

# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

## NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER 2013



### Welcome to Spring!!



This newsletter covers some of the little issues that can be overlooked in Spring on a busy dairy or sheep and beef farm. A little planning and maintenance now can avoid serious problems later, or allows valuable information to be gained and addressed before it is too late.



### Bitches On Heat At Docking

About this time of the year many bitches will come on heat just when they are required for docking etc.

This problem can be avoided if bitch owners take action over the next few weeks. **Delvosterone hormonal injection** which will keep bitches off heat for a minimum of 3 months with minimal side effects. If you want to keep bitches off heat for longer than 3 months, a second injection will defer heat for another 4 months. This treatment needs to be given BEFORE bitches show any signs of heat.

Alternatively if you spot your bitch coming into heat at an early stage (when the vulva first swells and drops of blood appear) **Suppress tablets** can be used to take bitches off heat, however in our opinion Delvosterone injection is the better option.

Castration of dogs or spaying bitches may be options for some. Generally dogs are off work for about 10 days.



Mismating treatments are now very expensive (in excess of \$200). Some early planning makes good sense!!!

← ← ← **The result of poor planning!!!**

### For Sale

1 Huntaway, handy,  
hard on cattle

Contact  
John Bismark  
06 3228021

### Lepto Update

Dairy farmers please note that accompanying this newsletter is the latest advice for lepto vaccinating programmes for calves.

**Please note that this has changed slightly from past advice.**

### How Is Your Mastitis Control?

Most dairy farmers are now at least one month into calving and it is an excellent time to assess the success of your mastitis treatments and control.

Realistically you should expect to gain cure rates of between 60—80% for new mastitis infections. Have you achieved this? If not it is possible that:



- **Mastitis cases are being left too late before treatment begins (this reduces cure rates).**
- **You are dealing with less common types of bacteria that are not susceptible to our normal choice of antibiotic treatment.**
- **Cows may be suffering from other health issues, especially in the days immediately after calving. This will reduce her immunity and ability to cope with mastitis. For example, Ketosis, Endometritis or metabolic disease could be the problem.**
- **Teat lesions and teat cracking are a problem.**
- **Staff are teat spraying inadequately or mixing teat sprays incorrectly.**
- **There are milking plant issues.**

If you are at all concerned about mastitis control and management act now. Delays only allow this infectious disease problem to get worse.

Milk cultures from new mastitis cases or milk samples that were frozen from early season cases that have not responded well may offer valuable information if problems exist.

### Congratulations

to Tristan Brimlow and Kathy Craws' worker, Pietro, for winning tickets to All Blacks game in Wellington last month through their attendance at the Bayer Fieldday held at Orlando Country recently. We trust they had a great time!!!

### FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER IN LIFE

1. Money cannot buy happiness, but its more comfortable to cry in a Jaguar than on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy, but remember the asshole's name.
3. If you help someone when they're in trouble, they will remember you when they're in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then neither does milk.

**Bonus:** Condoms don't guarantee safe sex. A friend of mine was wearing one, when he was shot by the woman's husband.

### Vet Club AGM

Thursday 19th  
September 2013  
Rangatira Golf Club  
Guest Speaker—Martin Snedden  
We look forward to seeing you all there.  
**Don't forget to RSVP :)**

## Tony Theed—Hunterville Veterinary Club Life Member

In mid July we were very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Tony Theed, a life member of the Club. Tony served on the Veterinary Club committee for many years and was instrumental in seeing the Club through some difficult times as Chairman in the early eighties. During this period his wise council and ability to see the bigger picture was a real asset to the Club.

Throughout his farming career Tony was a great supporter of the Veterinary Club and even in retirement in Waikanae he continued to keep in touch with Club happenings.

The Club would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathies to Sue and the Theed family.

### Low Magnesiums

As we predicted we have seen magnesium issues in beef cows that have been grazing fresh grass that has appeared early with the very mild conditions in July and August.

This grass on many properties will be low in magnesium and will cause metabolic problems before and after calving for earlier calving cows. Some form of magnesium supplementation may be necessary.

Contact the Clinic for advice if you are concerned about your cows.

### Wobbly, Scouring Calves

Calves that develop the scours and become weak and wobbly require careful nursing. The weakness is a sign of blood electrolyte imbalances that need to be corrected ASAP.

The best way to do this is with the use of a warm, high quality electrolyte solution. (Note that not all electrolyte replacement products are high quality.)

Two to three feeds are generally required to get a calf up and going again. The calf can then be slowly reintroduced to milk feeds. In some cases, antibiotic treatment may also be helpful.



### Lamb Survival Issues

To date the weather has been excellent for lamb survival. Over the coming weeks, as your lambing progresses if you have any concerns about lamb deaths, consider collecting dead lambs for post mortem examination. (Lambs can be frozen or picked up fresh.)

Valuable information can be collected as to the cause of death and issues identified such as iodine or vit E deficiencies, umbilical infections or lambing difficulties, etc.

### 2—3 Months To Mating

Mating is not far away for many beef cow herds. Take some time now to examine your bull team. Remember it takes 6 weeks for a healthy bull to make good quality semen. Deal to:

- *Lameness problems.*
- *Trace element issues, especially copper and selenium.*
- *Preferentially feed bulls that have not wintered well.*
- *If bulls remain in poor condition consider the need for replacements.*
- *Book in your bull testing.*

### Cleaned the Calving Gear???

One month into calving??

Have you given your calving ropes, chains and jack a good clean up and disinfection? Using dirty gear is a really good way to cause serious infections in the second half of calving!!

### GOLF!!!



One day I accidentally overturned my golf buggy. Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and called out, "Are you okay, what's your name?"

"It's Jack, and I'm Okay thanks," I replied.

"Jack, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while, and I'll help you get the cart up later."

"That's mighty nice of you," I answered, but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on," Elizabeth insisted.

She was very pretty, very sexy and persuasive.... I was weak.

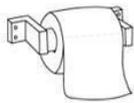
"Well okay," I finally agreed, and added, "but my wife won't like it."

After a restorative brandy, and some creative putting lessons, I thanked my host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset."

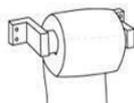
"Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"Under the cart!" I said....

### What your toilet paper says about you:



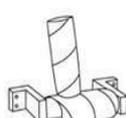
You are faithful, logical, and sensible-- a traditionalist who takes special joy in keeping his or her environment well-regulated.



You are carefree, enthusiastic, and spontaneous-- a heedless fool with a skewed perception of reality.



You are reckless, incorrigible, and lazy-- most likely male, with the attention span of a goldfish.



I hate you.

DOGHOUSE DIARIES

### After Hours Vet

**Emergencies:**

Phone 06 3228 058

**Shop Hours:**

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

**Email:**

huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

