



# HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB



## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016

### Heat Stress in Dairy Cows

With the very hot conditions over recent weeks it was interesting to receive an article from the Waikato on the effects of heat stress on cow health. Essentially in hot weather especially if humidity is high, well fed high producing dairy cows can be very stressed due to their inability to dissipate the large quantities of heat produced by the rumen.

When stressed, cows also stand more which causes further problems. The results of these stresses are:

- *Loss of appetite.*
- *Reduced milk production.*
- *Loss of immunity leading to increased mastitis, pneumonia, etc.*
- *Ruminal acidosis especially in cows receiving concentrates.*
- *Loss of embryos especially embryos in late mated cows.*
- *Lameness increases*



Fortunately our environment tends to be somewhat less taxing on cows. However these days we do face periods where heat stress is an issue. When such conditions occur herd managers should consider how they can minimise the challenge. For example:

- *Ensure cows walk the shortest distances possible especially at the afternoon milking.*
- *Use day paddocks that have good shade and air movement.*
- *Ensure drinking water is of good quality and readily available.*
- *Move cows quietly and minimise time standing in yards, etc.*
- *Try to feed cows with high quality feed that causes less challenge to a heat stressed cow's ability to eat and digest.*
- *Have novel endophyte grasses (AR1 AR37) or plantain or chicory etc that causes less heat stress, as they are free of the endophytes that promote heat stress.*
- *Pay close attention to cow health and deal with health issues ASAP. These cows are compromised immunologically and will deteriorate rapidly.*

### **Aging Pregnancy In Beef Cows**

If beef cow herds need late calving cows identified, this can normally be done more accurately if pregnancy testing occurs 35—45 days after the bull is removed. Often this will be before weaning.

If you feel identification of later calving cows would be useful, please contact the clinic to discuss possible pregnancy testing dates.

*PS. Where mating occurs over 3 cycles (60 days plus) late calving cow's feed requirements are entirely different to those that calve in the first cycle. Their identification can be very useful in terms of allocation feed.*

A farmer wants to know how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his border collie to count them. The dog runs into the field, counts them and runs back to the farmer. The farmer says, "How many?" The dog says, "40." The farmer is surprised and says, "How can there be 40—I only bought 38!" The dog says, "I rounded them up."

### **Grazing Wanted**

*We have a client looking for grazing for 50 rising 1yr dairy heifers from May to May. If this sounds like you please contact Martin at the clinic.*

### Eczema Update

As of the 1st of March, spore counts had risen at some known 'hotspots' around Hunterville and were approaching dangerous levels. This is however somewhat related to rainfall received. In many areas not enough moisture has been present. However counts could rise rapidly with the correct conditions of heat and moisture.

On the brighter side we are now into March and temperatures 'normally start to cool'. In previous bad eczema years, we would have seen high spore counts and clinical cases by now.

The best advice we can give is to keep stock (especially calves and lambs) away from known hotspots, call the clinic for updates and keep your fingers crossed!!

### Faecal Egg Counts

All sheep farmers should be considering taking faecal egg counts at this time of the year.

- **10 day post drenching counts to check on the effectiveness of the drench you have administered.**
- **Egg counts at the time of drenching lambs to assess larval challenges and reinfection. These counts are only useful in stock 4 weeks or more from their last drench.**
- **Egg counts on 2.2ths and ewe flocks to assess the requirements for pre-tup drenching.**

### **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





## Acorn Toxicity

In the last few dry autumns we have dealt with cattle deaths from acorn toxicity where cattle have grazed under or close to oak trees.

A warning that grazing cattle under oaks at this time of the year is NOT a good idea.

Acorns contain toxins that cause kidney damage in cattle. There is no treatment available.

### ***Friendly Reminder***

A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. A vet nurse just shot a farmer for stepping on the floor she had just mopped."

"Have you arrested the vet nurse?"

"Not yet, the floor is still wet." ***(PLEASE REMOVE YOUR BOOTS!!)***

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that every one seeing it there would know what he was doing!

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing..

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ... walked home .... and left it there all night.

(You gotta love Frank!)

# Drench Requirements For Lambs On Plantain, Chicory, Brassicas—Don't Get Caught Out!!

In general there has been a tendency among farmers to extend the interval between drenches for lambs on these types of feeds.

Whilst this makes sense for lambs on crops that have been shut up and growing for some time, ie brassicas, meaning that larval populations should be low, this may not be the case on plantain and chicory paddocks that have been predominantly grazed by high numbers of lambs. Especially second and third season swards.



We recommend continuing with monthly drenching programmes for lambs on plantain / chicory pastures unless worm burdens are assessed at 4 weeks with faecal egg counts. We have investigated worm problems where drenching programmes have been extended beyond 4 weeks without checking. These types of paddocks tend to carry very high lamb numbers and worm populations can rise very quickly if lambs are shedding moderate numbers of eggs.

## High Egg Counts

Despite the dry conditions we have identified high worm burdens in some 2.2th flocks via faecal egg counts. In most cases, farmers thought the 2.2ths 'looked okay'. However on getting them in to drench a 'tail' was apparent. With tugging approaching on most farms, if you have not drenched a faecal egg count would be a good move.

Note on some properties faecal egg count results have been low as one might expect with the dry weather. Drenching has been deferred until after rain hopefully arrives!!!

As with most animal health issues, decisions have to be made on a farm by farm basis, blanket advice does not cut it!



### ***The New Clerk***

The bank manager notices the new clerk is terrible when it came to counting money and adding up figures. "Where did you get your financial education?" he asks.

"Yale", replies the lad. The manager is sure he has misheard the man so her asks him the question again and the man again responds, "Yale".

That can't be right, thinks the manager. He decides he's going to check out the new clerks online credentials. "And what's your full name again?" asks the manager.

"Yim Yoynston."

### ***Bad News***

Doctor: "I have some bad news and some very bad news."

Patient: " Well you may as well give me the bad news first."

Doctor: "The lab called with your test results and they said you only have 24 hours left to live."

Patient: "24 Hours, that's terrible, what's worse than that? What's the very bad news?"

Doctor: "Your mobile phone has been switched off, we've been trying to reach you since yesterday."