



DAIRY NEWS

April 2018

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Message from Peter Howard

In case I haven't had chance to catch up with you before the end of April . I will be on sabbatical for 12 months at Adelaide University-hoping to learn some new skills!

Thanks for having me so far and a special thanks to those I have worked closely with. All the best for your endeavours this season and be rest assured that Vets on Alabama will continue to service the dairy sector with new staff coming.

Dry cow

We all hope for more rain at this time of year to extend the milking season. However it is inevitable that some cows will be dried off early and these girls will need some protection as well as the main herd who can hopefully hold off until May.



We are happy to dispense a small amount of dry cow for small mobs being dried off early. We recommend these girls get Teatseal® with antibiotic as the Teatseal® will protect against new infections until calving.

By now you should have received a letter/e mail with details on the information we need before we can prescribe dry cow for the herd. This is done after a dry cow consult, please try to get as much information as possible to make this consult useful to you.

Leptospirosis vaccination reminder

Herd, heifer and young stock lepto booster shots are now due and should be done in the next few months before dry off. Please ring the clinic to order the number of doses you need.



Scanning Results

We are busy pregnancy testing at the moment and it's fair to say results have been highly variable; much more so than previous years with some excellent results and also some poorer ones. Empty rates have been as low as 7% and higher than 20%.

It seems there may have been some nutritional problems through the spring and mating-namely energy deficit. Other problems identified include performance of the two year olds, bull performance, herd body condition and non cyler management. With data on minda we can look in detail at your farms performance and come up with some suggestions for next year.

For what it's worth best performance was seen in those farms actively managing energy deficit in spring through supplementary feeding.

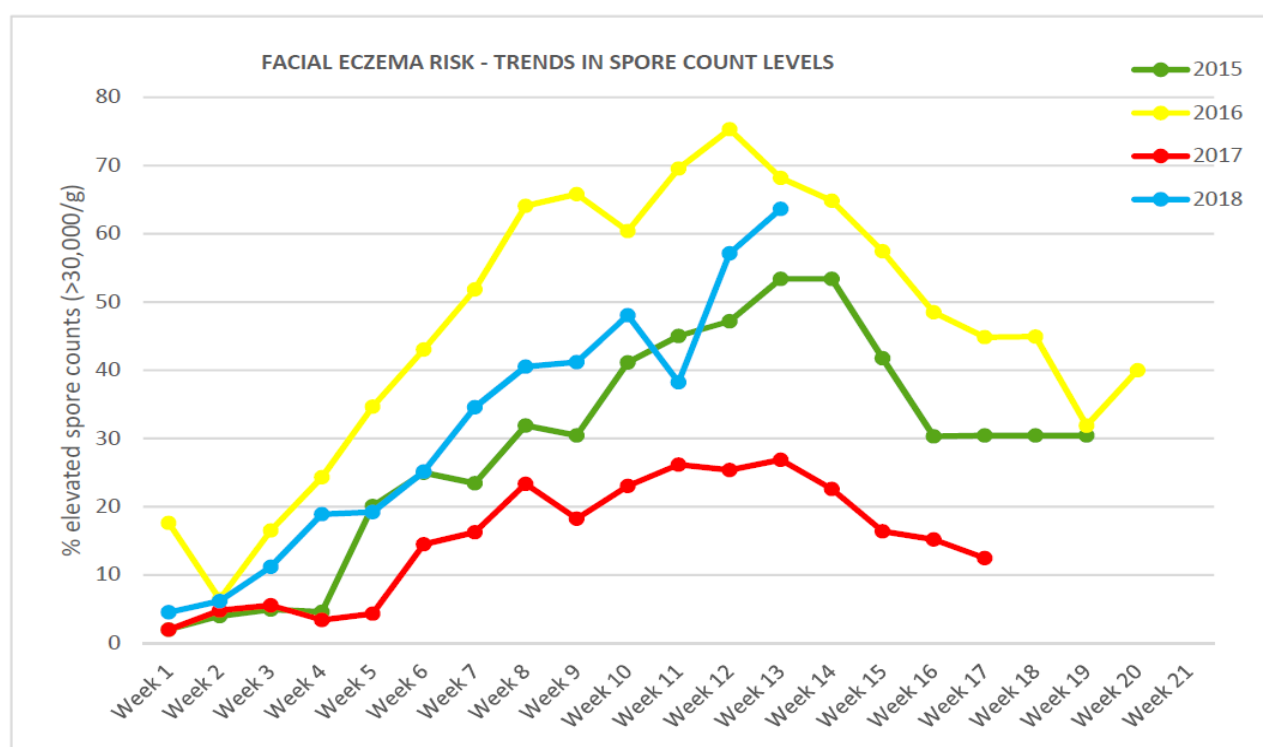
FE update

National Spore Counts remain high, with one reading in the Tasman region of 100,000! Levels will vary from farm to farm, so it is recommended that you take samples for testing to monitor your situation.

Weekly Summary

Week 13 - 5 April 2018

FE Risk -National trends in spore count levels (% elevated above 30,000 spg)



Data provided by: Anexa FVC Gordonton, Atkinson & Associates Piopio, Eastland Vet Services, Eltham Vet Services, Franklin Vet Services Kopu/ Pukekohe/ Taupiri, Global Vets, Kaimai Vets Matamata, New Plymouth District Vets, South Rangitikei Vet Services, Taihape Vets, Te Puke Vet Centre, Totally Vets Awapuni, Vetora Reporoa, Whitianga Vets

AsureQuality Contributors: Gisborne, Hastings, Levin, Masterton, Morrinsville, Pukekohe, Tararua, Taupo

Liver tests

Trace element status in dairy cows is **VERY IMPORTANT**. Cull cows going to the works can be tested; you need to get a form from the clinic and give it to the truck driver when your culls go to the works. You must also ring the clinic and get us to fax/email -a form AS WELL. Experience has shown that unless this happens the samples may not get taken.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

Autumn is the best time to have your herd body condition scored. This gives you time to make a plan/feed budget to achieve a score of 5 at dry off if possible and calving. We are scoring herds at the moment so let us know if you would like to use this service. Achieving BCS 5 at calving is known as a key factor in hitting 6 week in calf rate targets.



1 - Emaciated	The individual vertebrae of the spine are prominent. The short ribs are sharp to the touch and give a shelf-like appearance to the loin. The hook and pin bones of the pelvis are well defined. The anal area of the cow is receded displaying a prominent vulva. Considered unfit to travel.
2 - Thin	The short ribs can be felt but are less outstanding. The hook and pin bones are still well-defined, though the area around the anus is less sunken and the vulva is prominent.
3 - Average	The short ribs are palpable with slight pressure. There is no shelf-like appearance to this area. The spine and hook and pin bones are all rounded and smoothed over. The anal area is filled out, and there is no evidence of fat deposits.
4 - Heavy	The short ribs are rounded over with no evidence of a shelf-like appearance and may only be felt with firm palpation. The ridge of the backbone is flattened over the loin and rump areas. The hook bones are smoothed over and the area around the pin bones shows some fat deposits.
5 - Fat	The bone structures of the spine, hook and pin bones, and short ribs are not discernible. There are fat deposits around the tailhead and over ribs. The thighs curve out and the brisket and flanks appear to be very full and heavy.

Young stock copper and drench.

We often recommend 10g copper @ 100kg and 20g bolus @ 200kg. Don't forget the 20g copper bullet for calves prewinter. This sustains copper levels through the winter and usually up until mating and is safe, providing they do not have access to PKE in the Autumn/Winter.

Drenching frequency can reduce over the winter but Autumn is still a high risk period for parasites. Spring born replacements should continue to get regular dual action drench, we usually recommend Eclipse pour on but some oral preparations are also suitable e.g. Arrest C. If in doubt whether to drench, -drop in some faecal samples and we can assess the risk. Calf packs available at the clinic are really excellent value. We are always happy to discuss your drench plan.

New Regulations

There is a raft of new Animal Welfare regulations coming out from MPI-most will be current as of October 2018 but some have a delayed introduction of October 2019.

You will no doubt be made aware of these new regulations, but basically they make it an offence to:

- Debud or dehorn cattle without pain relief (Oct 2019)
- Transport cattle with :
Lameness/cancer eye/in late lactation/horns or bleeding horns /ingrown horns/animals with diseased udders
- Dock a cows tail

There are also new regulations around castrations.

See the full version of new regulations at: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/guide-to-the-animal-welfare-care-and-procedures-regulations/>

Overview of Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations – targeting lower level offending

The proposed animal welfare regulations will lift specific minimum standards from codes of welfare into regulations to provide an expanded range of enforcement tools (outlined below) and appropriate responses for less severe cases of animal welfare offending.

Infringement offences

Do not result in a criminal conviction

Two levels of penalty are proposed for infringement offences:

\$300 flat fee

offence may cause mild short-term harm to the animal

1. All animals – injury from collar/tether
2. Dogs – muzzling a dog
3. Dogs – dry and shaded shelter
4. Dogs – left in hot vehicles
5. Dogs – secured on moving vehicles
6. Goats – tethering requirements
7. Horse and donkeys – injuries from equipment
8. Horses and donkeys – tethering requirements
9. Llama and alpaca – injuries from equipment
10. Pigs – dry sleeping area
11. Cattle – milk stimulation
46. Failure to inspect a live capture trap

\$500 flat fee

offence may cause mild to moderate short-term harm to the animal

12. All animals – electric prodders
13. All animals – use of goads
14. Horses and donkeys – striking in the head
15. Cattle, sheep & goats – with ingrown horns
16. Stock transport – ingrown horns
17. Stock transport – bleeding horns or antlers
18. Stock transport – long horns or antlers
19. Stock transport – back-rub from transport
20. Stock transport – injuries from transport
21. Stock transport – lame animals
22. Stock transport – animals in late pregnancy
23. Stock transport – injured or diseased udders
24. Stock transport – animals with eye cancer
25. Pigs – tail docking (under 7 days)

When is an offence appropriate for an infringement?

- The nature of the offending is minor
- The potential impact on the animal is low
- A criminal conviction would be disproportionate to the level of offending
- A low-level financial penalty is sufficient to drive behaviour change
- A breach of the regulation is straightforward and easy to determine on the facts

There are no defences for an infringement offence. The defendant may challenge an infringement by writing a letter to the issuing authority (MPI or SPCA). The issuing authority will review the decision and decide whether or not to revoke the infringement. The defendant can also request a defended hearing before the District Court. The decision of the District Court is final.

Grounds that may lead to a successful challenge of an infringement notice could include that the defendant took all reasonable steps to comply with the regulation, if, for example factors such as emergency or natural disaster should be taken into account.

Prosecutable regulation offences

May result in a criminal conviction

Two levels of penalty are proposed for regulatory prosecutable offences:

\$3,000

Maximum fine for an individual

\$5,000

\$15,000

Maximum fine for a body corporate

\$25,000

offence has caused mild to moderate and possible long-term harm to the animal

26. Pigs – lying space for grower pigs
27. Pigs – size of farrowing crates
28. Cattle – vehicular traction in calving or lambing
29. Cattle and sheep – castration
30. Cattle – tail docking
31. Cattle – disbudding
32. Pigs – tail docking (over 7 days)
33. Dogs – tail docking
34. Dogs – dew claws

offence has caused moderate and likely long-term harm to the animal

35. Cattle – dehorning
36. Sheep – mulesing
37. Horse – castration
38. Pigs – castration
39. Pigs – dry sow stalls
40. Layer hens – transitional requirements
41. Layer hens – prohibit induced moulting of layer hens
42. Crabs, rock lobster and crayfish – insensible before being killed
43. Rodeos – fireworks
44. Accounting for surplus research animals
45. Set upper penalty for charging documents

When is an offence appropriate for a prosecution?

- The offending has caused a mild to moderate level of harm to the animal
- The offending may involve many animals
- A criminal conviction is appropriate given the conduct and/or impact involved
- The offending is more likely to occur in a commercial context where higher financial penalties may be needed to drive behaviour change
- The offending involves actions or omissions that are not straight forward enough matters of fact to suit an infringement offence

Defences: All of the above offences will be subject to a defence that the defendant took all reasonable steps to comply with the regulation. In some cases the defendant may be able to use a defence that the act or omission constituting the offence took place in circumstances of stress or emergency and was necessary for the preservation, protection or maintenance of human life.

The onus will be on the defendant to prove the defence.

In all cases where a breach of a regulation has a severe impact on an animal a prosecution can be taken directly under the Animal Welfare Act 1999



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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.

Avoid *abamectin* containing products in calves under 120kg

