



HVC YOUR CLUB

Sept 25

Phantom Cows

With calving in full swing it probably feels a bit early to be talking about 'Phantom Cows'. However, if they are an issue in your dairy herd and you want to do something about it, plans need to be made now.

The term 'Phantom Cow' refers to cows that have been put up to AI, have not returned, and are assumed to be in-calf when they are actually empty. If this remains the case until a January pregnancy test it is basically too late to take any remedial action. The answer is to scan cows 35-40 days after mating. This gives time to treat cows with non cycling programmes (CIDRs) and short gestation semen and still have them in calf by late December / early January.

So if you have had problems with good submission rates but find too many cows you thought were in calf being empty at pregnancy testing, give us a call to discuss early scanning to find Phantom Cows.

Healthy Weaner Calves

With the high prices that will be paid for 100kg calves in the coming weeks it would be wise to have a plan in place that ensures these 100kg golden nuggets thrive in the first weeks after weaning.

If calves have been on significant amounts of meal (more than 1kg per day) it is probably worth while investing in some meal and continuing to feed calves for a couple of weeks after arrival.

Turbo Initial oral drench is an excellent first drench option. As well as being a combination worm drench it also contains Diclazuril which treats coccidia, a common problem in weaners - especially those out of large scale calf rearers. Calves may have been on meal containing coccidiostats but giving them a good clean-out on arrival is still warranted.

Treating calves with a shot of Multimin Injection can also be useful for promoting calf immunity. If calves have travelled a long way (eg from the South Island) the use of vitamin B multi vitamins can also be good practice.

Normally we also recommend a first 10 in 1 vaccination, to be followed up 4 weeks later with a booster, and salmonella vaccine should also be considered.

Check your calves daily for the first 2-3 weeks. If there are any signs of scouring or sick calves, consider yersiniosis. We have recently seen a lot of this bacterial disease in autumn born calves. Prompt treatment with antibiotics normally turns things around and prevents deaths.

Once calves have settled in for the first month, on-going selenium and copper supplementation can be considered.

Frosts Continue and Swedes Taste Great!

It is a long time since we have had the number of frosts we have seen this year. While the positive is the frosts have dried the place out, they have also frozen grass growth and covers are now pretty tight on many farms. A little rain and warmth in September will be necessary if feed availability is to meet demand. For some, the use of Nitrogen, even though it is close to \$1000 a tonne, is a viable option given predicted stock values.

This farce I observed on the Main Road seems to sum up what is wrong with New Zealand. Once upon a time, if you came across a red traffic light, you stopped! Now you need multiple road cones, a \$70,000 ute with 2 employees sitting in it, and an electric sign on top telling you to 'stop for the red light'.

When the light turns green that sign says, 'have an amazing day'!! Some Tui Advert springs to mind!



Coughing Calves

I recently viewed some beef weaner heifers on a property that is very much focused on grazing young stock. As the calves were being yarded I noted a number appeared to be coughing. Nothing dramatic, just a continual cough here and there.

This was almost certainly as a result of lungworm infection. The weaners looked 'okay' but according to the owner, weren't quite as good as normal. Drenching with Dectomax, which is very effective against lungworm, was recommended and the coughing ceased within a week.

Most 'mectin' drenches are still highly effective against lungworm, so where young cattle are drenched regularly we don't tend to see too many problems. However, where drenching programmes are lax or large numbers of young cattle are run all year (ie spring calves followed by autumn calves) lungworm challenges can occur.

Keep your ears or hearing aids tuned for coughing calves and if you suspect problems give us a call for advice.

Adoption

A husband and wife who worked for the circus went to an adoption agency.

Social workers there raised doubts about their suitability. The couple produced photos of their 50-foot motor home, which was clean, well maintained and equipped with a beautiful bedroom for the child.

The social workers raised concerns about what sort of education a child would receive while in the couple's care. "We've arranged for a full-time professional tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects, along with French, Mandarin and computer skills."

The social workers expressed concern about a child being raised in a circus environment. "Our nanny is a certified expert in paediatric care, welfare, and diet. In addition, there are 17 other children who travel with their circus parents."

The social workers were finally satisfied. They asked, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" "It doesn't really matter, as long as the kid fits into the cannon."

'Planning for Mating'

We are planning to have a REPRO Dairy Discussion Seminar at the end of September. We will have guest speakers from LIC and Dairy NZ as well as one of our own experienced veterinarians! Come along and bring your staff. We would love to see you there and join you for a cuppa / beer, bickie and a chat afterwards.

When: Tuesday, September 23rd

Where: Rangatira Golf Club
11am

RSVP: ASAP for catering purposes

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

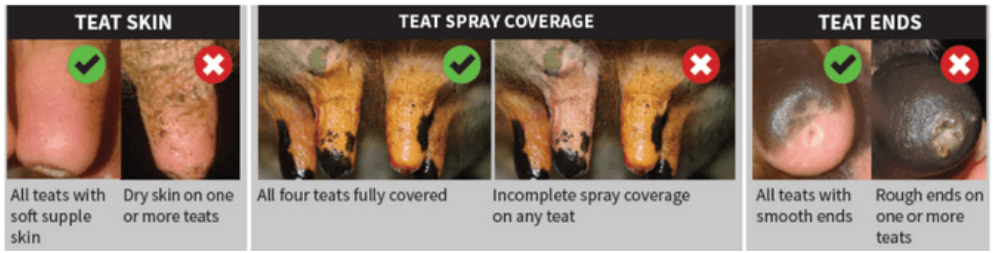
Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntermilletvetclub@xtra.co.nz

Teat Health

Cows will have been in the spring herd for a month or more by now. Make sure you take time to assess teat health and how well teat spraying is being carried out. Dry teats, ulcerated teat ends and poor teat spray coverage can all be associated with rising cell counts and mastitis.



Treating Bearings

Reports indicate there have been problems with bearings in some ewe flocks. Given the value of ewes and potential income from 2 or 3 lambs, trying to save a bearing ewe has a lot of merit.

If you can catch a bearing ewe with a pink, clean and healthy looking bearing, and don't damage it during the 'catching process', a high proportion of these can be treated successfully. Success rates of over 75% are achievable.

There are several ways to treat bearings but the procedure I have found to most consistently give good results is:

1. Clean the bearing with water and smear with Sepalube.
2. Try to get the ewe in a position where the rear end of the ewe is higher than the head (often this can be achieved by using the 4-wheeler for support).
3. Gently replace the bearing allowing the ewe to urinate if the bladder is full. Use the palms of your hands, not your fingers, to do this so you don't puncture the tissue.
4. Stitch the bearing in with a purse string suture. (If you don't know what a purse string suture is, phone the clinic for details or Google it!)
5. Give long acting penicillin to the ewe and put the ewe in a holding paddock where it can be observed several times a day.
6. When the ewe appears to be lambing, cut the suture (it won't tear), lamb the ewe, and think of the \$400 you have made.

Constipated Dog Options

The type of dog we see most commonly for constipation is the male huntaway. Sometimes it is purely dietary related, i.e. eating too many bones. At other times it is due to something obstructing the colon. Often this is due to a large prostate pushing up on the colon but sometimes it can be due to a fused tail preventing the tail from lifting when the dog defaecates. This blocks the way out.

Sometimes playing around with the diet can help, otherwise castration of entire male dogs is necessary. With fused tails, these can be surgically removed, but high up, just behind the sacrum.

Act promptly and let us check your dog for the likely cause and offer solutions as the longer these cases are left, the more permanent the problem can be.

