

THEILERIA

In the spring of 2014 we diagnosed our first case of Theileria, this case involved the death of young beef calves. Since then we have identified infected animals on 2 properties but no real animal health issues had been noted. This spring we have seen our first serious outbreak of Theileria. The case involved a herd of Angus cows that were purchased and shifted onto a new property that previously had been stocked by large numbers of Dairy Grazers.

The owners became concerned after the death of 3 cows, with other cows appearing to be unwell and calves being born dead for no apparent reason. Clinical investigation revealed that the unwell cows and lost calves appeared to be anaemic, suggesting Theileria, (*which causes disease by damaging the red blood cells*) was a likely diagnosis. This was confirmed through laboratory testing.

This outbreak occurred in an area where ticks are known to be present and it is likely that infected grazing dairy cows brought the Theileria organism on to the property, infecting the tick population. (*Note that this disease only spreads between cattle via ticks, which become infected when they feed on an infected cow*).

There is very little in the way of therapeutic treatments for Theileria outside of feeding sick cattle well and minimising stress. Blood transfusions may be an option for high value stock and in some instances treating stock for ticks may be useful to prevent infections occurring at critical times of the year.

Ticks will move rapidly between properties, hitching a ride on their hosts, which can be virtually any mammal (deer, goats, hares, dogs, horses, sheep, etc).

How to tell if your cow is anaemic and may have Theileria, the Vulval Membrane Test



BLOAT CONTROL

At this stage most properties seem to be having a very good spring. In such circumstances bloat is likely to become more of an issue in well fed cattle. Bloat is especially likely to occur in cattle grazing high clover content pastures, or plantain or chicory mixes.

If this is a possibility on your property bloat control should be a serious consideration.

Bloat control can be aided by;

- Grazing ewes and lambs with cattle.
- Adding bloat oil to drinking water.
- Keeping cattle fully fed all the time.

The 'Rolls Royce' for bloat control is to treat cattle with **Bloat Capsules**. Capsules contain Rumensin which modifies the rumen microflora leading to more efficient digestion and less gas production. So as well as bloat control you should achieve some weight gain benefits.

Bloat capsules work for 100 days and can be given to cattle over 250kgs. Costs are \$18.72 inc per capsule, depending on numbers.

Don't wait for your first bloat death this season to take action! Call the clinic now if you have any concerns.

OCT 16

So it is certain that we will see more Theileria outbreaks now the disease is established in our tick population.

The following symptoms could be an indicator of Theileria

- Poor weight gain in younger cattle.
- Weight loss, especially associated with anaemia.
- Calf deaths or sickness.
- Death of cows especially around calving time or when cows are stressed.

PARVO IN PUPS

Fortunately we see few cases of parvo in dogs these days. However this is primarily due to the high number of dogs and puppies that are vaccinated. It's when vaccination doesn't occur that we see parvo cases arrive at the clinic.

The vaccination of pregnant bitches and young puppies is still very important.

If you wish to protect your dogs;

- Bitches should be vaccinated 14 days before the whelping due date.
- Puppies should be vaccinated at 6-8 and 10 -12 weeks of age.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

FODDER BEET OBSERVATIONS

I have been to see cattle on 5 properties where the owners were disappointed with weight gains. In all cases my observation was the cattle were being fed less than anticipated. Possibly because the crop yields had been over estimated or the dry matter percentage of the beets was less than expected. Allocating more feed by shifting the breaks more often or giving bigger breaks improved performance. *(Beets being left behind, does not mean cattle are fully fed).*

- On some properties there has been inadequate feed space to allow animals access to the fibre source (straw/bailage) or the feeders have been placed too far from the beet break fence.
- Low phosphorus levels were an issue in dairy cows and supplementation with phosphorus is necessary.
- High incidences of woody tongue have been encountered, animals with woody tongue probably slobber over the beets as they try to eat and other animals pick up the bacteria in the saliva. Affected animals need to be identified, treated and isolated ASAP.
- I remain unconvinced that the protein levels in fodder beet are sufficient to achieve good weight gains in young growing cattle over extended periods.

EARLY ACTION ON NON CYCLERS PAYS OFF

Trials on the treatment of non cycling cows with CIDRs have repeatedly shown that early intervention at the start of mating pays the greatest dividends.

Well managed herds will have been tail painted by now and pre mating heats will be recorded. If you feel you have more non cycling cows than you are happy with at this point and are considering intervening, we would



PROUD SPONSORS

Chairman Andrew Lambert handing over a cheque for \$10,000 to Chris Moody, the base manager and a pilot for the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter.

THOSE WELSH

A guy was driving down an English motorway with his blonde girlfriend when she said, "I think the people in the car next to us are from Wales", "What makes you say that?" he said. "Well the kids are writing on the window and it says "stitt ruoy su wohs".

encourage you to contact the clinic ASAP.

In some herds calving does appear to be pretty spread out this year and there are still large numbers of cows left to calve. If you could be happily fully feeding more milkers, this is a lost opportunity that you don't want to be stuck with next year, especially if you believe dairy payouts are likely to improve!! Consider action on non cyclers now!

THAT SHOULD DO IT

A large ship engine failed and no one could fix it. They had to bring in a man with 40 yrs. on the job. He inspected the engine carefully, top to bottom. After looking things over, the guy reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine lurched into life. The engine was fixed!

7 Days later the owners got his bill for \$10,000! 'What?!' the owners said 'You hardly did anything. Send us an itemized bill.' The reply simply said; Tapping with a hammer. \$2

Knowing where to tap? \$9,998

Don't Ever Underestimate Experience.

WINNER, WINNER

Congratulations to Richard Lambert, Robbie Stewart, Richard Goodwin and David Worsfold, for winning the docking order form draw!

VET NURSE NEWS

Sadly Laura Bell is leaving us after working as our Vet Nurse for the last year. Lara Fisher has joined the team and will be working four days a week. We wish both the girls good luck!