



VETS ON ALABAMA DAIRY NEWS

March 2017

In This Issue:

- Farmer Meeting
- Dry Cow
- Facial Eczema
- Leptospirosis
- Trace Elements
- Flies
- Body Condition Scoring
- Dairy Cow Types - Story

Farmer Meeting

Our autumn farmer meeting will be held on Wednesday April 12th @ the Slip Inn in Havelock on **'The future of dry cow therapy in New Zealand**. Our guest speaker, Kristen Baxter (BVSc, BSc) from Zoetis NZ will be discussing the proposed changes to dry cow regulations that will impact the NZ Dairy Industry, and also how to manage them and these changes. Official invites are included and any staff involved in drying off your herd are welcome.

When: Weds April 12

Time: 6.30pm (7pm Start)

Where: Slip Inn Havelock

This is also a good opportunity for you to get signed off for best practice administration if you are planning to use teatseal® this year. We encourage you to bring any farm staff involved in drying off your herd.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP By Friday 7th April



zoetis

Dry Cow

Enclosed with this newsletter is a mastitis history form, which we need completed prior to dispensing dry cow for you, as per previous years and now with regulations only getting tighter. Please bring it along to your dry cow consult, which we will be arranging with you in the near future.



Facial Eczema

Spore counts began to rise in late February but dry weather knocked them back, and as of mid March they remain low in the district.

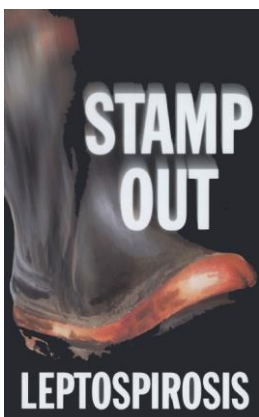
The odd cow is showing signs of photosensitisation and this may be due to brassica toxicity or isolated FE from grazing high risk areas such as shaded areas/high litter areas etc, but either way there doesn't seem to be a general high risk at the moment. As we know this can change and monitoring is a guideline only, so the general advice remains: half dose zinc.



RECENT UPDATE: While counts are still low in some areas we had a massive 120000 count around Havelock earlier this week. This confirms how unpredictable the disease is and that counts are likely to be rising in general. The national survey indicates the rest of Tasman is high risk now. Historically April is the worst month. Continue zinc dosing but go to full dose Canvastown/Havelock and consider young stock bolus options. Monitoring updates are available @ www.vetsonalabama.co.nz/spore-counts. Please contact us for any further advice.

Leptospirosis

Vets on Alabama took part in a national survey run by Massey University in 2016 designed to assess the effectiveness of leptospirosis vaccination on dairy farms. Two hundred dairy herds were randomly selected from throughout New Zealand and 20 milking cows were sampled from each herd during the period Dec 2015 to March 2016. Two of our herds were selected for sampling and the following is a summary of the study findings:



Leptospirosis is a globally important disease and in New Zealand it disproportionately burdens rural communities and Māori. It is estimated to cost the NZ economy \$36 million per year. People are infected through direct or indirect contact with animal urine. Domestic animal vaccination has been practised since the late 1970s, predominantly in dairy cattle and pigs, and animal vaccination programmes have been considered a cornerstone in the prevention of human disease. Our study of *Leptospira* vaccine use and efficacy in New Zealand dairy herds is the first to explore the effect of long-term vaccination in a nationally representative sample of herds.



Preliminary results indicate that animal vaccination programmes continue to be an effective measure to prevent shedding in NZ dairy cattle and thus reduce exposure to humans. The results also reinforce the importance of a multi-faceted approach to this complex disease.

Advice from Massey:

Continue to protect you, your staff and families:

- 1) Vaccinate your animals under advice from your veterinarian.
- 2) Control rodents and wildlife: seek advice on baiting and trapping, vermin-proof buildings and feed stores.
- 3) Minimise contact with animal urine - "Keep it off. If splashed then dry and wash"
 - a) Personal hygiene: hand washing, no smoking/eating/drinking in the shed.
 - b) Personal protective equipment: aprons, gloves, boots, keep wounds covered. Make sure that this equipment is effective at keeping you safe.
 - c) Exposures not in the milking shed, effluent spraying, assisting calving, home kill, hunting.
- 4) Be aware and share your awareness, remember others can be exposed when not working (e.g. kids playing in puddles). If you have a 'flu-like illness seek medical help early and raise the suspicion of leptospirosis to your doctor - "hey doc, might this be lepto?"

Message from Vets on Alabama

All the evidence indicates the leptospirosis vaccination protocols we are using are working. We do ring and remind you when these vaccinations are due, this includes the herd vaccination and the heifer booster doses. Please try and be timely with these vaccinations so your herd immunity does not wane, potentially putting staff and anyone working with your stock at risk.

Thank you

Trace Elements

Autumn is a good time for testing for trace elements in cattle. If dairy cows are going to the works then optigrow liver samples can be a good option. You will need to notify the clinic before they go if you would like your animals tested. However sometimes cull cows do not provide representative readings for the herd and live cow liver biopsies can be performed on animals remaining in the herd. We will often discuss this option with you at the dry cow consult or before.

Often calves benefit from a prewinter copper bolus in this district as copper levels are usually low. Do not do this if calves are going to, or have had access to PKE. You may wish to do bloods to confirm trace element status in young stock. As a general rule at 200kg calves can have a 20g copper bullet.



ELEMENT	ROLE	DIAGNOSIS OF DEFICIENCY
Copper (Cu)	Multiple roles including bone growth, pigmentation, and certain enzyme systems.	Lameness, illthrift, faded coat, poor conception rates.
Selenium (Se)	Important in the production of the antioxidant glutathione peroxidase, and in maintaining integrity of cell membranes.	Illthrift, diarrhoea, abortion, retained placenta, low milk production.
Cobalt (Co)	Essential for the production of Vitamin B12 by microbes in the rumen.	Illthrift, reduced milk production.
Iodine (I)	Essential for thyroid functioning, which influences growth. Goitre, low milk production, low reproductive efficiency.	Goitre, low milk production, low reproductive efficiency.
Zinc (Zn)	Is important in over 30 enzyme systems, and is essential for good skin condition, immune response and lameness.	Reduces milk somatic cell counts and incidence of lameness.

Flies

Fly infestation is severe at the moment and effects stock and staff significantly –Blaze is a reliable product for fly control with zero milk withhold and 28 day meat withhold. Vets on Alabama has this product available.



Body Condition Scoring

Both Nick and Peter are accredited scorers and we recommend autumn as the best time to get your herd checked to make a plan to target BCS 5 at dry off.



Dairy Cow Types - Story Courtesy of Tamzin Read

Photo Credit Anthony Degouy

We will start at the start - in the paddock. First you come to the **Sleeping Cow**. These cows, generally present in large numbers when you are running late, lie sleeping at the back of their paddock and refuse to wake up and start moving towards the track. Eventually they lumber to their feet and wander off in the right direction and you can continue.

Next you encounter the **Invisible Cow**. With no white markings, this black or dark brown cow is almost impossible to see in the dark. She knows this and stays some yards behind the rest of the herd, giving her a good chance of being missed in the mornings and remaining unmilked in the paddock.

Thirsty Cow has been waiting since she spotted you to make her move. As the herd nears a water trough, she walks over and begins drinking. She keeps her eye on you as you approach. When you get too close, she sidles around the circular trough, keeping it between her and you. After several orbits, you get off the bike and chase her away on foot. As soon as you turn your back on her to return to the bike, she tries to sneak back to the trough but this time you are too quick for her and she must rejoin the herd. The herd has left the paddock now and is on the track, moving slightly slower than cruising speed in first gear on the bike. This means you have to ride a serpentine course, weaving back and forth across the track, or risk stalling the bike.



The situation is not helped by the **Slow Walker**, who dawdles a pace or two behind her fellow cows. She will also walk on the far side of a larger cow, hoping to stop and stay on the track without being seen. Eventually you reach the yard and close the gates behind the herd.

Now the real fun starts - milking. You start the platform and the first few cows walk into their bales. Then it is the turn of the **Day-Dreaming Cow**. She chews her cud, placidly staring into space while empty bale after empty bale goes past her. This is most frustrating. You attempt to urge her on.

She ignores you until a **Helper Cow** comes running down the entry race and deliberately bunts her forward onto the platform.

The next challenge you face is the **Cow Who Won't Get Off**. She stays on the platform for round after round, long after she has been milked. Eventually you tire of seeing her come past again and again and look at her bale number. Next time she is at the exit race you stop the platform and press the button marked "cow off". A jet of water squirts her from above and she scurries backwards and trots away.

The slight commotion sends the **Cup Kicker** into action. She kicks until her cups fall off, then turns her head to watch them sucking air loudly on the platform behind her. You stop the platform again and walk around to recup her. She stares at you with her large dark eyes, silently threatening to kick her cups off again as soon as you leave her.



Order is restored until you get a **Backwards Cow**.

This cow is one of the more disruptive types. She comes along the entry race backwards and cannot turn before entering her bale. Obviously she can't be milked if she's backwards, so you must stop the platform and try to convince her to go back out to the yard and turn around. She is co-operative, but the other cows in the yard have already crowded down the entry race and will not back up. You give up the struggle and let her come on backwards. She looks faintly surprised to be facing out instead of in, and moos loudly all the time she's in the shed.

As a final test, you now have to deal with a **Crazy Heifer**. This cow doesn't like getting on the platform, or being milked, or being touched. You have to be very gentle and calm around her or she will kick you. Other tricks in her repertoire include jumping into her neighbour's bale, turning around in her bale (which should be impossible), and jumping over the front of her bale and walking around the narrow race at the inner edge of the platform.

Ah the joys!



PROVEN IN THE HARSHTEST OF ENVIRONMENTS



OUT HERE SOME THINGS JUST DON'T CUT IT

CASIO G-SHOCK

CASIO TOUGH SOLAR

Designed to excel in the harshest of environments, Merial Ancare products are developed and tested right here in your backyard, and have proven to provide outstanding results where others have fallen short. Like these rugged Casio watches, also designed for you and your environment, make sure you get yours with selected Merial Ancare products.

CASIO TOUGH SOLAR AQ-SB10W-1AV QUALIFYING PURCHASES: CALF PACK (ARREST® C 5L & ECLIPSE® Pour-On 2.5L), ECLIPSE® Pour-On 2.5L, ECLIPSE® E Injection 2 x 500mL, EPRINEX® Pour-On 2 x 5L, EXODUS® Pour-On 2 x 5L, GENESIS® Injection 4 x 500mL, GENESIS® Injection B12 & Se 4 x 500mL, GENESIS® Pour-On 10L, GENESIS® Ultra Pour-On 5L, WOMEC® Plus Injection 4 x 500mL, MATRIX® C Hi-Mineral 10L, SWITCH® C Hi-Mineral 10L, SWITCH® Fluke10 5L.

CASIO G-SHOCK GA-400-1B QUALIFYING PURCHASES: ECLIPSE® Pour-On 5L, EPRINEX® Pour-On 20L, MATRIX® C Hi-Mineral 20L, SWITCH® C Hi-Mineral 20L, SWITCH® Fluke10 10L.



PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC.

*WHILE STOCKS LAST. PROMOTION ENDS 26/04/17

MERIAL NZ LTD, LEVEL 3, MERIAL BUILDING, OSTERLEY WAY, MANUKAU, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND | WWW.MERIAL.CO.NZ | ARREST®, ECLIPSE®, EPRINEX®, EXODUS®, GENESIS®, WOMEC®, MATRIX® & SWITCH® ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF MERIAL, REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THE ACVM ACT 1997 | N°S: A7290, A9270, A10640, A10222, A9888, A7456, A7353, A9222, A7191, A6481, A10131, A10274, A11138 | ©COPYRIGHT 2016 MERIAL NZ LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NZ-16-MAL-165.