



DAIRY NEWS

July 2017

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Vets on Alabama Customised Trace Element Mix

We are now able to offer high quality custom blend trace mineral mix options at a great price though working with Nutritech.

We have lots of trace element testing data from the district and have formulated a product specifically for the trace element problems we commonly encounter in the district.

We have a with and without copper option for those feeding PKE and a high quality high dose zinc option for high lameness herds.

In addition we have formulated high levels of iodine ,cobalt and selenium. The copper source is a high quality chelated glycinate.

The product is suitable for dosatron and in water dispensers. In feed options available.

Product	Bag Size	Cost/bag (GST exc.)	Cost/Dose
Standard Blend	25kg	\$210.00	4.2¢
No Cu Blend	25kg	\$159.00	3.18¢
Zinc for Hooves Blend	25kg	\$273.00	5.46¢

All prices exclude GST.

Doses per bag: 5,000

Inclusion rate: 5g per cow/day

Please note that as these are custom blends there is a minimum order requirement of 250kg. Please contact Peter Howard on 578 6965 for more information.

Spring consults

We are still getting through the spring consults and want to have these completed by the end of the month so we don't have to hassle you when you are busy in spring. As you know we are required to carry out these consults in order to assess your RVM (restricted veterinary medicines) needs for the coming year, and you are required to demonstrate that the consult has taken place. Whilst the process is obligatory we do try to make it as useful as possible too by including in the discussion any services you may need in the coming year and some herd health planning.

If we have not yet been in touch to book in your consult-which can take place at the clinic, Rai Valley office or on farm-please give us a call to fix this up.

Bobby Calves

Last year we ran a bobby calf workshop to bring everyone up to date with the latest bobby calf regulations. They are summarised below:

As of August 2016:

1. Fitness for transport - Age and Physical Characteristics.

A young calf must be at least four full days (96 hours) of age before it is transported for sale or slaughter.

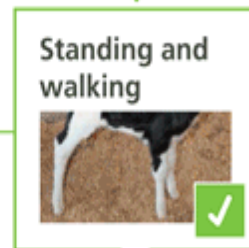
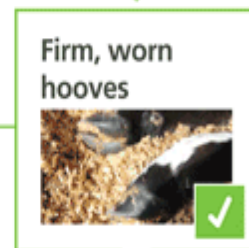
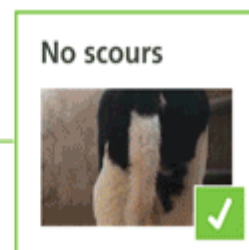
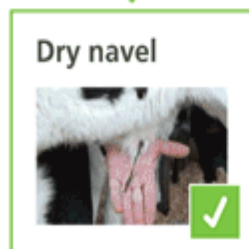
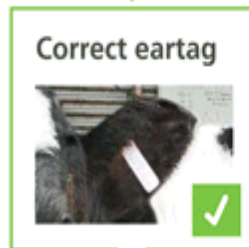
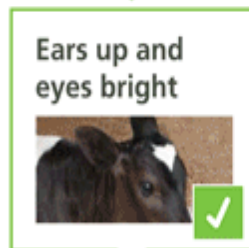
When a young calf is presented for collection for transportation for the purpose of sale or slaughter, (and when it is collected) it must:

- a) Be free of disease, deformity, blindness or any disability;
- b) Be alert and able to rise from a lying position and, once up, capable of moving freely, is not listless and is able to protect itself from trampling and being injured by other calves;
- c) Have hooves that are firm and worn flat and not bulbous with soft unworn tissue; and
- d) Have a navel cord which is wrinkled, withered and shrivelled and not pink or red coloured, raw or fleshy.

Owners or persons in charge of a young calf who present or accept that calf for transport will be required to have a system in place that, if followed, will ensure compliance with the age and physical characteristics requirements above.

Penalty - \$500 infringement offence.

Fit for transport *Tick all 8 to leave the gate*



2. Twelve hour maximum duration of journey.

A young calf must not be transported on a vehicle for more than 12 hours from the point of loading to arrival at the final destination of the journey.

Penalty - Prosecutable offence may be liable on conviction for a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or up to \$25,000 for a corporate body.

3. Prohibition on killing calves by blunt force trauma to the head

A calf may not be killed by the use of blunt force trauma caused by a blow to the head except in circumstances where the calf is in severe pain or distress, requires emergency humane destruction as a result and where no reasonable alternative to the use of blunt force trauma is available.

Unlike the rest of these proposals, this regulation would apply to all calves ("bovines that are not yet weaned") rather than only "young calves."

Penalty - Prosecutable offence may be liable on conviction for a fine of \$3,000 for an individual or up to \$15,000 for a corporate body.

4. Prohibition of the transportation of young calves by sea across the Cook Strait.

Coming into force 1st February 2017:

1. Maximum time off feed

Young calves must be fed at least once in the 24 hours prior to slaughter. This is intended to apply to circumstances when a young calf has been, or is being, transported off farm for the purpose of slaughter. The intention is not to suggest that calves need only be fed once every 24 hours in any other circumstance. Persons in charge of a young calf at slaughter will be required to have a system in place with their suppliers that, if followed, will ensure that any such calves received into their care are fed at least maintenance rations within 24 hours of their last feed or are fed again on arrival if they are not going to be able to be slaughtered within the required timeframe. An equivalent requirement will apply to transporters to have a contingency plan in place to enable the calf to be fed at least maintenance rations in the event of any delays to the journey which result in the calf not being off-loaded to slaughter premises before the 24 hour deadline.



Coming into force from 1st August 2017

1. Loading and unloading facilities.

In circumstances where a young calf is transported for the purpose of sale or slaughter, facilities must be provided and used to enable that calf to walk safely onto and off transportation by its own action.

For further information read calf loading and holding facilities guidelines.

Liability would fall on the owners and/ or persons in charge of the young calves at each location in which those animals are loaded or unloaded.

This regulation will be subject to a delayed commencement of 12 months. It will therefore come into effect on 1 August 2017.

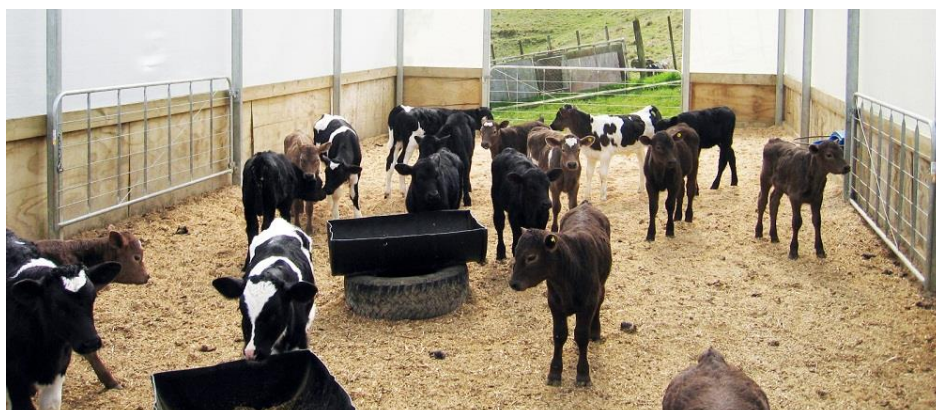
Penalty - \$500 infringement offence.



2. Shelter before and during transportation and at points of sale or slaughter

In circumstances where a young calf is transported for the purpose of sale or slaughter, it must have access to shelter that is clean, dry, suitably ventilated and which provides protection from adverse weather, including extremes of heat and cold. The shelter should also enable the calves to stand in a natural posture, including the ability to lie down or stand up as they choose.

Further information on the new regulations is also available on the MPI and Dairy NZ websites.



Fit for Transport?

The following poster illustrates criteria for rendering an animal fit or unfit for transport. It applies to adult cows as well as calves and if you are not certain one of our vets will be able to examine the animal and give you a certificate or advise otherwise.

ARE YOUR ANIMALS FIT FOR TRANSPORT?

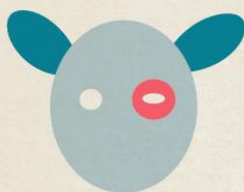
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



These are some of the conditions that may prevent any animal from being transported



metabolic disease or infection



advanced cancer eye



poor body condition



very lame



injury to any part of animal



mastitis



over length antlers or horns



late in pregnancy



ingrown horn

Animals are your livelihood. Their welfare is your responsibility



It is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 for animal handlers to present animals that are unfit for the journey, and for transport operators to load unfit stock.



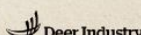
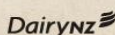
Every person involved directly or indirectly must take all reasonable steps to ensure that no animal suffers unnecessary pain or distress. This includes farm staff, stock agents, meat company staff, transport operators, pet food operators and veterinarians.



Consult your veterinarian if you are unsure about the suitability of sick or injured animals for transport. Veterinarians can issue certificates for transport.



Animals that are not fit for transport should be:
» treated on farm by farm staff or a veterinarian; or
» humanely slaughtered on farm.
Approved pet food operators can humanely slaughter animals on farm, and remove the carcase.



Calf Scours – preventing a nightmare

THE FACTS ABOUT CALF SCOURS

Most calf scours in New Zealand are caused by a combination of viruses (rotavirus or coronavirus), bacteria (E.coli or salmonella) or microscopic parasites (cryptosporidium). Calf scour outbreaks inevitably happen at the busiest time of year – usually a few weeks after calving starts for two reasons:

1. The number of bugs start to build up and spread from calf to calf
2. Calves may not have the immunity to fight off the increasing number of bugs

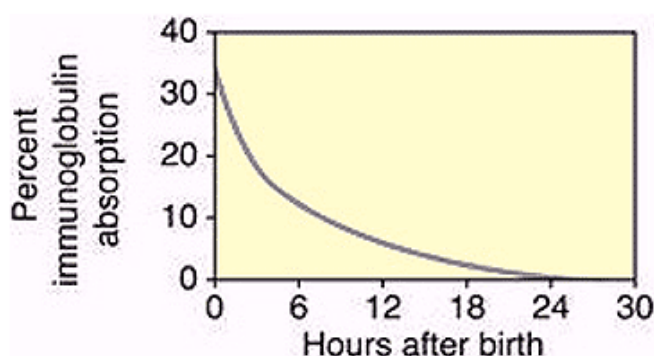


Because calves do not get immunity directly from their mothers during pregnancy, they are reliant on getting it through colostrum after birth. There is a golden window of 6 - 12 hours after birth when calves can absorb colostrum immunity, however NZ studies show 1/3 of calves have “failure of passive immunity” – i.e. not enough antibodies absorbed from the colostrum. This is more common if calves are small, weak or born on wet nights at the peak of calving, or when their mother has metabolic disease or a difficult calving. Dairy farmers are better off by actively managing colostrum uptake rather than relying on nature.

Calves absorb maximum colostrum immunity in the first 6 hours of life. After 12 hours the gut ‘closes’ and there is little absorption of antibodies

Protect the calf

- Collect only first milking “gold” colostrum for new-born calves into a clean test bucket
- Check quality using refractometer. Ideal colostrum is $\geq 22\%$ Brix.
- Tube feed calves with 2L of “gold” colostrum in the first 6 hours of life and another 2L in the first 12 hours.
- Feed calves warm milk twice a day for the first three weeks of life.
- Feed “milking 2 - 8” transition colostrum for local gut protection for at least 4 days but as long as possible.
- Store colostrum correctly:
- Refrigerate or freeze gold colostrum in 2L containers (thaw frozen colostrum slowly before use)
- Bulk colostrum should be refrigerated ($<4^{\circ}\text{C}$) in a lidded container (e.g. refrigerated vat) and stirred daily.
- If refrigeration is not possible preserve bulk colostrum with potassium sorbate.
- Clean colostrum and milk collection, storage and feeding equipment after each use by scrubbing with hot soapy water (dish wash liquid) and rinse.
- Supply clean water at all times in the calf shed: 1 water trough per 10 calves.
- Feed ad lib meal from day 1 containing 20% protein and a coccidiostat.
- Supply ad lib hay in calf sheds.



Reduce the spread of bugs

- Remove all bedding and disinfect calf sheds between seasons.
- Install solid pen partitions (1.5m high).
- Ensure good ventilation, free draining floor, open to sunlight.
- $\geq 1.5\text{m}^2$ /calf floor area. Maximum of 20 calves per pen.
- Rear bobby calves separately (preferably separate shed).
- Use an all-in, all-out system.
- Feeders must have one teat per calf to allow all calves to feed simultaneously.
- Disinfect calf rearing facility at least twice weekly.
- Top up bedding weekly.
- Quarantine new calves sourced from other properties for 7-10 days in a separate building, or at least in a separate pen with a solid partition.



The importance of vaccination:

Herd vaccination combined with good colostrum management is the best way to maximise the level of antibodies against scours in your calves. The gold standard is to vaccinate the whole herd within 2 weeks prior to start of calving.

Calves that receive sufficient gold colostrum from vaccinated cows straight after birth are much less likely to get calf scours

If you have sick calves:



- Isolate sick calves into a separate shed immediately and keep them there until they go outside.
- Restrict access to sick pens, and;
 - Wear gloves to reduce transfer of bugs.
 - Have dedicated overalls and gumboots that stay (and are only used) at the sick pen. Scrub boots with disinfectant daily. Wash overalls daily.
- Feed sick calves after healthy calves with separate equipment.
- Scrub feeding equipment after each use by scrubbing with hot soapy water (dish wash liquid) and rinse.
- Disinfect calf pens every day.

Get an early diagnosis of the cause of scours and to help manage a scour out-break.

Metabolic Disease in Dairy Cows

Downer cows in spring time can be a result of a variety of causes. Sometimes calving paralysis due to oversize calves or calving difficulties will render a cow recumbent. Otherwise down cows are likely to be the result of milk fever (calcium deficiency), staggers (magnesium deficiency) or ketosis (energy deficiency). Also if cows are on crop, and particularly fodder beet, the cause may be acidosis due to inadequate transitioning on to the feed.

In all cases a correct diagnosis will give the best chance of recovery but it is useful to have a standard approach to what you think may be a simple case of milk fever. Often magnesium is also involved so it's a good idea to give a bag of magnesium solution (20%) UNDER THE SKIN ONLY, and a bag of calpro 375 in the vein SLOWLY. In addition an oral drench of Calol will provide a longer term calcium reserve to prevent the cow going down again.

We have a range of metabolic treatments available.

Prevention is better than cure and it is realistic to expect a milk fever prevalence of below 3% on grass systems. There are many aspects of management that can contribute to reducing milk fever and we are happy to discuss these with you if you are experiencing problems. Focus on:

- Magnesium supplementation pre and post calving
- Body condition management
- Dry Matter Intake
- Avoid effluent paddocks for calving cows
- Trace element status
- For high yielding cows-transition nutrition
- Calving supervision



CALF DRENCH PACK SUPER DEAL!

SAVE OVER \$150!

Pack Includes:

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

SPECIAL PRICE ONLY \$795.00!

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.

Avoid abamectin containing products in calves under 120kg.

