



Theileria Update

There have now been a number of herds of cows identified as being infected with Theileria in our neighbouring practices. To date the only positive animals we have identified are bulls that were purchased from the Waikato.

For those of you who have a tick population on your farm (and we know ticks are widespread at low populations in our area), the purchase of a Theilerium infected cattle beast does pose a risk (these animals in the majority of cases will show absolutely no symptoms of infection).

Once on your property if a tick feeds on the infected cattle beast and becomes a Theileria carrier it has the potential to spread the infection to other cattle on your property. As these animals have never been exposed to Theileria and have no immunity, the infection has the potential to cause significant clinical disease.

The best advice we can give in terms of avoiding Theileria is:

- Don't buy stock in—not very practical for most!!
- If you do purchase stock, avoid areas with known Theileria problems (north of Ruapehu) including parts of Taranaki.
- Be aware that cattle purchased from 'safe areas' may be carriers if they actually originate from known infected areas.
- Check that breeding bulls purchased are 'Theileria free'. (They can be blood tested.)
- Cattle purchased from 'tick areas' should be treated for ticks they may be carrying (especially if the tick population on your farm is nil or very low.)

If our climate is warming, as many suggest, tick populations will head south and increase, in numbers and Theileria is likely to become endemic in our livestock.

PS. As we send this newsletter out we may have identified another infected property.



How Many Doses Do You Get??

We get a great deal of variance in the number of doses farmers get out of scabine or phenax scabby mouth applicators (from <100 to >200). As long as you 'break the skin' and have vaccine in the break, the vaccine should take. (You don't have to swamp the site! But you must make a scratch big enough to break the skin and have vaccine in the break.)

If you have the opportunity it is always worthwhile checking lambs 2 weeks after scratching to check for a 'take'. There should be a 'scab' where the vaccine was applied.

Pulpy Kidney

As more and more high quality grasses, crops and legumes are planted, pulpy kidney is becoming more prevalent in lambs grazing these pastures. What should be done to control the problem?

- [Correct vaccination of ewes pre lamb and good colostrum intake should protect lambs for the first 10—12 weeks of their lives.](#)
- After 12 weeks if PK is a threat, lambs need to be vaccinated with 5 in 1 (this normally coincides with weaning but vaccination can be carried out at a pre-weaning drench if it suits).
- [Try to avoid vaccinating lambs that are likely to be killed in the next 10—14 days.](#)
- Always ensure the vaccination is administered high up on the neck or vaccination lesions may be a problem at slaughter plants especially for animals killed close to vaccination.
- [Early vaccination of ewe lambs will act as the sensitiser vaccination. Further vaccination is not required until pre-lamb either as hoggets' or as 2-2ths.](#)

NB: [These high quality feeds may also pose a threat to cattle so having a vaccination programme in place for cattle should also be considered.](#)

Congratulations to the winners of the docking draw are as follows:

J Bremmers	P Evans
D Hintz	W Partridge

Guns/Product: If you have guns that are not working or you think they may be faulty, or any other faulty products, please bring them in for us to show to the companies involved.

Paddy's in jail. Guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.

"What on earth you doing?" he asks.

"Hanging myself" Paddy replies.

"It should be around your neck" says the Guard.

"I know" says Paddy "but I couldn't breathe".

We have a number of pallets at the back of the store, if you require some please see Anna.

Herd Metrichcking Results

The numbers of cows identified with endometritis when herds have been metrichcked is much lower this year than in previous seasons, less than 5% of cows affected in all herds.



This great result goes along with our observations on cow health this spring and the known risk factors associated with endometritis.

Metabolic problems, retained membranes, calving problems especially in heifers and cows in poor condition at calving have all been less common than normal (as confirmed by our low sales of metabolic products!!)

*An American tourist asks an Irishman:
"Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?" To which the Irishman replies: "They have to go backwards. If they fell forwards, they'd still be in the boat."*

It's Not Too Late

To check how your capsules or long acting injections have worked. Get those faecal samples into us for a 'free check'.

To date we have identified two properties where performance of capsules has been less than optimal and their future use is very much up for debate.

*Paddy spies a letter lying on his doormat.
It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND".
Paddy spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out
how to pick it up.*

Dairy Mating Results

How is your mating going? Many dairy farmers will be more than 3 weeks into mating now. It is a very good time to take stock of submission rates and early conception rates. Poor conception rates may indicate problems with:

- **Heat detection and AI timing.**
- **Poor AI technique.**
- **Poor semen or semen handling issues.**

Conception rates should be 65% plus in well managed herds.

If submission rates are lowish and you are likely to have more cows not in calf at the end of AI than you were planning you may require more bull power. Industry standard advice is that 1 bull is required for every 30 cows not in calf when AI finishes.

From the herds of non cycling cows we have checked out, the following comments can be made:

- **Generally submission rates have been okay and non cycling cows are not a massive problem (which one would expect given the weather, feed and general cow condition).**
- **Some herds are milking well and in these herds some high producing cows are struggling to hold body weight and cycle (especially where high energy supplementary feeds are limited).**



Web Site—For Sale

Following suggestions from our members we have updated our web site so members can advertise things they might have for sale which other members might like to buy. Eg. Stock, plant, supplementary feed, etc.

To advertise email Kerin on
kerin@huntervillevetclub.co.nz.

*An old Irish farmer's dog goes missing and he's
inconsolable.
His wife says "Why don't you put an advert in the
paper?"
He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing.
"What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks.
"Here boy" he replies.*

After Hours Vet



Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058
Shop Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
Email: huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz