



HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER 2014



Beef Cows and Magnesium???

We often get asked at this time of the year whether beef cows will require magnesium supplementation at and after calving. Unfortunately the answer is not a simple yes or no and will depend on many factors including:

- Age of the cows, middle age to old cows are more susceptible.
- The maturity of grass the cows will be grazing.
- Soil types and the expected magnesium levels in the grass (this will also vary depending on the type of pasture).
- Potash and nitrogen levels in the grass which reduce magnesium absorption.

One very useful tool in coming to a decision is to blood test some cows pre-calving and check magnesium levels. If levels are good, supplementation may be less important. If magnesium levels are already low, supplementation planning needs to be discussed.

Check How Well Those Capsules / Injections Are Working???

By the end of the month docking will begin and it will be an excellent time to take some **faecal samples** from ewes to determine how well your pre-lamb treatment has worked and what, if any, worm eggs are being shed.

While docking is a busy time, please try to take these samples. The information gained is vital in making decisions about future capsule or injection usage and planning drenching programmes for the coming season. Remember, to encourage you to take these samples, the faecal egg counts will be done for **free** if you purchased your product from us.



P.S. Remember to seal and refrigerate (not freeze) your samples as soon after collection as possible.

Watch Those Fridges

Each season we field a number of calls from clients who successfully freeze their vaccines in dodgy fridges and want to know if they are still okay.

Unfortunately the answer is NO!! Vaccines take very unkindly to freezing and in most circumstances are severely compromised by freezing.

The old dog tucker fridge is probably not the best place to store your vaccine. A new fridge is pretty cheap and may be a good option!! It will also be useful for storing those **faecal samples** you need to take and still have room for a few beers after work!!

PS. Care should also be taken with other drenches and products left in sheds / yards while we are experiencing frosts.



Stomach Torsions in Huntaways

Unfortunately we have seen one or two of these lately where there has been a delay in getting the dog to us and the case has been beyond effective treatment.

If you have a huntaway or other breed of deep chested dog that suddenly seems to be showing signs of:

- Bloating / abdominal distention.
- Attempting to vomit with little being produced.
- Abdominal pain and acute depression

-think stomach torsion and get the dog to the Clinic ASAP. Waiting even 1-2 hours can be fatal.



Left Abomasal Displacements (LDA), "The Depressed Cow"

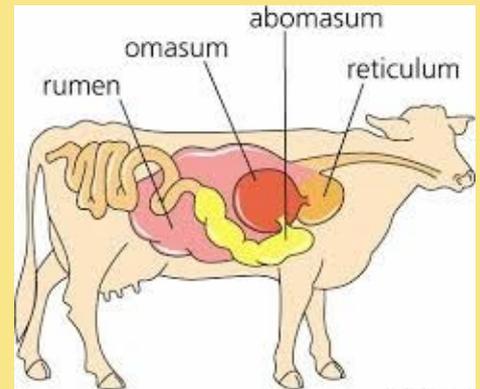
Now that so many dairy farmers are feeding low bulk concentrate feeds we are seeing a growing number of these cows. (The problem is extremely rare in cows fed grass / silage diets.)

Treatment can be very effective if displacements are diagnosed at an early stage. Cows generally present in the following way:

- Have suddenly gone off their milk with loss of appetite.
- Seem to be depressed and slow to move.
- May be scouring.
- As the problem progresses, abdominal distention may be noted.

If a cow presents with these symptoms, think LDA and contact the Clinic ASAP.

Note: The problem also seems to be more prevalent where fibre levels in the diet are low to lacking.



Brainy!!!

Three blond men are stranded on an island. Suddenly a fairy appears and offers to grant each one of them a wish.

The first blond asks to be intelligent. Instantly he is turned into a brown-haired man and swims off the island.

The next one asks to be even more intelligent than the previous one, so he is turned into a black-haired man. The black-haired man builds a boat and sails off the island.

The third blond asks to become even more intelligent than the previous two. The fairy turns him into a woman and she walks across the bridge.

NAIT Tag Reader

We recently purchased a NAIT tag reader. This will be available for members to use for recording stock transactions or identifying animals.

Having scanned the cattle, you can either enter the information yourself or Kerin is available to do this for you if you wish.



New Faces

Once again we have a new addition to welcome onto our team. Mac Keene—Veterinarian—joins our team in September. He comes to us from Raglan and I am sure you will all make him very welcome as he finds his way around and gets to know everyone.

Also you may have seen Beatrice Koh around the vet club or out on the farm. Beatrice is a newly qualified Vet Technician and has been doing work experience with us while she looks for a full-time job. She tries her hand at most things so you may even see her at the front desk helping Anna or hear her answering the phone.

We would like to wish both Mac and Beatrice a big Hunterville welcome.

Dehorning Calves

We now dehorn hundreds of reared calves around 4-6 weeks of age. This process involves sedating calves and burning the horns out. The result is a bloodless, very tidy job with no horns re-growing. If you are rearing calves that require dehorning, contact the Clinic to further discuss this procedure.

Dinner at Marion's

An elderly lady was invited to an old friend's house for dinner one evening.

She was impressed by the way her lady friend preceded every request to her husband with endeavouring terms such as: Honey, my love, etc. The couple had been married almost 70 years and were clearly still very much in love.

While the husband was in the living room, her lady friend leaned over to her hostess to say how wonderful she thought it was that after so many years of marriage she still called her husband loving names.

The elderly lady said, "I have to tell you the truth, his name slipped my mind about 10 years ago and I'm scared to death to ask the cranky old fool what it actually is!"

No More Inductions

It looks like inductions will be banned next season. For those dairy farmers who sometimes induce cows, this will now NOT be an option. Ensure you have management programmes in place for this seasons mating to ensure you have as few late calving cows as possible.

Good pre-mating heat recording and accurate heat detection over mating will be a big part of the process as well as:

- A quality team of back up bulls.
- The judicious early treatment of non cycling cows.
- Optimal feeding and minimal supplementation programmes.
- Metri-checking and treatment of 'dirty' cows.

After Hours Vet

Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058

Shop Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

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Website: www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz

