



# HVC YOUR CLUB

## OCT 21

### SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!

Down on most farms feed conditions have been pretty tight over the last 6 weeks. Not helped by porina on many farms!!

Warm, moist conditions in recent days have certainly kick started grass growth around the district. The good news is short grass now should ensure excellent feed quality and plenty of clover over the coming weeks a critical component for high animal performance on dairy or sheep and beef farms.

We are starting to see a few cases of the conditions often associated with high quality Spring feed; **Spring eczema, Spring colic, bloat and sudden Clostridial deaths**—the 'Joys of Spring!'.  

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### PLANS...

#### Co-operative advantage animal health and welfare plans

We have developed a template and created annual health plans for some dairy farms now. The cost is working out between \$150-\$250 per plan.

If you require a plan to meet your requirements please contact the clinic.  

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## AUCKLAND 2047



JUST ONE MORE WEEK  
WHANAU

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## BREEDING TIME

Breeding bulls will start going out shortly in dairy herds and a little later beef herds. It is important bulls are in good health and fit for purpose. Some things to consider:

- It takes 6 weeks for bulls to develop good quality semen. Bulls need to be in good order and thriving in the 6 weeks prior to mating. So ensure things like selenium and copper deficiency, and worm issues have been dealt with.
- New bulls should be vaccinated against BVD and older bulls should be given booster vaccinations.
- IBR in dairy herds; we note that several dairy farmers exporting heifers have had animals rejected as being positive for IBR. This may be significant in terms of bull health and fertility. If IBR is circulating in your cow or heifer herds and the introduced bulls become infected they may also be rendered infertile / sub-fertile for a period of time. This will lead to detrimental results in terms of in-calf rates and calving spread. Bulls can be protected from IBR by vaccination. Please contact the clinic for advice.

Considering semen testing or service ability testing your bulls if:

- You have any concerns around how your bull team performed last year.
  - Bulls are aged or have histories of previous injuries or health issues.
  - You have limited ability to observe bulls working over mating.
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## AI VERSUS BULLS COSTS

Well bred bulls don't come cheap these days!! When you take into account depreciation on your bulls and the costs of feeding them for 12 months AI can become a very viable alternative.

Depending on the price of semen used most AI programmes in cows or heifers cost between \$45 and \$65 to carry out. The programmes involve yarding stock 3 times. AI allows you to select the bull genetics you want and really comes into its own when small numbers of animals need to be mated and particular traits such as low birth weights for heifers becomes important.

If the cost of depreciation and feeding a bull is \$2000 / year (it will be if you pay more than \$5000 for your bulls) and an AI programme is \$50 / animal. AI really starts to make sense!!

Results to AI do vary according to cow / heifer condition and semen quality but generally average around 60-75% for heifers and 60-70% for cows.

If you would like to discuss AI programmes further please call the clinic.  

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## LOW MAGNESIUM

Once we get into October the threat posed by grass staggers tends to disappear in all but our latest country. However this year late September has been a little colder and slower than normal and we have dealt with some very low magnesium levels and subsequently grass staggers problems in cows.

For those farmers still calving or with cows in early lactation it would be wise to continue to consider the threat grass staggers poses to your cow herd for a little while yet!!

- Continue to make magnesium supplementation available to cows and feed hay or silage.
  - Try to keep cows on more mature feed and avoid access to immature, rapidly growing spring grass.
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## WHY SHOULD WE??

### (Sorry I can't help myself!!)

Our great leader and her socialist agenda driven off-siders now want to take control (and you might as well say ownership) of our water infrastructure under 'Three Waters'. If you haven't checked the implications of this you need to!! Fortunately the majority of councils seem to realise what a crock of \*\*\* this proposal is. Why would we:

- want to be associated with the water requirements of Hamilton and Tauranga?
- believe a government, that with barely a useful qualification amongst them, could establish an authority to efficiently and cost effectively manage water? (It hasn't happened with houses, immigration, child poverty, covid planning or anything else I can think of.)
- want to give 50% of the voting power in terms of board appointments and veto, to Maori, a group who make up 16% of the population. Doesn't sound like democracy to me.

## DEER FARMERS

Things have changed when it comes to velvet tags this year. By now, if you plan to sell velvet you should have registered with Deer Industry NZ and Veltrak. We cannot supply you with tags if you are not registered.

If you have any questions around this years' velveting please contact Jordan at the clinic ASAP.

## AGM

We have a new date for our AGM which hopefully will be able to go ahead this time!

**Rangitira Golf Club**  
**Thursday November 11**  
**7.30pm**

We have a very interesting speaker lined up in pathologist and author Cynric Temple-Camp and we would love to see you there.

The accounts and paperwork will be out to you in the mail in the next week or so.

## MULTIMIN PRE-MATING

There is good data out there now suggesting the use of multimin injection pre-mating can improve submission and conception rates in cattle. We use it extensively in our AI programmes for beef cows, and dairy and beef heifers. Contact the clinic for information on multimin use in dairy herds pre-mating.



## CONDITION SCORING

Leading up to mating is a great time to condition score your herd especially if you have pre-calving condition scores.

Knowing the condition score of your herd allows you to make informed decisions going into mating in terms of supplementary feed requirements. Lower conditioned cows can receive targeted treatment.

The condition score for your herd now is also your exam result as to how you have managed and fed your herd over calving. If the result is poor start planning now to improve things for next year!

If you need assistance with condition scoring your herd contact Cosmin.

## MILK COMPOSITION

What can milk composition tell you at this time of the year?

1. **A high fat to protein ratio**, this may indicate a diet too high in fibre and lacking quality, or under-feeding of cows leading to excessive condition loss.
2. **Low fat tests**, may indicate poor fibre digestion from an acid rumen associated with excessive concentrates or very rarely very high carbohydrate levels in grass.
3. **Dropping or low protein percentages**, may indicate under-feeding or lack of protein in diet.
4. Ideally the fat to protein ratio should be around 1.2.

Yup, some people can't handle the truth!



### My Favorite Animal

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my dad what happened and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much.

I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office.

He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous military person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Guess where the \*\*\* I am now...

## 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)**