

HAPPY NEW YEAR

BVD Milk Test Results

—Do You Understand Them??

Most of our dairy farmer clients are paying to have BVD tests carried out on their bulk milk however in talking to dairy farmers many either don't know how to interpret the results or don't take much notice of them.

These BVD test results are very valuable information that you should be following to understand the BVD status of your herd and the risks this very significant disease may pose to your operation.

If you require assistance in getting to grips with test results please feel free to contact the clinic for assistance.



Ram Checks

This month we will be completing our ram runs. If you need rams checked or vasectomies done please contact the clinic ASAP if we have not already been in touch.

PS. One thing I have noted in rams checks to date is the large number of white face rams that have excessive wool on their scrotums. Normally because the shearers / crutchers have not bothered to shear them!! Excessively woolly / matted scrotums will elevate testicular temperatures and affect sperm quality—not what you want at this time of the year!! Ensure your rams scrotum are wool free well before mating.



Dip Resistance to Triflumuron / Zapp / Exit

Flies with tolerance to Triflumuron (Zapp / Exit) have been identified in the Waikato / Taranaki region in recent summers.

A survey we were involved in in the summer of 2013 / 2014 demonstrated that 'our flies' were still susceptible to Triflumuron. However the expectation has been that we could expect to see resistant flies spread to this area fairly rapidly (unlike drench resistant worms, resistant flies fly big distances!!)



In recent weeks we have had three reports of Zapp or Exit that was applied late October / November, not giving the length of protection that has been expected from the experience of past usage.

A shortening of the protective period is the first sign we expect to see if resistant flies are in the area. If you are using these products it would be wise to keep this risk in mind and check treated sheep on a regular basis especially late in the normal protective period.

If you find struck sheep within the expected protective period you can put some live maggots in a jar on a bit of dog meat or roll and drop them into the clinic. We can get the maggots checked for resistant genetics. Alternatively if you would like information on other dip options that may offer more guaranteed fly control, contact the clinic.

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



Domestic Dispute: A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped" "Have you arrested the woman?" "Not Yet, the floor is still wet."

Checking Drench Guns

We mention this every year but it is worth mentioning again. Make sure you have protocols in place to ensure your drench guns are delivering the volume of drench you think they are!!

If you do not have a measuring cylinder, a 20ml or 30 ml syringe can be used. Ask for one next time you pick up a drum of drench.

PS. With some disposable drench guns you cannot calibrate them when full of drench as the front washer disappears in the drench. These guns should always be checked before use and set when the drench gun is empty.



“Not far from the Truth”

Rt Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environmental, Food, and Rural Affairs
(DEFRA)
17 Smith Square
London
16 July 2009

Dear Secretary of State,

My friend, who is in farming at the moment, recently received a cheque for \$3000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I would like to join the 'not rearing pigs' business.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agricultural Policy.

I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with the business. He has been rearing pigs for 40 years or so, and the best he ever made on them was \$1422 in 1968. That is—until this year, when he received a cheque for not rearing any.

If I get \$3000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get \$6000 for not rearing 100? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4000 pigs not raised, which will mean about \$240,000 for the first year. As I become more expert in not pig rearing I plan to be more ambitious, perhaps increasing to say 40,000 pigs not reared in my second year, for which I should expect about \$2.4 million from your department. Incidentally, I wonder if I would be eligible to receive tradable carbon credits for these pigs not producing harmful and polluting methane gases?

Another point: These pigs that I plan not to rear will not eat 2000 tonnes of cereals. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed pigs I don't rear?

I am also considering the 'not milking cows' business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the current DEFRA advice on set aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual fields (of which I seem to have several thousand hectares)?

In view of the above you will realise that I will be totally unemployed, and will therefore qualify for the unemployment benefits. I shall of course be voting for your party at the next general election.

Yours faithfully
Nigel Johnson-Hill

A TRIP TO THE VET???

PLAY DEAD

"Awww, you're not bad luck..."

...don't listen to them!"

Ram Ratios

We get a lot of questions regarding appropriate ram ratios especially when expensive rams are being purchased.

If rams have been checked and are in good health and ewes are mobbed up on rotation, ratios of 1—150 have proven to be quite adequate. For added insurance tail up rams can be added after the first cycle.

Note that the risk can be greater in smaller flocks of 300 to 400. With small ram numbers the loss / failure of one ram increases the loading on the remaining rams far more than larger flocks where more rams are out together.

Finally, if things are dry over mating and gates have to be left open to ensure access to water, higher ram ratios may be required. In dry years we frequently encounter problems with dry ewes or spread out matings as a result of rams and ewes becoming separated over tugging.

