



TOPVETS

Moosletter

April 2013

The Season That Was

The spring and early summer of 2012 was very favourable for cow reproduction in the Far North, with most dairy and beef herds having very good in calf rates.

6 week in calf rates in dairy herds ranged from 70% down to 46% on the Fertility Focus Reports—meaning that no-one got a 5 star rating!!!

So there's lots of work to be done this coming season. Empty rates were good with a number of herd's percentages in the single figures at the end of bull mating.

Many of you are still short on bull power—give us a call or consult your in-calf manual on the number of bulls needed for your herd.

The LIC are currently promoting the "6 week challenge" - come on board and lets see if we can get some 5 star ratings this season.

Beef herds also had a very good season, with a number having only 5-6% empty after 3 cycles, and a couple 10-12% empty after 2 cycles.

One herd made a special point of preferentially feeding their 1st and 2nd calvers and were rewarded with in calf rates comparable to the mixed age herd—not the 15-25% empty empty rate that has occurred in the past.

Poor bull fertility and libido was the cause of 60% empty rate in a mob of mixed age cows—3 cycles this season.

All three bulls concerned have been culled.

Alarm bells should be ringing when you are seeing numbers of cows cycling in the 2nd and 3rd cycles.



Autumn is upon us and with it we are busy doing lepto vaccinations, making plans for drying off and finishing our pregnancy testing season.

At the beginning of March we farewelled vet nurse Sam who has crossed the ditch. We wish her all the best.

With Sam's departure we welcome vet nurse Donna Badorek to the team. Donna has moved up from Auckland to join us.

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Drying Off

Here are some guidelines for correct drying off procedure.

- Cows producing less than 5 L per day and those with high SCC may be dried off earlier than the rest of the herd to help reduce late season increases in BMSCC.
- Dropping to once daily milking is not necessary if the herd is already averaging less than 10L/day. For herds that are still managing to average >10L/day, reducing to once a day milking for a week prior to drying off can be beneficial.
- Administer DCT immediately after the final milking.
- Feed maintenance rations for 7 days after dry off before increasing feed intake to improve body condition. Water must be available at all times.
- 10 days after drying off (not sooner) run the cows through the shed and check for cases of clinical mastitis. Do not strip any milk out unless cow has clinical mastitis. Infected quarters should be treated with a lactating cow product.

Continue to check udders weekly for 3 weeks.



Seresto Collars—The latest in flea and tick treatment

New to the range of flea and tick treatments is a new design flea and tick collar, brought to us by Bayer.

Seresto collars provide up to 8 months continuous protection against fleas and ticks. The collars have been safety tested, are odour free and water resistant. They are a convenient way of controlling fleas and ticks with one application.

The collar has a controlled release mechanism which provides a low dose of the active ingredients which replenishes itself in the fatty layer of your pet's skin as required. The active ingredients are distributed throughout the entire body surface.

The cat and small dog Seresto collars are also made with a quick release mechanism allowing your pet to be freed if the collar becomes entangled and reflectors are included that can be attached to the collar to make your pet more visible in the dark. Seresto collars are registered for cats and dogs and come in one size for cats and two sizes for dogs.

They are safe to use in puppies 7 weeks of age and older and in kittens aged 10 weeks of age or older.

If you are interested in purchasing a collar or would like more information please contact us at the clinic.



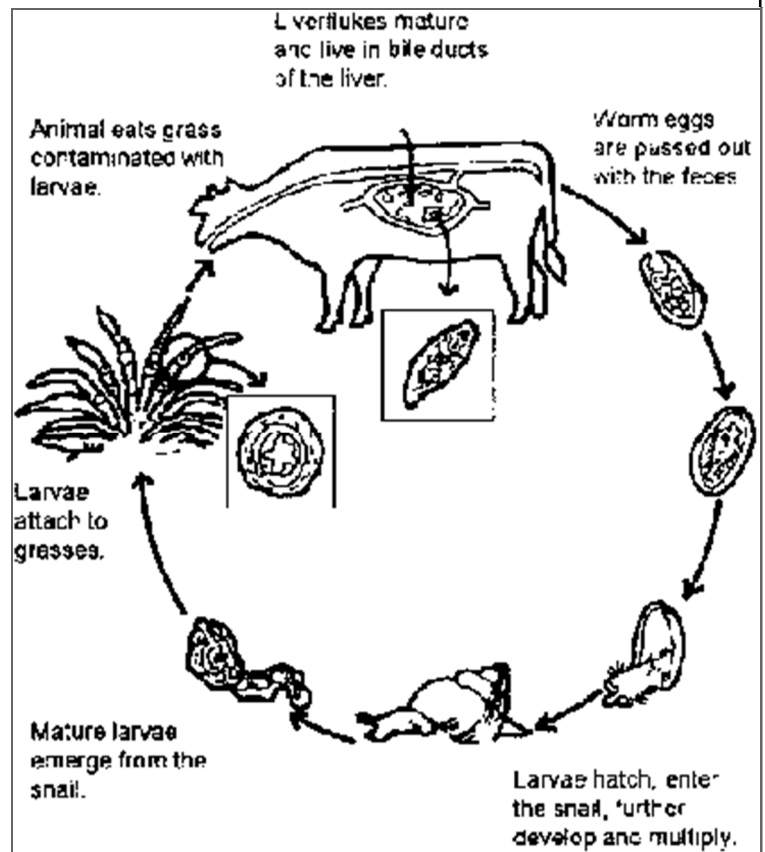
The Life and Times of the Liver Fluke

Liver fluke has a complex life cycle involving specific types of water snails as intermediate hosts. This is why liver fluke is seen more commonly on farms where there are wet areas where the necessary snails live in.

Adult fluke live in the liver and bile ducts. The eggs they lay pass out of the liver into the intestines via the bile and then pass out of the animal in the droppings.

Eggs that drop into water hatch and the resulting life stage enters the water snails. Further development occurs inside the snails' digestive tract before the next life stage emerges from the snail and encysts on vegetation where they are ingested by grazing animals. The parasite then burrows through the intestinal lining of the animal into the abdominal cavity before making its way to the liver.

After browsing on the liver for up to 6 weeks the parasite eventually moves to the bile duct where it matures into the adult form and begins producing eggs so the whole cycle is repeated.



Liver Fluke—High Incidence this Autumn!!

The exceptionally dry summer we have just had has forced cattle to push into wet, swampy areas/drains etc and spend more time in fluke country—as confirmed by our autumn blood and liver tests, showing a high incidence this year.

If you are unsure if fluke is a problem in your herd give us a call—blood and liver tests are comparatively cheap when compared to the cost of infection.

There are currently pour-on injection and oral treatment options.

The oral treatment of choice is Combat Fluke Care. This oral drench is effective against all stages of liver fluke, plus treats roundworms and lungworm. It also has added selenium. Milk WHP 35 days, Meat WHP 28 days if dosing interval is greater than 28 days or 56 days if dosing intervals are less than 28 days.

Arrest C and Oxfen C are cheaper options but only treat adult fluke.

Nitromec injection would be the injection of choice—treating all stages of fluke and worms. However it CANNOT be used in dairy cattle; Meat WHP 56 days.

Genesis Ultra pouron is another good choice when targeting fluke as it kills both mature and immature life stages and also treats for gastrointestinal parasites. The downside however is a longer milk withholding period of 91 days. Meat WHP 91 days.



Rotavirus—Prevention is best

Are you vaccinating this year?

Rotavirus is the biggest cause of calf scours in NZ. Outbreaks are common and treatment is expensive, time-consuming and emotionally draining.



Fortunately we have available an effective vaccination to help reduce the impact of calf scours on your farm—Rotavec Corona vaccine.

A single dose of rotavec corona given to all pregnant cows/heifers needs to be given 3-12 weeks prior to calving. Antibodies are then passed on to the newborn calf via the colostrum protecting it against rotavirus, E. coli 99 and coronavirus. Good colostrum intake is vital for the calf to gain protection (at least 2L of colostrum in the first 6 hours) and colostrum from vaccinated cows should be fed throughout the first –3 weeks life. For best effect, the whole herd including first calvers needs to be vaccinated. Put it on the calendar now.

Cull Cow Liver Profiles

Don't forget if you are sending cull cows to the works there is an opportunity for liver samples to be collected for trace element testing. Let us know if you want this done as we have a request form that needs to go with the animals to the works.

Brief News

Lepto Vaccinations

We are underway with our annual lepto vaccinations. Natalie and Carol will be organising lepto runs in your area over the next couple of weeks.

Conferences

Recently Michelle attended the Bayer Dairy Symposium held in Queenstown. The focus was on the use of combination dry cow therapy and evidence based prescribing.

Natalie attended the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Conference at the beginning of March. Auckland hosted this event and vets from all over the world (including Malaysia, USA, Singapore and Guam to name just a few) attended. Speakers from all over the world presented the most up-to date information on a wide range of veterinary topics.



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