

# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

## NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2013



### WHAT'S HAPPENED TO WINTER???

The conditions we have experienced in the last few weeks have been just what the doctor ordered to assist in getting back on track after a very difficult period. Grass growth in mid to late July was at rates we would normally expect in late August (this is in line with soil temperatures too!!).

Stock condition is generally lifting although beef cows are struggling to find a feed on some properties. Ironically I haven't seen so many well fed dairy cows in a long time.

Along with all this, the cost of urea and DAP has dropped significantly meaning those products are real options to further increase pasture growth rates where feed levels are still behind the eight ball.

Scanning results are mostly known now and in most cases are 10—15% back on last year. However with beef and lamb schedules looking positive and a good milk payout predicted 'if' the weather behaves itself, most farmers should be looking forward to a much better year. Good luck with Spring (and remember it is surprising how much good luck, good planning, active decision making and good management brings!!).



### Storage of Drenches & Vaccines

In recent times we have had one or two products returned that have crystallised or have had 'lumps found' in them. In most cases this has been the result of large temperature fluctuations (either too hot or too cold).

Please bear this in mind when storing products. Store drenches and dips in areas where they are not exposed to continual frosting or high summer temperatures (especially in direct sunlight).

Vaccines should always be refrigerated but never frozen (the dog tucker fridge may not be a good option!). Use chilly bins when transporting and using vaccines.

### FREE Faecal Egg Counts

A reminder to all of those using Drench Capsules or Long Acting Drench Injections. We will carry out a free faecal egg count test on a sample collected from treated ewes 50—80 days after treatment. (This should be around docking time.)

**This is a very useful tool in establishing:**

- If the product is working.
- What resistance problems may be emerging on your property.
- The threat that future product use may have in accelerating a drench resistance development.

Plan to make the most of this offer. It won't cost you anything!!!

### Grass Staggers Risk??

With very little tag left, beef cows are now surviving on whatever green grass they can get unless they are lucky enough to be being fed supplements. While it is great to be getting grass growth at this time of the year this new grass tends to have very low magnesium levels. This is not a great situation for a beef cow's magnesium status.

For those cows calving in August and September a blood test to check their magnesium status can be a very good idea. The result of this blood test can be used to assist with determining if magnesium supplementation is required and what form this should take (capsules versus salt licks, etc).

*Contact the Clinic to discuss blood testing and appropriate timing.*

**A wee message from Anna**—please take off your boots when you come into the shop. We are trying to keep our new carpet nice for as long as possible. Thank you.





# Brassica Poisoning

Cosmin recently dealt with the death of weaners on a Kale crop due to red water or SMC0 poisoning.



Although this problem is normally seen in flowering crops on soils with high sulphur levels, this crop was not flowering although it had been stressed with excess soil moisture.

If feeding brassicas, always keep an eye out for the signs of red water. The best way is to watch cattle urinating and check urine puddles for red tinges as you shift the breaks. Affected animals will also be slow to move onto new breaks and eventually become staggery.

With this current run of weather, brassica crops are likely to bolt to the flowering stage earlier than normal. This may increase the risk of SMC0 poisoning.

*PS. High soil sulphur levels increase the risks of poisoning this cropping season. Ensure you use fertiliser programmes and products that do not supply levels of sulphur that are unnecessary for the crop and are likely to cause problems.*

## Congratulations

The following people have been drawn out to win \$60 vouchers after filling out the Pre Lamb order forms. Well done to you all.

**Bill Parkes**  
**Russell Florence**  
**Jeff Williams**  
**Wade Clare**  
**Sarah Bird**

## Early Lactation Dry Cow Grades

In some areas this has been a significant problem even when farmers have fully complied with dry cow with-holding periods.

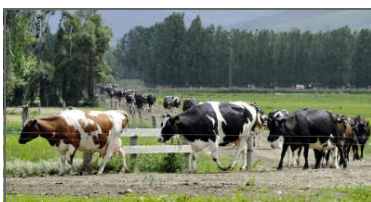
Investigations where problems have occurred have revealed the following contributing factors:

1. *The problem has been linked to long acting dry cow products rather than short acting ones.*
2. *Treating cows with dry cow that have very low production at drying off seems to increase the risk.*
3. *Cows that abort or have poor udder development at calving may secrete drug residues for weeks after calving (this can include induced cows).*
4. *Sick cows at calving may take longer than 8 milkings to be residue free.*

If you have any concerns about residues, contact the Clinic.

## Magnesium Supplementation to Springers and Calving Cows

Just a reminder, although Magnesium Supplements are very important in these cows, too much magnesium can be almost as big a problem as too little as it can upset the cows whole mineral status.



If the right amount is good, a whole lot more will **NOT** make it better!! In fact it could compromise cow health.

## Dairy Farmers—A word of Warning

*(Beef Farmers Read This Too!)*

**I recently read about a very interesting BVD outbreak in Taranaki. A farmer had been testing his herd for BVD via bulk milk samples. These tests had indicated the herd had little exposure to BVD.**

**In late December a test revealed a sudden spike in BVD milk antibody levels indicating recent BVD exposure had occurred in the herd.**

**Investigations revealed that the farmer had taken on some nurse cows from a mate. One proved on testing to be a persistently infected BVD carrier.**

**While the farm's pregnancy results were only slightly poorer than normal, the real problems occurred the next Spring. At weaning there appeared to be 'a few' poor calves. These calves, upon blood testing, were found to be BVD carriers. Things get worse!!! All 70 calves were tested. 33 were BVD positive and had to be destroyed!!**

**The take home messages:**

- *Introducing cows with an unknown BVD status may be a big risk to your herd especially if it occurs around mating or early pregnancy.*
- *Work out your BVD status. If exposure in your herd is low, introducing BVD carrier animals is a huge risk.*
- *If you do not understand BVD, talk to us!!*

### **BEEF FARMERS**

**the same risks can apply to your cow herd!**

**After Hours Vet**

**Emergencies:**

**Shop Hours:**

**Email:**

Phone 06 3228 058

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

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