

HVC YOUR CLUB

Oct 2026

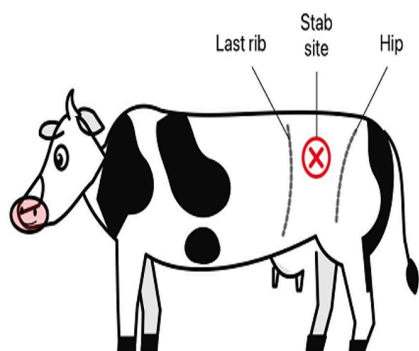


Spring Problems

Bloat which we discuss elsewhere in this newsletter isn't the only problem for cattle this spring. We have also diagnosed a number of cases of Theileria in heifers and cows. Theileria has now spread to many of the areas in our patch but because it relies on infected ticks biting cattle, cases tend to be random unless there are high tick populations.

Theileria causes serious anaemia in affected cattle and animals normally present with weakness, lack of energy and laboured breathing. Their mucous membrane which should be pink, will be very pale or yellow (you can check this in the vulva or around the eyes). Animals under metabolic stress such as pregnancy or early lactation are more likely to become seriously ill. Fortunately, dry stock may show reduced weight gains and mild symptoms but normally recover if looked after.

Bloat — left side of the cow



LEFT side • Schematic, not to scale

As this newsletter is published there are some pretty encouraging reports coming in from clients. Lambing percentages are living up to optimistic expectations, dairy cows are pumping, and things are generally pretty good in our neck of the woods.

We still seem to be inundated about the threats El Nino poses but as far as NZ goes, El Greeno is probably a much greater threat. Led by Angry Eyebrows who wants to be Finance Minister, given her 'wide ranging business experience', it would be spend, spend, spend, all the way to national bankruptcy.

Meanwhile farmers continue to pay the tax bills that essentially keep the country afloat, which won't last long if Chloe and her left wing loopy mates, and a few Maoris with a divisive agenda, get anywhere close to power.

2026 AGM

Tuesday, November 3rd, 7.30pm

Rangatira Golf Club

Guest Speaker:

Local Legend Hadleigh Parkes,
Professional Rugby Player,
son of Bill!!

RSVP to the clinic

Docking Forms

Docking is well under way and hopefully the weather gods are on our side.

If you have not returned your Docking Order Form to us, it is not too late. If your numbers have changed let us know and we can make sure we have plenty of supplies here.

Bloat Is About

In recent days we have had several reports of deaths of yearlings and older cattle from bloat. September is pretty early to be getting deaths, October and November are often the real bloat months. Farmers are reporting plenty of clover in pastures this Spring and it is clover that tends to drive the bloat risk.

With any old cattle beast being worth \$2000, losses from bloat need to be avoided but keeping cattle safe can be challenging especially now that we don't have the option of bloat capsules which are no longer sold in NZ.

So what can be done to avoid bloat:

Where farms have sheep, grazing ewes and lambs, or hoggets under cattle, or ahead of cattle, they can be used to reduce the clover component in pasture. This is relatively simple to do but it is likely to slow cattle weight gain.

Treating water troughs with bloat oil can work well where cattle don't have other water sources. It is time consuming and should really start a couple of weeks before the bloat challenge occurs. The best way to treat water troughs is to use an Inline Dispenser Unit. These units can be used for bloat oil and will also distribute Rumensin which controls bloat by changing the microbes in the rumen so they produce less gas. (Bloat Capsules also contained rumensin.) If you have a good reticulated water system an inline dispenser could be a good investment. It can also be used to supplement stock with trace minerals such as iodine, selenium and copper. Pasture spraying with bloat oil is another option but it needs to be done each day or two and uses a lot of bloat oil which is becoming expensive!

If you are unfortunate enough to be confronted by a beast with severe, life threatening bloat this spring, the place to stab it is on the left hand side, a hand span or so below the T-bones (horizontal lumbar vertebral processes).

Lameness In Cows - Address Them Immediately!

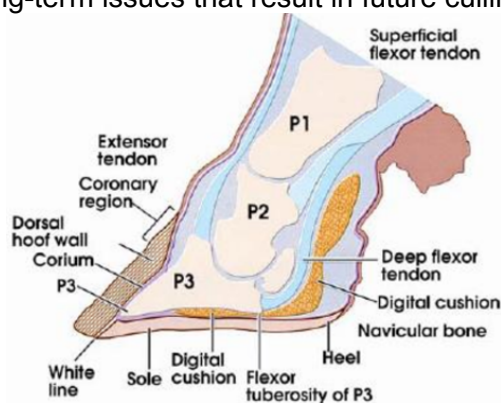
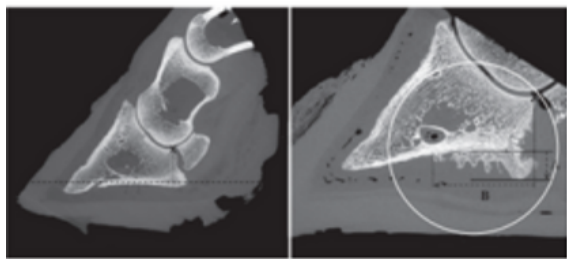
Depending who you listen to, every lame cow costs your operation between \$300 and \$750. This isn't just the cost of treatment. It also includes the costs of lost milk production, poorer reproductive performance, and increased cow wastage from culling.

The cow's hoof is a complex structure involving a pedal bone, suspensory network, blood vessels, hoof capsule and digital cushion. So there are plenty of things that can go wrong and cause lameness! Unfortunately the greatest risk period for hoof problems is from 2 weeks pre-calving until 12 weeks or so after calving. Just when you are at your busiest!

If cows lose condition it is not just fat that comes off their backs. The digital cushion, which acts as a shock absorber in the foot, contains fat. Cows losing weight lose digital cushion fat causing cushion thinning that results in bruising and inflammation of the sole. Prolonged or repeated bouts of inflammation will result in bony changes in the pedal bone (see the photo in this article) which causes on-going issues and susceptibility to lameness.

The sooner you address a lameness issue and get a block on the cow's foot, the faster inflammation and subsequent damage will settle down. It has been demonstrated that the use of anti-inflammatory drugs (Ketomax) also speeds recovery and lessens the long-term damage from a bout of lameness. This means cows get better more quickly and are less likely to become severely lame with the long-term issues that result in future culling from lameness issues.

The Pedal Bone on the left is healthy, the right xray shows the result of inflammation with boney changes in the Pedal Bone.



Docking Season: Keep An Eye On Your Working Dogs

As docking gets underway and the weather warms up, remember that your dogs may be returning to long days of hard work after a quieter winter. A sudden increase in workload can put them at risk of overheating. Build their workload up gradually, rotate dogs and give them regular breaks. Some dogs will keep working regardless, so it's up to us to stop them before they get into trouble.

Excessive panting, slowing down, drooling or wobbliness can be signs of overheating/heat stroke. **Don't wait for your dog to collapse before taking action.** Stop work immediately, find some shade and cool them by thoroughly wetting their body. A trough can be useful for a conscious dog, provided you support them and keep their head above water. Offer drinking water if they can swallow comfortably, and phone us straight away. Even if they seem to recover, veterinary assessment is important. Heatstroke can damage internal organs, with effects that may not be obvious immediately.

Take extra care with young or older dogs, dogs with heavy coats, those carrying extra weight or those that struggle with their breathing. Carry water and a container on the bike, allow plenty of breaks and avoid the hottest part of the day. Humid conditions increase the risk too, as panting is not as effective at reducing the dog's body temperature.

A keen dog won't always tell you when they've had enough. Please phone us promptly if you're concerned about heat stroke.

Dodgy Cyroshield Drawoffs

We have been informed that there has been a faulty batch of draw offs with the last shipment of Cyroshield Spray on. We have received some replacements, so if you have had issues, please let us know.

Congratulations...

to the winners from our latest Order Form Draw

Gavin Drake Luke Bremmers
Grant Crafar Matt Horton
\$50 vouchers are coming your way.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntermvillevetclub@xtra.co.nz