



VETS ON ALABAMA DAIRY NEWS

December 2016

In This Issue:

- Facial Eczema
- Reproduction
- Late Season Metabolic Disease
- Calves
- Welcome to Urthe
- Calf Packs

Heads Up on Facial Eczema (FE)

Facial eczema has had a lot of coverage in the press lately, having had bad years in the North Island in 2015 and 2016. Increasingly we are realising that there is also significant risk in the top of the South-particularly in the western areas and the Sounds. For this reason prevention strategies need to be put in place so that if challenge does increase we are in a good place rather than starting from scratch.

We will be providing our FE monitoring service for clients again this year but as FE is such an unpredictable disease these reports are really only a guide to general spore count challenge in the district. The only really reliable way to define challenge on your farm is to submit pasture samples yourself.

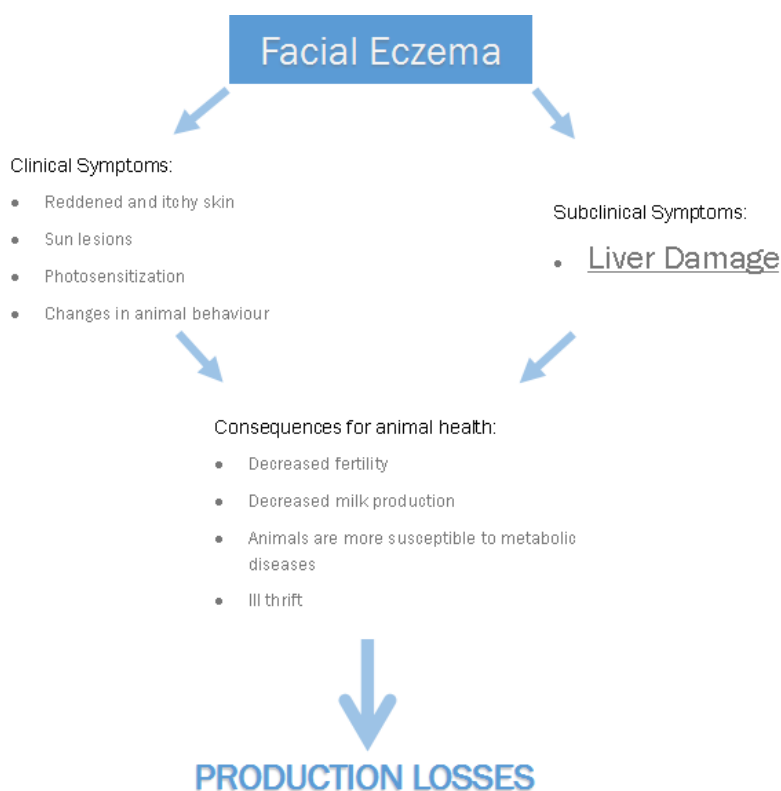
Our general advice is to start half dose zinc early February and then increase to full dose when spore counts indicate its time. You can't use zinc at FE prevention levels for over 100 days as it becomes toxic so don't start too early-in the last few years April has been a high risk month. The level of zinc for trace element supplementation is minute compared with FE prevention so don't assume that you are covered for FE if there is zinc in your trace element mix.

Methods of zinc supplementation have been recently reviewed in a large North Island study and the results were surprising and disappointing. In 100 herds with active zinc supplementation methods in operation nearly half the cows had blood zinc levels below a lower levels thought to be necessary to prevent FE.

The study also suggests that the effectiveness of FE prevention strategy should be assessed by blood tests to evaluate blood zinc concentration.

Options for supplementation include dosatron or Pieter dispenser use of zinc monohydrate, or drenching or in feed supplementation of zinc oxide.

Perhaps the most reliable form of zinc supplementation is via a zinc bolus which is most suitable for young stock and sheep but also now available for adult cattle and heifers. The bolus gives 6 weeks protection but can be topped up a further 6 weeks.



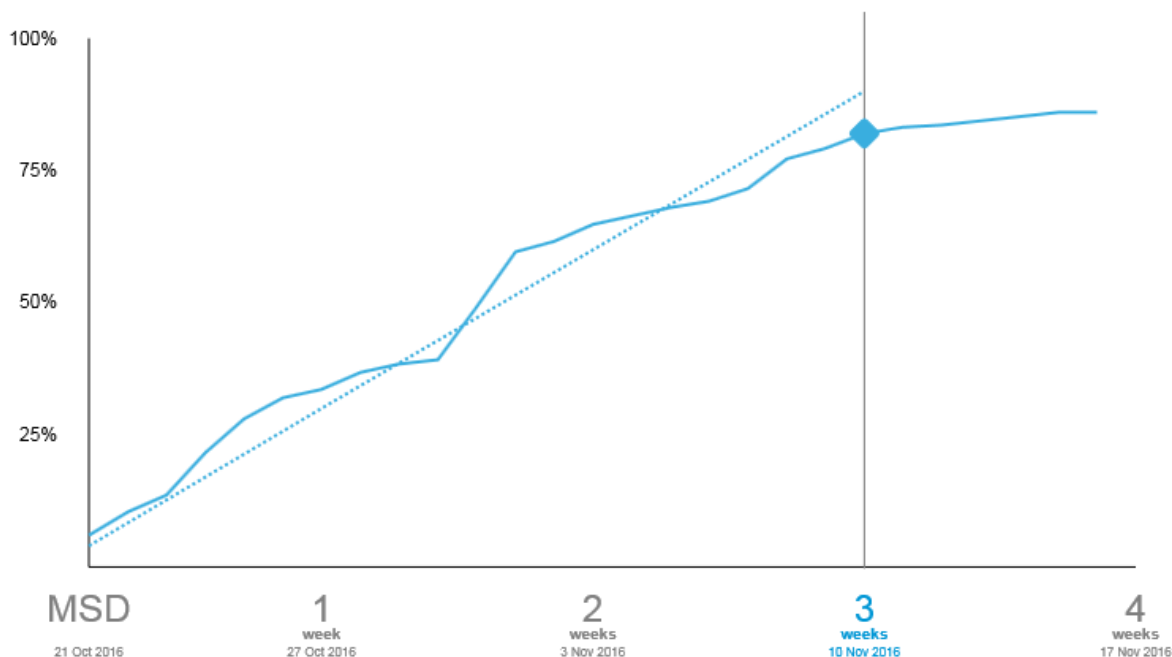
Reproduction

Submission Rates

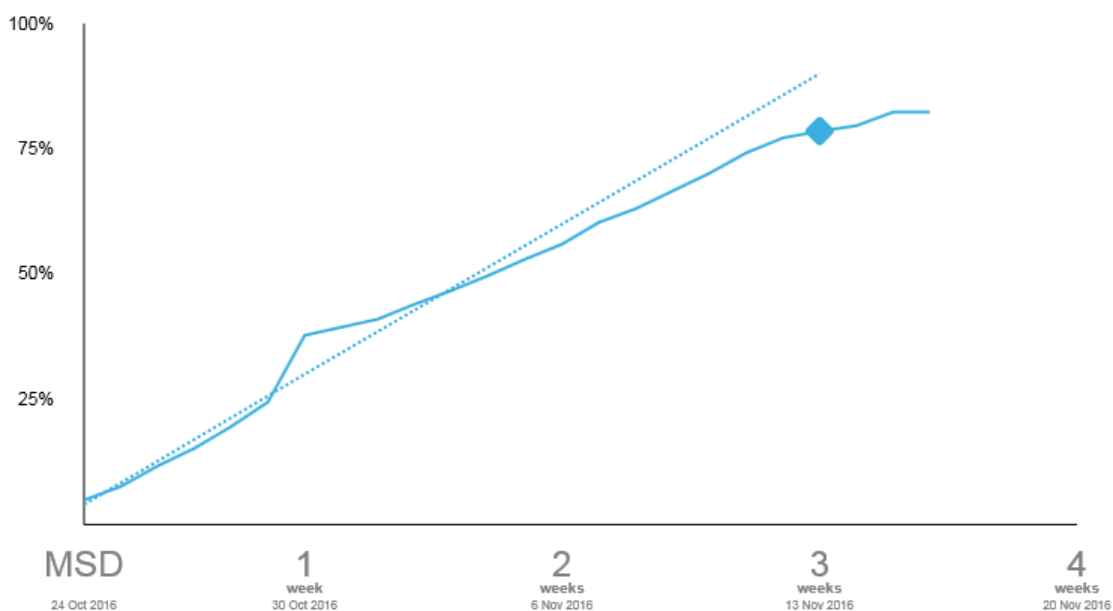
It seems both nationally and locally submission rates are lower than last year. Also nationally there have been increased numbers of synchronised non cyclers this year. The effect of below optimal submission rates will be slower calving, reduced days in milk and it will put more pressure on service bulls so calculations made to assess number of bulls needed may be slightly out. Three week submission rates have varied widely on farms we have access to minda on this year with some achieving over 85% (target 90%) and some in the 60's. Each year is so different it is hard to explain but there was a lot of subclinical ketosis (see last newsletter) diagnosed on pre mating bloods this year which may well have had an effect. This combined with the poor weather and lack of sun in the early mating period is likely to be significant. Last year we saw pregnancy rates drop off in the second three weeks of mating-so really the opposite to this year.

Various interventions will assist in meeting target submission rates such as treating non cyclers and the why wait programme which is proving very popular. We can discuss all these options with you ahead of next year's mating.

This is a herd's submission rate up to 3 weeks that used the why wait programme-see the 2 humps in weeks 1 and 2:



This is a herd's 3 week submission rate that used CIDRS –see the spike at week 1:



Late season Metabolic Disease

It has been of interest that we have seen a fair bit of later season metabolic disease this year with downer cows showing up in October and November. This confirms the need to continue magnesium supplementation as long as you can but obviously requirements will vary from farm to farm. Again the high rainfall and cold late spring weather will be playing its part-cows are not able to store magnesium so need a constant daily intake. During rough weather they tend to shelter rather than feed and magnesium status drops.....

Mastitis Lab

Thanks to those who have begun to use our in house mastitis lab. Again details were in the last newsletter. Just to recap:

- It's far cheaper and quicker than sending samples away
- We encourage you to find the 'Staph' cows in your herd-you need to know who these girls are
- This sort of testing is useful in conjunction with herd test information.
- If you are getting lots of clinical cases-take some samples
- Talk to Peter or Nick for more information or pop into the clinic for an information pack.

Calves

This time of year we are turning our attention towards calf health. A few basic things need to be covered off:

7 in 1 Vaccination: Kelly will be ringing to get your order, or we can do it for you. Calves need 2 shots 4-6 weeks apart.

Drench: The best drench deal by far is the 'Calf Pack' containing Arrest (oral) and Eclipse (pouren). We suggest using the oral as long as you can every 3 weeks then go to the pour on. Both are combination products to delay resistance and both contain levamisole to treat the elusive Cooperia. We still like to get some faecal egg count samples from you through the summer and autumn to check drench efficacy.

Remember calves with diarrhoea don't necessarily have worms, we commonly diagnose coccidian or Yersinia in calves which require different approaches, so if your calves are scouring despite being drenched then give us a call.



Welcome to Urthe!

We welcome a new addition to our veterinary team with Urthe Engel joining the practice. Urthe has been based in Blenheim for the past 3 years and prior to shifting to Marlborough practised in the King Country, Wairarapa and the Bay of Plenty. She is a mixed practitioner with a passion for sheep, beef and deer production animal work as well as really enjoying interacting with working dogs. In her spare time she enjoys the great outdoors, dog walking, running, pottering around the garden, and getting creative in the kitchen to compliment a nice glass of wine.





CALF DRENCH PACK SUPER DEAL!

SAVE OVER \$150!

Pack Includes:

Arrest C 5L Oral & Eclipse Pour On 2.5L. Dual Gun

PLUS Bonus Slow Cooker!

This pack will treat 100 Calves from Oct – June, 3 x Orals then 3 x Pour On's.

SPECIAL PRICE ONLY \$795.00!

Here are some basic rules that all farmers should go by:

- **Use combination drenches**

Research has shown the uses of combinations are the best for production and preventing resistance. *Ostertagia* is our most production limiting parasite but in young cattle treating *Cooperia* is very important so a combination product containing levamisole is recommended, especially in stock under 15 months of age.

- **Give the drench properly**

Dose accurately for weight, take your time and do it right. Pour-on, injectable and oral drenches can all be given poorly, so make sure you do it correctly.

- **Take care with young calves**

Don't mix drench in with the milk as deaths can occur.

Avoid abamectin containing products in calves under 120kg.

- **Take care of yourself**

As calves get more difficult to handle, the ability to use a pour on or injectable product makes treatment safer.

Drenching advice changes over time due to updated or new research. This can make it confusing for farmers who receive different and/or conflicting drenching advice. When making decisions on which drench or application method is most appropriate for your farming situation, come in and see us for the best solution.

Our advice is to use:

Arrest oral for young calves and then Eclipse pour on when they get bigger.

LIMITED STOCK - Phone 03 5786965 to place your order