



VETS ON ALABAMA DAIRY NEWS

August 2013

With calving now well underway we have assisted with a number of these already this season. The calving period is a stressful period for all concerned and it is important that you recognise when veterinary assistance is necessary.

In general if you have spent 10 -15 minutes yourself trying to assist a calving cow and it has not progressed, then it is important that you call us to help with the situation. The longer you wait to call us, the longer it takes for us to get to you, as a result it could take longer to calve the cow and the less chance you have of a successful outcome for both the cow and calf.

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Sub clinical ketosis could be eating away at your profits.

Elanco Animal Health.

New data and herd assessment methodology is now available that can quickly identify herd ketosis status and help you control this profit robbing disease.

Ketosis is caused by a failure of adaptive mechanisms to cope with negative energy balance. This results in metabolic and endocrine changes which mobilise body fat and skeletal muscle to supply additional energy. Negative energy balance is universal in dairy cows in early lactation and the degree of energy deficit coupled with other factors such as body condition and pre-calving nutrition will generally determine the severity of ketosis – which more often than not remains hidden (sub-clinical)

Over the last four years Elanco Animal Health has undertaken trial work to understand the cost and prevalence of subclinical ketosis in the New Zealand herd.

Numerous studies show average NZ prevalence upwards of 16% of cows within a herd affected, typically highest in the first 6 weeks of lactation. Overseas findings are similar.

In New Zealand in 2009, a study of 58 herds across three dairy regions determined a ketosis prevalence of 16.8% within 7 - 12 days of calving. In 2010 a study of 15 herds showed a ketosis prevalence of 25.7% one week post calving.

Most farmers however won't know there is a problem, which is why these diseases are often referred to as sub clinical.

To identify ketosis within a herd we can now provide a cow-side service that can give you a first-take assessment in under an hour utilising tools and methodology developed by Elanco.

The cost of subclinical Ketosis will be dependent upon your individual herd status, but can be up to \$5700 per 100 cows for a high prevalence herd. On a per case basis, the cost of a single case of sub-clinical ketosis is in the vicinity of \$86 per case.

Ketosis has multiple effects on health, production and reproduction and is considered a “gateway” disease for other problems including decreased six week in-calf rate, endometritis and milk production losses, which have been built into these cost estimates.



Prevention and control strategies for ketosis will generally involve best practice management for feeding and reaching condition score targets in the lead up to, and immediately post calving. This is of course easier said than done, particularly when weather events can add an unknown dimension. Rumensin is a proven tool to assist in the prevention and control of ketosis, and is a logical choice from the start of calving. If practical, its use from 3 weeks pre-calving will deliver optimal results for both ketosis and milk production.

There is plenty of evidence that Rumensin works. A recent 857 cow study in 2012 using Rumensin in commercial Waikato herds found an overall SCK incidence of 57% in untreated cows within 12 days of calving. Rumensin treatment reduced sub clinical ketosis incidence by 17.9% and also increased the proportion of cows with steady or increasing BCS after calving by 9%.

Getting it right in transition pays substantial dividends. Don't let subclinical ketosis be the silent robber on your farm; talk to us today for ways to assess and control this costly disease.

Don't Delay The Detection And Treatment Of Endometritis

Endometritis is a chronic, often asymptomatic, infection of the uterus in dairy cows which leads to:

- reduced submission rates
- reduced conception rates
- higher empty rates

These calving delays mean delays in getting cows back into milk production, meaning lost days in milk and reduced productivity of the farm.

In a 250 cow herd, the cost of endometritis could be up to \$11,000 per season. Out of 250 cows, approximately 25 will develop endometritis. Of these, it is likely that:

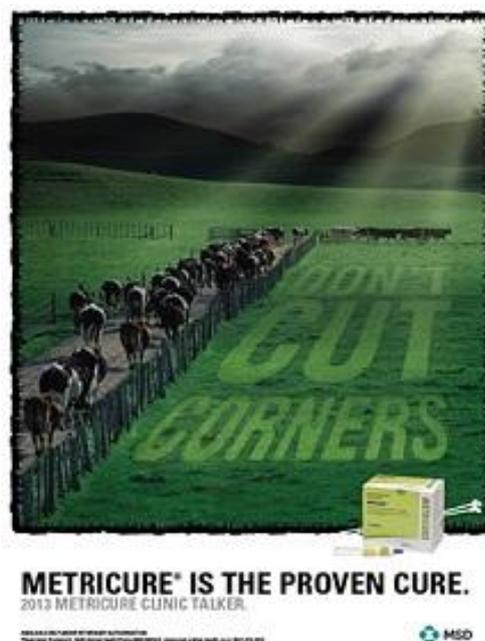
- 5 will fail to conceive (empties), a loss of \$1200* per cow.
- 20 cows will be 2-3 weeks late to calve, costing up to \$250** per cow in lost milk production.
- Extra fertility treatments will cost even more.

Metricure® is the proven cure for endometritis

Endometritis is simple to identify and treat, and New Zealand studies¹ have shown that treatment with Metricure® results in significant fertility improvements in at-risk and infected cows.

Research² has shown that treatment is most effective in cows examined within the first 2 – 3 weeks of the calving period, and treated within 2 – 4 weeks after calving.

That's why it's so important that you take early action and stop endometritis in its tracks.



Three steps to controlling endometritis

1. Identify and record all cows that show at-risk factors around calving, and notify your vet. At-risk factors include: retained foetal membranes, a dead calf within 24 hours of calving, assisted calving, a visible discharge, or cows that had twins.
2. Your vet can then identify infected cows using Metricheck™, a rapid on-the-spot testing device which can diagnose infection by detecting pus. It is important to check the whole herd to ensure all instances of infection are treated.
3. Ensure at-risk and infected cows are treated with Metricure, the proven inter-uterine antibiotic treatment.

The job's not done until all at-risk and infected cows have been treated.

* The loss in value between an in-calf cow (= \$2000) and an empty cow (= \$800) is \$1200.

** A 2-3 week delay in calving during August, with 1.7kgMS/day milk production at \$7/kgMS, results in losses of up to \$250.

Note: Based on predicted prices as at May 2013.

1. S. McDougall. (2001) Effect of Intrauterine Antibiotic Treatment on Reproductive Performance of Dairy Cows Following Periparturient Disease. NZVJ, 49(4), 150-158. 2. D. Runciman. (2009) Comparison of two methods of detecting purulent vaginal discharge in postpartum dairy cows and the effect of intrauterine cephalosporin on reproductive performance. AVJ, Vol 87, No 9, 369-378.

Testing For BVD

Keith Webby.

Testing replacement calves for BVD Antigen is a very useful but under used way to ensure young stock entering the herd are free of persistent infection (PI).

The BVD antigen test is very accurate and a negative result gives confidence that over its lifetime that animal is at no risk of being persistently infected. Remember that it is these Pi animals that maintain infection on a property.

Calves under 35 days old are tested using a blood sample. In animals over 35 days, a skin test or blood sample can be used. Calf dehorning is an ideal opportunity to sample calves while they are sedated. Contact the clinic and we can organise for this to be done.

Testing for BVD – Bulk Milk.

We recommend all Dairy Farmers to monitor their BVD status using this service provided by LIC. You are encouraged to sign up for this using their website or by contacting your local LIC Customer Relationship Manager.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR FISHING GEAR COMPETITION.

WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT WE PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST VETERINARY SERVICE POSSIBLE & WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT .

THERE ARE SIX PRIZES CONSISTING OF A VARIETY OF GEAR. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE WINNERS SOON.

VETS ON ALABAMA FISHING GEAR OFFER – THE WINNERS!

1. *John & Lynne Small*
2. *Jason & Amber Templeman*
3. *Adrian & Marlene White*
4. *Kevin & Dianne Payton*
5. *Murray & Tania Frost*
6. *Andy Gilmour*

VACCINES - Are we expecting too much?

David Sim.

Due to some recent concerns with regard to the efficacy of some vaccines, we have been in contact with the manufacturers.

It is important to adhere to the following guidelines or risk possible breakdowns in your vaccination regime and failure of the product to provide the protection that you expect.

1. Always read the leaflet provided by the manufacture with the vaccine before you administer the vaccine. It is pointless reading it afterwards.
2. Store vaccines correctly, as recommended by the manufacturer. This includes temperature and exposure to light.
3. Check that you are administering the correct dose at the correct site on the animal.
4. Maintain sterility – Vaccines are manufactured in highly sterile environments, this sterility must be maintained.
5. When left with a partly used pack/bottle, remove the connecting tube, clean the rubber plug off with meths and store upright in a fridge within the recommended temperature range.
6. Do not use vaccine after 6 weeks of opening, even if it is within the labelled expiry date.

Failure to follow these recommendations will jeopardise your vaccination program.

MARLBOROUGH 'FRONTS UP' TO PROSTATE CANCER

3000 MEN IN NZ ARE DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER EACH YEAR.

You are invited to a quiz night fundraising event organised by Marlborough Provincial Rural Women.

WHEN: TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2013

TIME: 6PM

WHERE: CLUBS OF MARLBOROUGH

- The cost is 30/pp which includes a 2-course roast meal.
- Doors open 6pm
- Dinner at 6:30pm
- Quiz night starts at 7:30pm
- Glen Kirby is the quiz master for the evening.
- Raffles, Silent Auction and spot prizes

RSVP To: Pam Tomlinson
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