

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Once again another year has almost clicked over and we take the opportunity to thank all our members for their business in the last 12 months. We would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2017 (and a new **Prime Minister** you are all happy with!!).

MID SEASON MASTITIS/REPEAT OFFENDERS

We are at the time of the year when dairy farmers start to deal with cows that now have high cell counts or have a second case of clinical mastitis. Unlike last year where when these cows were directed to the meat works, an improved payout and a shortage of cows means that some clients are asking how to best treat these cows.

There are no simple answers but these guidelines should be used:

Reoffending cows have disappointing cure results to further treatments especially if:

- The cow has teat lesions or obvious udder abnormalities consistent with chronic mastitis.
- The cow has a history of mastitis in the same quarter in previous season.
- The cow has already been treated more than once this year.
- The cow is old.
- The initial mastitis treatment was delayed.

COMBINED BUSINESS CHRISTMAS SHOUT

This year we will be having our Christmas Shout along with other businesses in the town hall, following the Christmas Parade on Friday 23rd December at 4.30pm. Looking forward to seeing you for a cold one.



HAMS

A reminder to clients to pick up your hams if you have made qualifying drench purchases this year. If you are unsure as to your 'ham status' give the clinic a call and check with Aimee.

If you are going to attempt treatment consider the following points:

- Doing some milk cultures can help establish the bacteria involved, whether a cure is likely and what antibiotic is appropriate.
- Do not use the same type of antibiotic that was used previously to treat the cows (this doesn't just mean changing brands of product, many intra-mammaries contain the same type of antibiotic).
- As a rule treating repeat offenders for longer periods is more likely to result in a cure.

Contact the clinic to discuss treatment options.



TICKLE YA TINSEL

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has obviously never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

Did you know that Santa's not allowed to go down chimneys this year? It was declared unsafe by the Elf and Safety Commission.

Recently I had a little too much "fun" at the office Christmas party. Knowing the police were on special alert, I did what they say you should do - I took a cab home. This proved to be a wise decision, because after only a few blocks there was a police roadblock. They were checking drivers with a breath-alyzer. But the taxi, being a taxi, was waved right on through. So it was a good decision to take a cab. Plus, it was easier than I thought, and quite fun driving a cab. It's really just like any other car. But now I have this taxi in my garage and I don't know what to do with it.

A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," he replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?"

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift. "How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50. "That's a bit much," said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30. "That's still quite a bit," Tom grouched. Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle. Tom grew agitated, "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something real cheap." So the clerk handed him a mirror.



EYE INJURIES IN DOGS

We see a lot of eye injuries and one of the main reasons for treatment success is how quickly the dog is brought in to see a vet. If you have a dog that is holding its eye closed or has a cloudy looking eye or something protruding from its eye, bring it in asap. We are entering grass seed season as well and a dog that suddenly is squinting is highly likely to have a grass seed in its eye. Waiting to see if it will come right increases the chances of blindness or the dog losing the eye altogether.



Eye that has been stained to show ulcer caused by a grass seed.

TUX PROMOTION

For the months of December and January, Tux are running a promotion to win a Tablet. If you buy 2 bags at a time you go into a 1 in 12 draw to be in to win. More details in store.



UDDERING EWES

This is an old favourite but worth repeating. Again last summer I checked out a line of 5 year old ewes that a client had purchased. Close to 10% of the ewes had udder abnormalities when properly palpated (a more professional word than **groped!**).

Running ewes down a race in my opinion does not constitute checking udders!!! Udders and teats need to be palpated.

VACCINE ORDERS

A reminder to get your sheep vaccine requirement order forms back to the clinic ASAP so that we can order your Toxo. Remember it is only live for 10 days once it arrives here. It pays to keep in mind the public holidays that might affect your delivery date.

WEANING TIME

Weaning ewes and lambs is now in full swing. How lambs are handled over weaning has been demonstrated to have quite significant impacts on future growth rates and performance.

As all farmers are aware, hanging lambs around yards should be avoided and it is generally best to get lambs drenched, dipped if required and settled back onto similar types of pastures to those they have been grazing previously.

Putting freshly weaned lambs onto crops especially brassicas is generally not a good option. It is better to wait until they have settled down.

If pneumonia in lambs is a problem on your property shearing lambs at weaning should be avoided. Studies on **lamb pneumonia** have revealed a strong linkage between shearing at weaning and higher levels of pneumonia.

The theory is that lambs are already stressed and shearing adds further stress and allows the pneumonia causing bacteria to spread from carrier animals to other susceptible lambs.

With regard to ewes, weaning time can pose threats in the form of **acute mastitis infections**. The most at risk ewes are those that are still producing significant volumes of milk. (This is more likely, where ewes are weaned relatively early.) The threat is likely to be greater in wet conditions where yards are muddy.

Best practice is to have ewes yarded for the shortest possible time. Get ewes out onto clean paddocks with restricted feed levels for a few days so they can dry off. They can then be brought back to the yards for mouthing, uddering, etc.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SNOWMEN AND SNOWWOMEN?

SNOWBALLS



AFTER HOURS VET

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Monday to Friday

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