



VETS ON ALABAMA DAIRY NEWS

June 2015

What's happening out there?

Calf Health-recently we have seen a few mobs of calves with very high parasite burdens. There is a general perception that as winter approaches the parasite challenge will be reducing-and this is normally the caseHowever, this year with the very mild May, which saw record grass growth, has also spiked numbers of larvae on pasture leading to severe ostertagia infestation in several mobs of calves. These calves have tested negative for other causes of severe diarrhoea but have had Faecal egg counts in the 600-900 region. Calves may have recently gone to winter grazing so may go undetected in some cases-and high burdens of this kind can be fatal. Keep drenching calves with combination products like Eclipse until they are 15 months old. If in doubt get some dung samples and drop tem in to the clinic to get them tested. It is also very important to ensure adequate copper and selenium status of calves going in to winter. I favour a 20g copper bolus for animals 200kg plus and long acting selenium if blood tests indicate deficiency or low/marginal status. Many farms in the area seem to need this type of supplementation to maintain winter levels of these trace elements.

- What's Happening?
- Teat Seal in Heifers
- Spring Consults
- Rotavirus
- Down Cows and Metabolics
- Nitrate Poisoning

Teatseal® In Heifers

Heifers are at a consistently higher risk of clinical mastitis than older cows around calving and early lactation. This can result in light quarters, teat canal thickening, and early culling.



Teatseal® administered to maiden heifers approximately 4 weeks pre-calving dramatically reduces clinical mastitis around calving.

Data from NZ work showed:

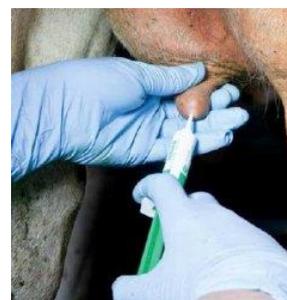
- Reduced *Strep. uberus* infection at calving by 84%.
- Reduced clinical mastitis in the first two weeks after calving by 68%.

2008 Larens study showed **67% decrease in clinical mastitis** in the first 100 days of lactation in teat sealed heifers.

Heifer Hints On Teat Sealing

- Normally done 4-6 weeks before calving, but now is a good time.
- Sterilisation and administration techniques are important and need to be discussed with your veterinarian. **Remember, these are heifers and Teatseal® is not an antibiotic product!!**

Ideally, every staff that will administer Teatseal® should visit this web page - www.dairywellness.co.nz/dry-cow-therapy/best-practice-administration.html



- It helps to train heifers through the shed few times in the two weeks before teat sealing.
- Herringbone sheds are easier and preferable, but we may have some good ideas for you if you will be teat sealing in a rotary shed.
- Keep groups of 30 - 60 in the yard. Fully feed a few hours before yarding.
- Row up in groups of 10-15 at a time with the breast rail narrow.
- Minimise mud contamination prior to teat sealing. I.e. avoid feed pad and wet muddy days.
- Schedule enough time and staff to do the job thoroughly and calmly.

Vets on Alabama have staff experienced in teat sealing and can assist or help you get started!!!

We have not found it necessary to sedate animals as the majority will stand calmly especially if they are pushed up tightly together. If you get an unduly aggravated animal, we would advise to let it go without treatment and just record her number.

Please talk to Nick, Peter or Tal to discuss teat sealing. There is also more information available from the **dairy link** on our website www.vetsonalabama.co.nz



Spring Consults and Services

We will shortly be contacting you to do the spring consult. I know you must be thinking-what already! We've only just done dry cow! Our aim is to complete all the consults in June and July so that we can focus on spring jobs in August and September. These types of consults ,like the dry cow one, are now a compulsory

part of us being able to supply you with the treatments you need –we both need to demonstrate to industry (Fonterra/ACVM/MPI/consumers-whoever!) that a protocol has been discussed regarding the supply and use of RVM's (Restricted Veterinary Medicines) –there is no getting away from it.

We would like to make the process of value to you by creating a treatment plan for different conditions and by selecting the most appropriate drugs. In addition we would like to take the opportunity to discuss with you which services you may be requiring in the coming months. These include debudding, regular routine visits through spring to treat dirty cows, and metrichecking etc. We would also like to introduce the idea of meeting briefly with you individually at key times of year to offer you further upcoming services, e.g. meet in September to discuss mating and in December to discuss pregnancy testing, body condition, vaccinations etc. In this way we hope to help you towards a planned animal health programme throughout the year.

Rotavirus Infection and vaccination

Many of you will be familiar with Rotavirus and be aware that vaccination and management practices will go a long way towards effective prevention of the disease. Calves infected with Rotavirus often suffer severe diarrhoea and always suffer a growth check which will delay weaning and reduce growth rates over a long period. In some cases the disease can be fatal. Vaccination of cattle pre calving ensures a high concentration of Rotavirus antibodies in the colostrum so adequate colostrum feeding over the first 3 weeks of life should help prevent the disease.



Options for vaccination include Rotavec and Scourguard. The vaccines are quite different so you should discuss your requirements with one of the vets but basically Rotavec is a single shot vaccine given 3 weeks precalving. Scourguard is cheaper but requires 2 shots 3 weeks apart the second shot 3 weeks pre calving. We believe if an animal has previously had Rotavec the year before then one shot of scourguard will suffice-complicated when it comes to heifers and part herd vaccination. Both are intramuscular vaccines.



DOWN COWS - Which Treatment should I use?



Calpro 375 – Calcium and B12 for Milk Fever. \$15.71 + GST



Magnesium Sulphate 20% - Magnesium for Grass Staggers.
ADMINISTER SUBCUTANEOUSLY ONLY!!!
\$11.93 + GST



Dextrose 40% - Energy for Ketosis. **ADMINISTER INTRAVENOUSLY ONLY.** The animal may require Corticosteroids, so in these cases contact Nick, Tal or Peter at the clinic for advice.



Calpromag 2 in 1 – Calcium plus Magnesium & B12 for Milk Fever with Grass Staggers. \$14.62 + GST.



Glucalmax – Calcium plus Magnesium and Energy. For Milk Fever with possible Ketosis and low Magnesium. \$14.95 + GST.



Glucalphos – Calcium plus Magnesium, Energy and Phosphorus. For Milk Fever with Low Phosphate. Check need with Blood Test. \$17.00 + GST



**EARLY SPRING SPECIAL
METABOLICS**
Pricing applicable until July
31st 2015

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Keep things simple. Most animals down at calving have Milk Fever. Therefore assist animals to sit up and administer calcium product. If disease is complicated, ring to discuss the best combination to use.
- 2) Metabolic cases have depressed appetite. Use B12 containing metabolics to stimulate appetite centres of the brain. B12 is included in Calpromag and Calpro 375. It is not in Glucalmax or Glucalphos.
- 3) **Never use Magnesium Sulphate 20% intravenously!** It is likely to cause death. **Never use Dextrose 40% under the skin** as it can cause massive swelling under the skin.
- 4) Phosphate containing products are more expensive. They are only required if low phosphate is diagnosed. You only need to use Glucalphos if you have phosphate deficiency.

- 5) Intravenous treatment can give a quicker response. We do not recommend using the milk vein as damage to this vessel can lead to udder damage and lost milk production. Calpro 375 is concentrated calcium and can work effectively under the skin.
- 6) Grass staggers is rapidly fatal and clinical signs seen in an animal indicate a major sub clinical issue. If it occurs ring and discuss with a vet.
- 7) Prevention is better and cheaper than treatment. Products like lime flows, magnesium oxide and Vit ADE can prevent metabolic disease. Blood test 10 cows post calving and run metabolic profile and establish herd status.

Metabolic products

Milk Fever – Calpro 375: Sit animal upright. Follow up oral calcium once standing. Lime flows to colostrum animals 100g/day.

Grass Staggers – Magnesium Sulphate (under the skin): NEVER GIVE INTRAVENOUSLY. Follow up with 2 Rumbul bullets. These cows are always on a knife edge. Blood Test 10 cows and check herd magnesium status. Supplement herd with magnesium.

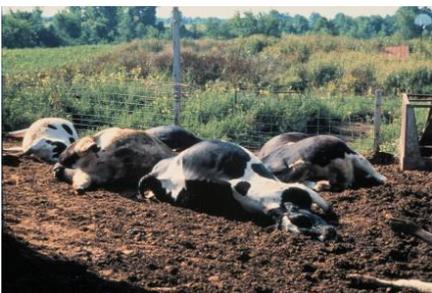
Ketosis –Dextrose 40% (intravenously): Contact vet and discuss the use of corticosteroid. Check herd status for energy. Consider use of Rumenox/Rumensin.

Don't forget that at Vets on Alabama we can (and would like to!), supply you with your metabolic product needs this spring - i.e. calcium magnesium, head start, calol etc. Plus you get free advice!

Nitrate Poisoning

Active growth of plants after rain following a dry period or drought conditions often will lead to nitrate poisoning, especially in manure or fertilised soils. Nitrate tends to accumulate in and near the roots of plants during a drought and is taken up rapidly when **regrowth** follows after rain or irrigation. Dull and overcast cloudy conditions favour the storage of nitrogen in the form of nitrate, while sunlight assists the plant in converting nitrate into amino acids and proteins.

Crop predisposed to nitrate poisoning-all **Brassica spp.**-kale, rape, turnips, **oats** and other cereal grasses and rye grass as well.



Other factors that increase the risk of nitrate poisoning include:

- A high rate of feed consumption
- High carbohydrate diet
- Sudden introduction of nitrate feed
- Herbicide treatment of plants
- Adverse condition such as frost
- Sulphur and molybdenum deficiency

SYMPTOMS

- Sudden death without clinical signs. Death usually within 12 to 24 hours of ingestion.

If Alive

- Neurological signs – Lost of Balance, weakness, reluctance to move
- Oxygen deprivation – Increased respiration and heart rate, gasping for breath, **brown, pale gums.**
- Gut signs – Diarrhoea, abdominal pain.

TREATMENT

- Remove all stock from the toxic feed and feed hay.
- Call veterinarian to help treat animals that are still alive with **intravenous antidote**.
- Restrict grazing of high nitrate feed - only 1 hour per day.
- **Avoid feeding at danger times. i.e. Dull warm weather on fertilised or well manured soils.**

This is a poisoning that **we can help prevent** through crop monitoring and grazing advice as well as in house testing.

Bring in crop samples to check levels. Our staff are trained to perform the tests accurately and quickly.

Eprinex® & Genesis® Pour On Pricing

Eprinex® 5L - \$499.00 + GST (\$5.00 Per 500kg cow)

Genesis® Pour On 5.5L - \$444.72 + GST (\$2.00 Per 500kg cow)

Offer Expires 31st July 2015

Purchase any Eprinex® 5L or Genesis® Pour On 5.5L between 1st June and August 31st and go in the draw to win either a HR4 or HR5 hand held EID reader & data collector. (See back page for details)

BUILT ON REPUTATION

MERIAL Ancore

TRUSTED BY KIWIS FOR DECADES. PROTECT YOUR STOCK WITH THE RELIABLE PERFORMANCE OF MERIAL ANCARE PRODUCTS AND WE'LL THROW IN ANOTHER TRUSTED KIWI CLASSIC, THIS TOUGH-AS-GUTS SWANNDRİ FLEECE.*

*OFFER APPLIES TO QUALIFYING PURCHASES. WHILE STOCKS LAST. PROMOTION RUNS 01 FEB - 30 APR 2015.

QUALIFYING PURCHASES: 2 X ECLIPSE® E INJECTION 500ML, ECLIPSE® POUR-ON 2.5L & 5L, EPRINEX® 20L (2X SWANNDRİ), EXODUS® POUR-ON 5L, 2 X GENESIS® INJECTION B12 & SE 500ML, 2 X GENESIS® INJECTION 500ML, GENESIS® POUR-ON 2.5L, 5L & 10L, GENESIS® ULTRA POUR-ON 5L, 4 X IVMEC® PLUS INJECTION 500ML, MATRIX® C HI-MINERAL 10L & 20L, SWITCH® C HI-MINERAL 20L.

PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC.

MERIAL Ancore

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The NAIT Scheme Transition Phase For Cattle Finishes On
July 1st 2015.

Make Identifying Your Stock Easier

Purchase Any **Eprinex® 5L** or **Genesis® 5.5L Pour On**

Between 1st June and 31st August

&

Go In The Draw To Win Either A HR4 or HR5 Hand Held EID Reader
& Data Collector.

