

LEPTO VACCINATIONS

Dairy clients need to ensure their lepto vaccination programmes are up to date as the end of the season approaches. Remember:

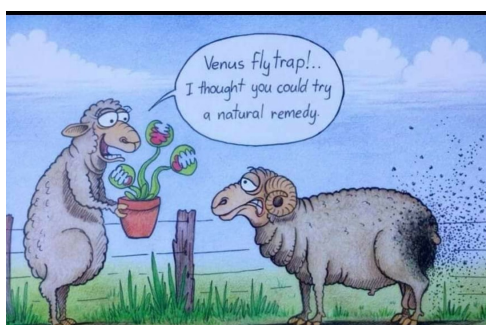
- Weaner replacements should have been vaccinated twice.
- Rising 2 year heifers and the cow herd require their annual booster.
- Don't forget, any bulls on the property that also require an annual booster.



DAIRY FARMER SCRIPTS

It's that time again!! We need to carry out our yearly dairy consultations with our dairy clients so we can draw up your scripts for your next 12 months of dairy drug supplies.

Please call the clinic to book your consult, or you will hear from us over the next few weeks. Ideally it is best to get things done before dry off so appropriate drying off treatments, including dry cow therapy, can be discussed.



HERE COMES THE RAIN

As I write this newsletter 2 days before the end of the month it is 'raining' for the first time in a month!! It would have been great if it had showed up 2 or 3 weeks earlier but at least the forecast seems to indicate a significant amount of rainfall in the next few days. At this point a very mild end of autumn and start of winter similar to last year would be very welcome.

The recent dry spell has presented a few challenges on farm although nothing like last autumn. Problems with grass staggers in sheep and cattle, pneumonia in lambs and high worm burdens in 2.2ths have been seen.

If the moisture has arrived we can expect to see high worm challenges over the next few weeks and if the Northerly weather pattern persists, a late facial eczema challenge is still a risk in warm, sheltered areas.

LOW SELENIUM LEVELS IN COWS

We recently pregnancy tested a beef herd with high empty rates. Blood tests were taken to investigate the problem and revealed **very low selenium levels** in the cow herd. (Annual selenium supplementation was not being done but some selenium had been put in fertiliser at times.)

With weaning underway it is a good time to check the selenium status of your cow herd and weaners especially if you are not using supplementation programmes that work for you.

Remember, selenium deficiency tends to be worse when grass has grown rapidly for prolonged periods as this tends to dilute the selenium in the grass. We have had very good grass growth for much of spring and summer.

If you do not use long acting selenium treatments in cattle we would encourage you to consider it when giving selenium supplementation. One shot gives 12 months selenium cover and costs between \$3 and \$5 a head depending on the animals size. This product works really well.



HOW IS YOUR FEED BUDGET??

Need some Nitrogen??

Winter prices for lamb and beef are all looking significantly better than what we currently have.

If you are considering holding stock into winter the use of nitrogen over the next 6 weeks could be a real winner!!

Last year farmers who used nitrogen achieved very good responses. Growing grass for 20 cents per kg of dry matter looks good business.

When winter schedules for lambs are hitting \$8.00 / kg, 40 kgs lamb growing at around 200 gms per day will be returning 50 cents on each kg of dry matter consumed!!

Just don't tell David Parker!!!

NEW LIVER FLUKE CASES

In recent weeks we have identified liver fluke infections in ewe flocks with no previous history of fluke problems (although in some cases fluke had been reported on cattle kill sheets).

Recent dry summers have probably contributed to the fluke problem as sheep and cattle have pushed further into wet areas and spent longer grazing parts of the farm where snails involved in the fluke life cycle are found.

If you farm in water catchments where fluke are known to be a problem or have neighbours that have identified liver fluke issues, it would pay to check your ewe flocks. This can be done by testing faecal samples which can be checked for the presence of liver fluke eggs.

GIRL DOG BITS

Due to the high number of unspeyed bitches in the area, there are a couple of issues we commonly see.

Pyometra – this is an infection in the uterus of the dog. These usually occur 2-6 weeks after a heat cycle (whether the bitch has been knotted or not). When on heat, the cervix opens to allow for the passage of sperm, unfortunately bacteria can also enter at this time. The cervix then closes and this creates a perfect environment for infection.

Things you may see – tiredness/lagging behind at work, reduction in appetite, increased water intake and vaginal discharge.

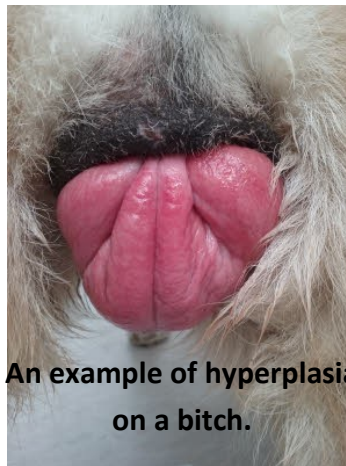
Treatment generally involves speying the bitch and putting her on antibiotics to clear up any residual infection or infection in the blood. If you have a valuable breeding bitch that is under 4 years old, is not unwell and is discharging from the vagina, it may be possible to medically treat her but fertility can't be guaranteed after successful treatment.

This condition is life threatening and delaying treatment/surgery can cause irreparable damage to your dogs kidneys.

'BEARINGS' IN BITCHES

We have a lot of bitches come in with what looks like a bearing. The majority of these turn out to be an overgrowth of the vaginal wall called vaginal hyperplasia which usually grows when bitches are on heat. Speying will prevent your bitch from developing these growths. There appears to be a genetic component to hyperplasia so it may be passed down the female line. However, we can surgically remove the growth which seems to prevent them from reoccurring when she is on heat again. If the overgrowth is small, it can be kept clean and will go down once the bitch has come off heat. These overgrowths can block the urethra if large, so monitoring urination and making sure there is still a good stream is important.

True prolapses rarely happen in the bitch and usually occur after whelping and look more like a tubular structure. If you breed from a bitch with this issue, it's best to warn buyers of the bitch pups that this could be an issue in the future.



An example of hyperplasia on a bitch.



"Henry! Our party's total chaos! No one knows when to eat, where to stand, what to . . . Oh, thank God! Here comes a border collie!"

RAT BAIT TIME

With cooler weather rats and mice head indoors looking for a warm winter spot. As people become aware of this the rat baits go out. We encourage you to think about how you use and store rat baits. Make sure rats and mice get the baits, not your dogs, cats or kids! Each year at this time of the year we end up treating dogs especially that have had access to baits.

If you ever suspect that animals may have had access to rat baits please contact the clinic immediately. When ingestion has been recent, vomiting can be induced to remove the poison. Treatment with Vit K, the antidote to most rat baits, may also need to be given for a period of time.

Controlling rats around kennels is advisable as rats can be a source of leptospirosis which can be a serious disease in dogs (and humans!). Just remember to dispose of dead rats as they can still be poisonous and a leptospirosis source!!

TRYING HARD

When Tony was in primary school one day he came home and said to his mother, "Mummy we learned about the alphabet today, everyone else messed up around the letter F but I made it all the way through."

"That's good Tony, well done," said his mother, "that's because you tried very hard."

The following week he came home and said, "Mummy, Mummy, I counted to one hundred today. No body else could get past sixty but I made it to one hundred."

"That's good Tony, well done, that's because you tried very hard," said his mother again.

A few days later he came home again and said, "Mummy today they measured us in class and I was taller than anyone else, is that because I tried very hard?" "No Tony, that's because you are 26."

Please tell me again how someone from here



Can tell someone from here that they are destroying the environment



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