals are transitioned or inclement weather is encountered (eg. maybe down to 400 grams/day for a period of time).

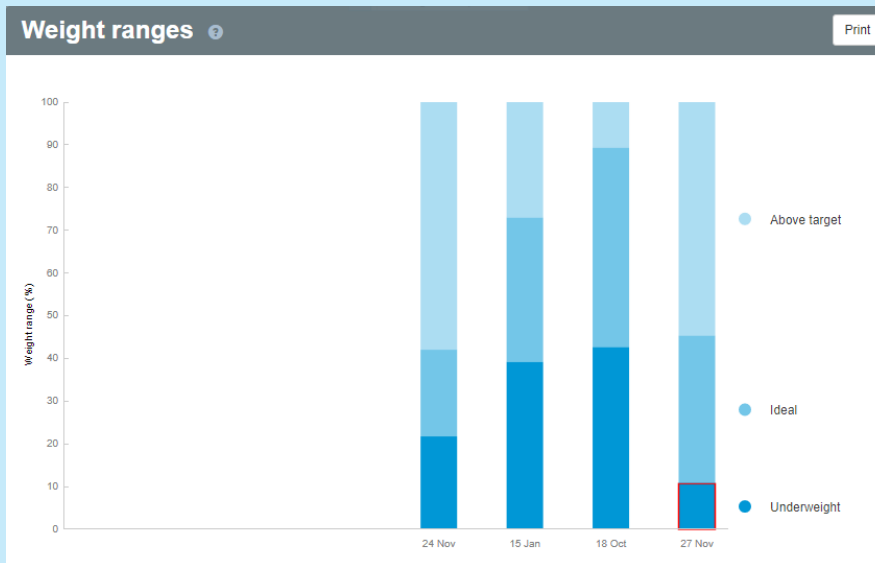
As a rule of thumb, the amount of feed to OFFER youngstock from **post mating** is:

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

Which for a 400 kg R2 heifer gaining 600 grams/day = 8 kg DM + 1.8 kg DM = 9.8 kg DM/day.

Any questions on any of the above please get in touch with your Vet Centre vet and we can talk it through.

Throughout the next four weeks I hope that you all stay safe, look after your families and take care. xx



Range	November 2018		January 2019		October 2019		November 2019	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Above target	40	58	20	27	8	10.7	41	54.7
Ideal	14	20.3	25	33.8	35	46.7	26	34.7
Underweight	15	21.7	29	39.2	32	42.7	8	10.7
Total Animals	69		74		75		75	

To potentially prescribe large quantities of DCT antibiotic our Vet Council requires that vets perform a farmer consultation. There are no exceptions to this rule - even under the current situation. As we can no longer do this 'around the coffee table', we are currently arranging for these to occur via a 'Zoom' consult. Zoom is a videolink application that allows multiple users to communicate and share documents and text. After making an appointment your Prime vet will send you a link that you will initiate at the designated consult time.



Nitrate Toxicity Alert

Brassicas (Kale, Chou, Rape, Turnips and Swedes), fodderbeet, Italian ryegrass and oats can all produce nitrate toxicity. Of this group, rape is the most notorious – winter rape crops continue to gain popularity in this area for heifer grazing. Before introducing animals to crop this season, we urge that it be tested first. Nitrate test kits can be purchased from any of our clinics, representing a cheap investment. Alternatively bring in samples to be tested by our staff.

Body Condition Score

Lauren Strange BVSc
Waimate Veterinary Centre

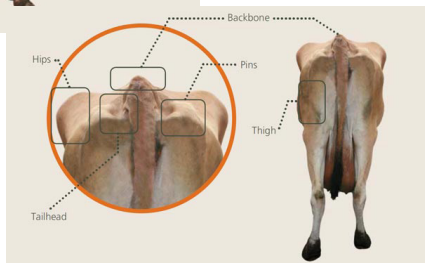
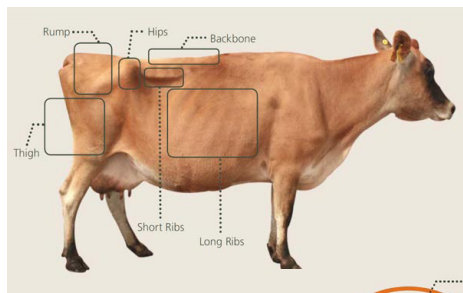


Early April is the time to start drying off lighter cows in order to allow them to gain body condition prior to calving. Gaining this body condition will reduce the risk of calving problems and metabolic issues, saving you precious time and energy during the busy calving period. Cows that are a body condition 3.5 or less should be dried off in the next couple of weeks. Cows that are BCS 4.0 need to have a strategy put in place to reach BCS 4.5 by the start of June. This may include extra feed and/or OAD milking. Light cows may also particularly benefit from a dry off drench to reduce the impact of parasites over the coming months.

Determining cows that are BCS 3.5 or less:

- Stand at the same level of the cow, don't try and do it from the pit. You need to be able to get your hands on them.
- BCS is determined by looking at 8 key areas of the cow: the backbone, hips, rump, tailhead, pins, thigh, short and long ribs (see pictures). If you haven't body condition scored before, keep it simple and focus on the easiest areas to assess, like the backbone, hips, pins and tail head.
- Backbone – are there notches? BCS <3.5.
- Hips – place a cupped hand over the hip bone, if it doesn't fill your cupped hand and there are dips between the hip and backbone when viewed from behind then BCS is <3.5.
- Pin bones – are they tap shaped? BCS <3.5.
- Tail head – between the tail and the pins is there any fat? Low fat will form a deep V shape.

DairyNZ has some great resources on their website, including video's and a quiz to help you get your eye in, if you're feeling particularly keen. Where physical distancing can be arranged our vets can continue to offer this important service.



Diagrams sourced from Dairy NZ

BCS	3.0	4.0	BCS	3.0	4.0
Backbone Rear view Side profile			Pins		
Long Ribs			Tailhead		
Short Ribs			Rump		
Hips			Thigh		



BVD Bulletin



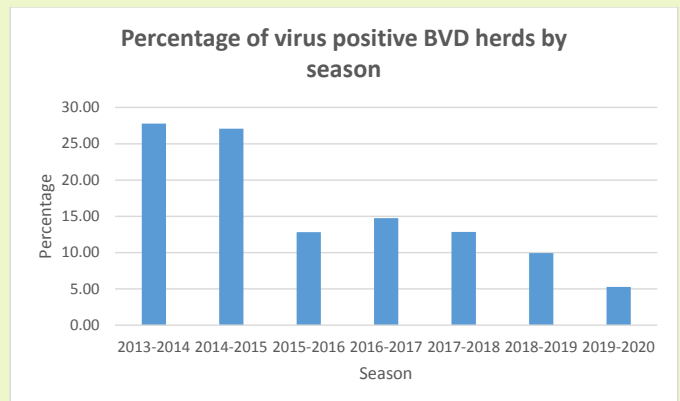
Andrew Muir BVSc., BSc (Hons).
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

At this time of the season we start to get the final bulk milk BVD results through. This month will be the first of a 2 month summary of these results. I always find this exciting time as we look at the changes that have occurred and whether we are making progress eliminating this virus from local dairy herds.

This year

- 206 sheds bulk milk BVD tested an increase from 192 sheds last season.
- 20 of the 206 sheds were found to have BVD virus circulating in their herds.
- 11 of the herds have since managed to find and remove these PI(s). Meaning there are only 9 herds left with PI cow(s) in them.
- Of these remaining 9 herds I am aware of at least one of them that has hopefully just about got themselves clear as well.
- This is a fantastic result meaning that just over 5% of our dairy herds still have a PI cow in them. This is a significant drop when you look back 5 seasons to when over a quarter of farms testing were infected.

The hope would be that we can reduce the number of infected herds even further. Recently published data from a large dairy practice in the Taranaki has shown that they have been able to get the percentage of infected herds to less than 2%. There is no reason that this result can't be replicated in our area, with the associated benefits on reproductive performance.



Late Season Herd Testing & Implications on DCT Supply

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc Oamaru Veterinary Centre

With LIC unable to supply technician assists at Herd Testing, we have heard that a few farms have pulled out on their final herd test already.

The industry is still trying to decrease the amount of antibiotic Dry Cow Therapy (DCT) use, by promoting the use of Teatseal only in low SCC cows. However, this can only be accomplished if herd test records (or RMT tests) are available within less than 80 days of dry off. We still actively encourage you to use selective DCT to help minimise development of antibiotic resistance.

However, it is probable that there will be an increased number of farms that will not have adequately trained staff to insert Teatseal, or be able to identify low SCC cows. While we currently have adequate levels of DCT for our practice, it is likely that these changes in herd testing and staff training will put pressures on the national DCT stocks. As such could you please let us know now of any changes to your herd test schedule that might indicate changes to approach to DCT this year.



Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



EduBits



Micro-credentials:

a bite-sized revolution in learning and development

Intramammary treatment online course

Do you or your staff want to upskill and administer mastitis treatments and dry cow therapy to best practice standards? Do you want to extract the full value out of your dry cow therapy?

There is a new course that you can take without leaving your farm or needing anybody from outside to come onto your farm.

Zoetis and Otago Polytechnic have collaborated to make a short course on intramammary administration called the "Best Practice Intramammary Administration for Dairy Cattle EduBit".

EduBits are small bite-sized courses, in which the learner demonstrates a specific skill or expertise. Students who successfully demonstrate the skill receive a digital certificate which they can display on their CV, email signature, online resume or blog.

Anybody can take the EduBit and there are no prerequisites. It costs \$99 + GST per person and is valid for 12 months.

There is a mixture of online and on-farm work. You can either jump straight to the assessment or take the online training first. Assessment consists of an online test and uploading a few short videos of you performing best practice administration. The assessment and training are both taken at your own pace in your own time and there is no time limit, so you can do a little bit, save your work, and come back later to finish it!

Visit <https://edubits.nz/> or contact us to learn more.



OAD Milking & 16 Hour Milking in Late Lactation/Wet Tracks

This late lactation strategy is commonly adopted to increase cows condition (or minimise condition loss!) before dry off. Cows which are producing less than:

- 1.2kgMS/day will have minimal reduction in milk yield (<10%) when placed on OAD.
- 1.6kgMS/day will have little reduction in yield on a 16hour milking routine.

Because milk production at this stage of lactation is not necessarily compromised, condition gain will only occur if cows continue to be fed like a twice a day milker. At most a cow on OAD will require about 1.5kgDM/day less than a TAD cow to remain in the same energy state.

Possibly the biggest advantage from extending milking periods is lameness reduction. Cows are very prone to going lame in late lactation due to extended periods of walking on wet tracks. Cows which are lame, spend more time sitting and therefore do not eat as much..... so they lose weight.

Expect a spike in BMSCC for the first 48 hours after going on OAD, but be cautious about using this strategy if you BMSCC is already over 200,000.

Introducing New Members of our Team



Ella Swann BVSc
Veterinarian
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

After growing up in the North Island, then spending 5 years at university in Palmy North, I figured time to figure out what this South Island is about. I am excited to develop a well-rounded set of skills that can be used across the board of mixed animal practice. I'm looking forward to calving later in the year and in the meantime, I also find Milk Quality Reviews interesting. Outside of work I enjoy hiking and getting involved in the local hockey club.

I am looking forward to meeting and working alongside all of the Veterinary Centre's farmers and clients.



Jasper Meek BVSc
Veterinarian
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

I come from a faraway place called Auckland (don't hold it against me). I have since seen the light and decided to make the move to the better island. I have a keen interest in dairy herd health, particularly maximising reproduction, nutrition, and calf rearing. I'm super excited to get stuck into calving season. I enjoy most sports and grew up playing football, basketball, and volleyball, but migrated to Oamaru to make the most of our backyard. I love the outdoors and try get out skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, tramping, and surfing as much as possible. I look forward to getting out on farm and meeting all the dairy farmers of the Oamaru Veterinary Centre.