



# VETS ON ALABAMA DAIRY NEWS

**December 2013**

## Wise Use Of Antibiotics

Last month Antibiotic Awareness week ran between November 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> and with it was a timely reminder of the growing need to use antibiotics responsibly.

Animal and human health has always been interlinked and bacterial resistance can be passed between animal and human and vice versa.

One very real fear is that products effective as animal remedies maybe withdrawn by the Agricultural Chemical and Veterinary Medicine Group (ACVM) if there proves to be a correlation found between veterinary use of a certain antibiotic and human infection with resistant bacteria.

Ensuring that the right treatment is given for the right disease is the key. Antibiotics must never be used as a substitute for poor management and hygiene.

1. Keep animals as healthy as possible through good management, preventative treatment and good nutrition.
2. Antibiotics must be selected for the disease they are being used to treat and used in accordance with the instructions on the label.
3. Antibiotic courses must be completed, even if the animal looks to be getting better.

All antibiotics are Restricted Veterinary Medicines (RVM) and your veterinarian is the best person to give you advice about antibiotic use on the farm.

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## Removing The Bull

Following on from the Bull Power article in the November edition of Dairy News we thought it would be worth discussing when is a good time to remove the bull from the herd.

If you are planning on pregnancy testing early this season then you may look at the possibility of leaving your decision on when the bull comes in until after we have pregnancy tested your herd.

If your conception rate to AB ends up lower than you expected after having your herd scanned early then it is best if you leave your bulls out longer. The national empty rate is 5% based on 12 weeks of mating.

The changes to the induction regulations may mean that you address your policy on late-calving cows to minimise the number of cows that require induction, if you have not done so already.

Early-calving cows should give you more milk in the vat and they are more likely to produce AB calves – these should also perform better once in the herd, than later born calves.

If the bull is pulled out early to minimize the number of late-calving cows, you may have to accept a higher than normal empty rate. As mentioned in our spring seminar in Havelock, your 6 week in calf rate as a much more accurate assessment of your herd's reproductive performance, than simply looking at the empty rate.

It would be worthwhile spending a little time discussing the options with Nick or Keith or Stuart if you have any questions.

## Technology

**LIC offer MINDA Mobile & MINDA Apps through your smart phone to help with the day to day record keeping**

### **MINDA MOBILE**

No longer do you need to scribble notes in your yellow notebook and then be expected to decipher your handwriting later to load the data into MINDA.

MINDA Mobile eliminates data entry errors and double handling. It is more than a yellow notebook, much more.

When a calf has been born and you are unsure whether to keep or bobby it, you can use MINDA Mobile to check it's expected BW and ancestry right there on the spot. You can then assign and record a temporary tag or a Birth ID to the calf right then and there.

### **MINDA APPS**

**Expanding MINDA to your pocket**

**Available for both Apple and Android operating systems, MINDA apps are set to revolutionise how you update and access your MINDA records.**

MINDA has been a trusted part of dairy farming for generations, and with the release of our smartphone apps, it's sure to be the first thing you reach for on farm.

For more information on our current MINDA apps, check out the links below:

[http://www.lic.co.nz/lic\\_MINDA\\_Apps.cfm](http://www.lic.co.nz/lic_MINDA_Apps.cfm)

**VETS ON ALABAMA HAS BEGUN  
USING MINDA TO HELP PROVIDE  
ADDITIONAL VALUE TO OUR DAIRY  
CLIENTS. PLEASE TALK TO NICK  
HANSBY ABOUT HOW TO TAKE  
ADANTAGE OF THIS.**

## Increasing The Vet Numbers

Vets on Alabama are committed to providing Marlborough with the best possible veterinary service available. To this end we have recently employed an additional production animal vet. We will now have Nick, Keith, David, Stuart and Tal in our large animal team. Stuart is a mixed animal veterinarian with plenty of experience both in NZ and the UK, he joined us in July, however from January Stuart will be on farm more often. Tal joins us in January- he has been working in dairy practice in Canterbury.

## Protecting Your Dogs



## Warning about deadly canine parvovirus

Over the past few weeks we have treated a number of dogs for Parvovirus – this is heartbreaking and expensive to treat. Vaccination is the best protection for your dog against this disease. Parvovirus in dogs is a killer. Canine parvovirus causes sudden-onset, profuse, smelly, bloody diarrhoea and vomiting. This can lead to severe dehydration and rapid death (within 24–48 hours), especially in unvaccinated pups and young dogs.

In the majority of cases, a dog that contracts parvovirus will die. If diagnosed early enough, treatment may involve intensive care for several days in the veterinary hospital and can be costly with no guarantee of survival. In unvaccinated pups this can be devastating, as the infection can very quickly spread through an entire litter. Vaccination is the **ONLY** way to prevent parvovirus.

Despite the deadly nature of parvovirus, there are still thousands of dogs in New Zealand who remain unvaccinated and continue to spread this highly contagious virus. Outbreaks are regularly reported, affecting both urban and rural dogs.

Unvaccinated working dogs are at high risk of infection with parvovirus, as it is almost impossible to eliminate the risk of introducing it onto your farm. It can very quickly spread through a working dog team that live and work in close contact.

Dogs infected with parvovirus shed millions of virus particles in their faeces for up to three weeks. The virus can then be spread from one dog to another through exposure to contaminated faeces. Parvovirus can survive freezing temperatures and most household disinfectants will not kill it. This virus can also be spread on shoes and clothing, meaning that any dog, person or vehicle entering your property may be a source of infection.

Vaccinating your dog is the **ONLY** way to prevent canine parvovirus infection.

Vets On Alabama use the Nobivac® range of vaccines which provide world-leading protection against parvovirus. These vaccines contain a patented strain of parvovirus called C154 which delivers proven cross-protection against all types of known parvovirus. You can trust Nobivac to provide solid protection against canine parvovirus.

For more information on canine parvovirus or to book your dog/s in for a vaccination please contact the clinic.

## Farm dog vaccinations

It's worth remembering that many of the diseases we vaccinate our dogs can kill, irrespective of whether your dog is your pet or your prized working dog. As it is almost impossible to eliminate the risk of introducing the various diseases onto your farm, only vaccination can prevent these diseases.

### What important diseases do you need to protect against?

**Parvovirus (parvo)** is of particular importance. It causes severe bloody diarrhoea and is usually deadly.

Infected dogs shed parvovirus in their faeces for three weeks or more. The virus can then survive for months in the environment and be quickly spread between dogs and farms from shoes, clothing and vehicles.

Unfortunately, veterinarians and farmers around the country still regularly deal with outbreaks of parvo in unvaccinated farm dogs. Puppies (under the age of 6 months) are the highest risk of parvo infection.

This is particularly devastating when it is so simple to prevent with vaccination.

Early diagnosis of parvovirus can increase the chances of survival. Treatment involves hospitalisation and intensive care. Even then, there is no guarantee of survival.

It is very costly from a financial and emotional perspective, but also from lost productivity.

**Kennel cough** is a highly contagious disease caused by several different organisms and results in a persistent dry cough. This may also lead to retching, lethargy, loss of appetite and a fever. These symptoms can have a severe impact on working and competitive dogs. Recovery may take several weeks.

Farm working dogs are at high risk. An outbreak of kennel cough in your dog team is costly and difficult to treat. It will affect the productivity of the affected working dogs.

### Why vaccinate your working dogs?

Your dogs are valuable. They contribute a significant amount of labour on your farm, which means that the cost of a disease outbreak is devastating. Vaccination is the only way to protect your dogs from disease.

**Dog vaccination is simple and cost-effective. Protect your investment - talk to Vets On Alabama about vaccinating your dogs with Nobivac® today. Working dog vaccinations can be done at the same time as a farm visit.**

Content courtesy of MSD Animal Health.

**VETS ON ALABAMA WISH YOU  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS & ALL  
THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
IN 2013**

