



DAIRY NEWS

February 2018

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Facial Eczema

Hot days, warm nights and moisture may have created an early start to the eczema season so it is advisable that you are prepared for a potentially high challenge this year. E mails will be going out soon alerting you to spore counts in the Rai, Canvastown and Linkwater districts. If anyone wants to test their own farm please submit grass samples to us. Spore counts on pasture is a very crude way of assessing risk but it is the best method we have. Please be aware levels reported are a guide only and are subject to change quite quickly. Even neighbouring farms may have quite different spore counts if grass quality/shade areas/irrigation are very different. In terms of preparing for the FE season consider:

- Zinc Monohydrate use in dosatron/Pieter dispenser
- In shed Zinc oxide drenching
- In shed feed zinc
- Zinc bolus use for young stock
- Pasture spraying

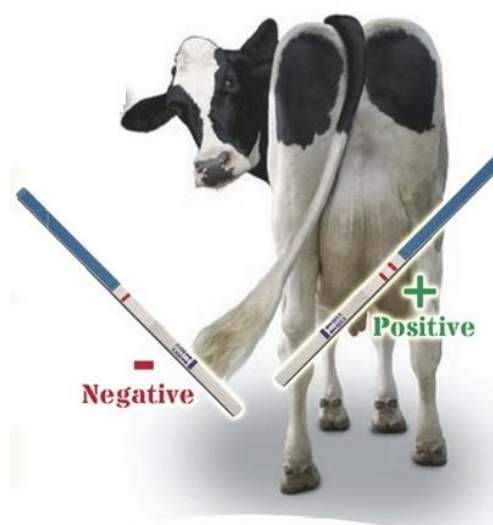
Pregnancy testing

We look forward to our experienced team of production animal veterinarians at Vets on Alabama scanning your herd this year. We can offer early ageing (usually before mid February), yes/no scanning with identification of lates (Late Feb/March) or just yes/no.

We are experienced and efficient.

You will have heard a lot about the LIC in milk test-just a heads up on that –no ageing or ID of lates is possible. Also we urge you to consider cost.

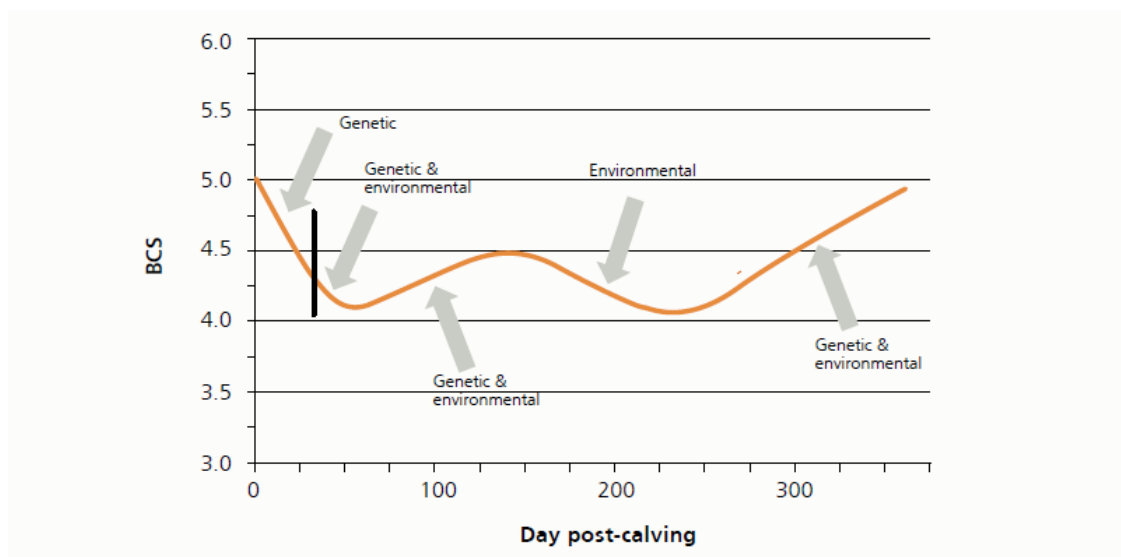
Often we like to offer to body condition score the herd at the same time or at another convenient time. Summer is the best time to get a 'marker' score to aim for the vital 5 at dry off. We can also fit in blood samples for trace elements if needed.



IS YOUR HERD TOO THIN?

This is the best time of the year to body condition score (BCS) your herd. The decisions you make from now on will have an influence on Body Condition Score at calving next year and a major effect on next year's mating.

Following condition loss in the post calving period cows will begin to gain condition once peak lactation has been attained. Feeding of supplements (Palm Kernel, Grain, Silage, etc.) will help cows to gain condition more rapidly, however some high production cows will put more of this energy into milk production not condition. Also, on all grass systems, condition gains will slow concurrently with a decline in pasture quality in mid-season.



Seasonal Change In Body Condition Score

Source: NZ Dairy.

During the second half of lactation, those animals in their first season do not gain condition as quickly as the rest of the herd. As a result, cows entering their second lactation will be on average in lighter condition at the time of calving than the rest of the herd, however preferential feeding toward the end of their first season can help to minimise this effect.

We would recommend an independent BCS of the herd now by an independent certified scorer, so that a management plan can be formulated. **Vets On Alabama have a certified scorer to give your herd an independent BCS.**

Body Condition Score targets are achieved by:

- Adjusting quality and types of feed.
- Frequency of milking. (OAD, 16-18hr)
- Adjusting the length of lactation. (moving your drying off date)

Vets on Alabama Trace Element Mix

Just a reminder that we now have our own custom made trace element mix –there are a few options:

No copper-for PKE feeders

High Copper

High Zinc-for high lameness herds.

We have focused on supplementing trace elements we know to be deficient in the region (copper,zinc,iodine,b12) and following low B12 bloods in spring last year ,we have also increased our cobalt level.

When comparing price remember to consider we are including high quality chelated copper and zinc in the product for better utilisation.

Please ring Peter for any further information. We have 6 farms using the product now.

Mastitis Laboratory

Summer is often when somatic problems begin to raise their ugly heads. At the risk of sounding like a broken record like a broken record like a broken record like a broken record:

WE NEED SAMPLES!

It is becoming very hard to continue to extend scripts for mastitis treatments without samples being provided. If your script runs out, it means you are experiencing a higher level of mastitis than we expected, that means we have a potential problem meaning we need to find out what's causing it so we can help. Samples are the first stage of an investigation. They basically point us in a direction for treatment and prevention. We have talked about antibiotic resistance in previous letters/meetings etc. and it is this issue that's behind a lot of the obligatory scripts/dry cow consults that are part of life today. The idea of setting up the in house lab was to make it cheaper (much cheaper) and easier for you to get these samples to us.

In order to extend scripts in future we are going to need more evidence that we do know what we are prescribing for so please.....

Leptospirosis and Vaccination

Herd leptospirosis (Lepto) vaccinations are due in the next few months. Here's a quick reminder of our Lepto vaccination advice which has changed in recent years with the earlier vaccination of calves to prevent 'shedding'. This reduces the risk for human disease. Remember leptospirosis is a 'zoonosis', that is a disease transmissible to man, and control through vaccination, particularly in dairy cattle, is essential.

Calves - 2 shots of Ultravac® 7N1 FOUR to SIX weeks apart from 1 month of age. This vaccine contains 5 clostridial antigens as well as two antigens for Leptospirosis.

R1'S in April/May- Lepto vaccination to bring in to line with herd and heifers.

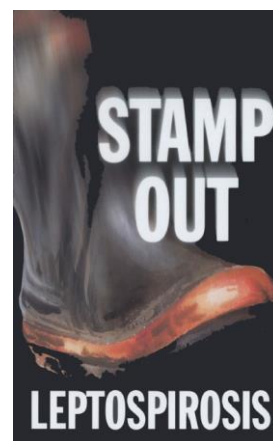
R2'S and milking herd/bulls - from February/March-lepto vaccination booster shot.

Also vaccinating for BVD??? Please remember the first shot in calves is only from 4 months of age, so it may fit with your second 7 in 1 vaccination. Otherwise BVD vaccination of cows and heifers should occur pre-mating.

As with most vaccines, generally the first time an animal is vaccinated it requires 2 doses four to six weeks apart and then a yearly booster.

You are welcome to do your own vaccinations but we are also available to do them for you if you wish. If you are doing your own please remember to store vaccine in the fridge and ensure you use the correct dose rate and injection site. Change needles often.

It is common practice throughout NZ for your veterinarian to carry out leptospirosis vaccinations – therefore if you would prefer us to come and do it for you at a good rate, please let us know. We will then supply you with a certificate to verify that your herd Leptospirosis vaccination status is up to date.



Calves Copper and Drench

Another reminder! We have established most areas in the district are at best marginal in copper and supplementation seems to help calves in terms of growth, coat and general health. If they have had NO ACCESS TO PKE , they can have a 10g bolus @ 100kg. For drench we think the best deal is our

'CALF PACK'

This includes the white /clear oral Arrest C and the pour on avermectin/clear Eclipse. Use the oral for as long as you can @ 3-4 week intervals before switching to the pour on.

With mating approaching it will soon be time to tail paint, usually in mid to late September. This year we would like to get our mating programmes organised early as this is the best approach to managing herd fertility. Make sure you have a metricheck plan, BVD vaccinations, trace element status heifer synchrony and non cyler management all covered. To do this we need to have a consult with you about your needs for mating, and if you commit to doing this we will give you 6 bottles of free 1L brush on FIL tail paint for the herd. The consult is likely to take about 30mins



CALF DRENCH PACK SUPER DEAL!

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

SPECIAL PRICE ONLY \$814.90!

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

