

### HEIFER TEAT SEALING

It is time for dairy farmers who teat seal to start thinking about when it should be done. Please contact the clinic to book dates.

For those who do not teat seal heifers it is an extremely effective technique for reducing mastitis in heifers in the late dry period and early lactation. If your records indicate heifer mastitis is a problem (greater than 15% - 8 heifers per 50 calved) contact the clinic to discuss teat sealing.

#### *Other options to reduce mastitis in heifers:*

- Remove calves from mothers twice a day and milk as soon as possible. (This can reduce clinical mastitis by 45%.)
- Teat spraying heifers 3 times a week pre calving has been demonstrated to reduce strep uberis mastitis in heifers by 50%.
- Consider pre calving milking of heifers. (Up to 42% reduction in mastitis has been recorded where heifer mastitis has been a problem.)

### MPI SUBSIDY

MPI have made funds available to assist farmers with feed budgets and making plans to get through winter with their preferred agricultural advisors. We are currently in the process of being registered to access these funds. Anyone interested in getting feed budgets done or planning winter / spring nitrogen use etc may be able to get this paid for by Jacinda!!! (This applies to sheep, beef and dairy).

### THINGS ARE LOOKING UP!!

As I write this newsletter it looks like Jacinda may be allowing the country to move back to level one if her beloved Ashley gives her the say so. We have received good rain as have many other drought affected parts of the country. I took a soil temperature this morning and it read 14 degrees—better than our normal June soil temperature, and with the moisture we have had we should see some better than average grass growth over June if the weather plays ball.

Store stock prices and schedules are improving across the board which makes decisions around selling stock and reducing feed demands if required a little easier to handle.

On the downside David Parker has turned his attention to fresh water again although one would think the government might have more pressing economic matters to attend to. Maybe clean water will be a distraction from the wave of unemployment coming. While things have been 'watered down a little' there will still be significant compliance costs and demands / regulations that are based on very limited science!

### THEILERIA

Last spring a number of clients had cases of Theileria in cows that were close to calving or had recently calved. Around calving cows are under considerable stress and are much more susceptible to developing severe anaemia that can result from Theileria infections.

In many of these cases we have been able to identify that the Theileria infection was picked up in late autumn, early winter while cows were grazing areas with high tick populations, eg. river country, poorly grazed areas with rough grass, or cows sent out grazing to properties with ticks.

Ideally farmers should attempt to avoid grazing areas with high tick populations in the 2-3 months prior to calving so cows do not develop Theileria infections close to calving.

### LIVER FLUKE CASES KEEP COMING AFTER MONTHS OF DRY CONDITIONS

We have mentioned the widespread detection of significant liver fluke infections in sheep flocks in previous newsletters. This trend has continued in the last month with several more problem properties identified.

If you have any concerns around lighter sheep in your flocks we would encourage you to consider liver fluke as a possible cause. Don't necessarily just put the problem down to a lack of feed, worms or Johnes disease, etc.

Doing a faecal egg count for fluke (not the same test method as for worms) can be used to make a rapid decision as to whether liver fluke is a possible problem in your ewe flock. The cost of testing is \$40-\$60.

### A German Shepherd, a Doberman, and a cat died.

In heaven, all three faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in.

The German Shepherd said, "I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master."

"Good!" said God. "Sit at my right side."

"Doberman, what do you believe in?" asked God.

The doberman answered, "I believe in the love, care, and protection of my master."

"Aha," said God. "You may sit to my left."

Then God looked at the cat and asked, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat replied, "I believe you are sitting in my seat."



### TREAT LICE ASAP

With poor (abysmal) wool prices there appears to be more woolly sheep about as clients extend shearing intervals. If you need to treat for lice we recommend that you treat your sheep as soon as possible if you are not shearing them.

Lice treatment becomes significantly more expensive as wool length extends past three months and the types of suitable products available becomes more limited and dose rates have to be increased significantly.

**PS. If you are shearing and need to treat for lice, the best time is straight off shears!!**

## SUDDEN DEATHS IN CATTLE

In recent weeks we have investigated sudden deaths in weaner and rising 2 yr cattle. These types of cases can be challenging to solve. Sometimes history or information around what the animals had been grazing helps in making a diagnosis but often post mortem examinations as soon as possible after death (these types of dead animals tend to go rotten very quickly) are necessary to make a diagnosis.

The most common causes of sudden death we see at this time of the year are:

- Clostridial disease, especially where cattle are on high quality pastures or crops and have not received 10 in 1, or 8 in 1 clostridial vaccination programmes.
- Nitrate poisoning which was discussed in last months newsletter.
- Bloat, which is often thought of as a spring clover problem but has been the cause of cattle deaths this autumn. It always pays to check hungry cattle a couple of hours after they are moved onto good feed or crops for signs of bloat. Chicory / clover paddocks can be a real problem in autumn.
- Rarely is it poisoning. With poisoning animals are often noticed as being off colour before death.

## SMALL ANIMAL CORNER

We have recently purchased a dental unit for improving our ability to treat dental conditions of your cats and dogs. This equipment makes carrying out dental on your furry friends an easier and more effective job and can be used on pet dogs, cats and even farm dogs. If your small animal has bad breath or you are concerned that they may have some sort of issue with their teeth please give us a call. As the pictures below indicate, it can make all the difference. Just as in human dentistry, delaying treatment results in significantly greater damage being done which is more difficult and costly to correct.



## CAPSULE ORDERS

With widespread drought and light sheep throughout NZ, suppliers inform us that they are receiving increased demand for drench capsules this spring. While we have a large order for capsules in place we would appreciate potential drench capsule users either filling out the pre-lamb order form accompanying this newsletter or calling the clinic to discuss possible capsule usage and volume requirements.

As in past seasons, charging of capsules will be delayed until November for December 20th payment.



## NILVAX

As with the capsules, please let us know ASAP if you require Nilvax this season. We will not be carrying extra supplies so orders will need to be made.

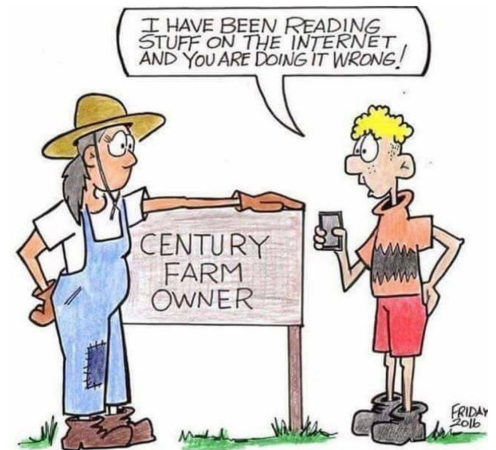


## ARDERN'S BUDGET 2020



In her budget Jacinda Ardern announced NZ taxpayers would borrow the most money ever in one go. Around \$50 billion dollars.

Ardern, using her fish and chip business skills, said the coalition had chosen the following three ways to pay back debt.



## AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - [huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz)