



# TOPVETS

## Moosletter

June 2013

### Changes Afoot

From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June we will be officially operating from the Matthews Ave clinic, but on a limited capacity.

Builders will be doing renovations over the first 2 weeks, so we will still be operating from North Rd as well to minimise the inconvenience to clients.

A brief introduction to our 2 new Vets;

Andy Smyth is a very experienced Dairy and Beef Vet who practised in Wellsford before settling in Houhora.

Brian Fogerty has been practising for 3 years, mostly in Dairy and Beef in the South Island before being lured to the Far North.

I will introduce our other new staff in the next newsletter.

### Prescription Animal Remedy and Dry Cow Consults

For TopVets to comply with legislation in the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act and the Veterinary Council, we must have Prescription Animal Remedy (PAR) consultations with our clients on an annual basis.

Over the next couple of months we will be requiring PAR consultations with **ALL** Dairy and Beef clients in order to be able to prescribe PARs over the counter.

The Veterinary Council is also revising it's statement on the authorisation of Dry Cow Therapy, and we will be requiring a separate Dry cow consult **prior** to

Winter is well and truly upon us, on the bright side the shortest day is now just around the corner!

Calving is underway, don't forget to stock up on calving supplies e.g. metabolics, lube etc so you have the gear on hand when you need it.

We are finishing off leptovaccinations at the moment, don't forget your calves second boosters.

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- Foetal loss in ewes
- Worm resistance in yearling bulls
- Neospora abortions
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## Foetal Loss In Maiden Ewes

Foetal loss in maiden ewes is a problem that has been frustrating some vets and farmers over the past few years, but to date we do not really understand what is causing this condition or how to prevent it.

The condition is normally diagnosed at scanning with dead or dying fetuses identified. In most cases around 5 - 30% of the mob are apparently affected. It usually seems to affect hoggets but is occasionally reported in maiden ewes.

Affected animals are usually on well managed properties and have been vaccinated for Toxoplasmosis and Campylobacteriosis.

A number of clinical investigations have been done nationwide and in the majority of cases no bugs have been identified. In a small number of cases Neospora or Leptospirosis ( Pig Lepto ) have been implicated.

If you are presented with foetal loss in maiden ewes this season i.e. abortions, we would be interested in investigating.



## Worm Resistance in Yearling Bulls

A recent trial in yearling beef bulls has highlighted the importance of using an appropriate combination drench when managing parasites in young stock.

The bulls were treated with either a single action 'Ivermectin type' injection, Eclipse E injection (double combination), or Matrix oral (triple combination), and faecal egg counts and weights were recorded at 32 and 63.

ON day 32 the 'Ivermectin type' group were growing at **0.74 kg** /day and were still had Cooperia worm eggs in their faeces.

The Eclipse E group were growing at **0.93 kg**/day and were parasite free.

At day 63 growth rates of all groups had reduced but the combination treated groups were still ahead at **0.61 kg**/day vs. **0.51 kg**/day ' Ivermectin' group.

Interestingly, there were no visual differences in any of the animals that suggested a parasite infection (i.e. scouring, faecal staining around tail), but growth rates were significantly less.



The Eclipse E treated group had grown an **extra 7kg** over the 63 day period.

92 % of the North Island cattle farms surveyed in 2006 had resistance to the Ivermectin type drenches, and the majority of these resistant worms were Cooperia.

Come and talk to us regarding setting up a parasite management plan for your farm.

## Neospora Abortions

A high number of abortions have occurred over the last 6 – 8 weeks, and some of these have been diagnosed as Neospora.

The disease is not fully understood, little can be done to prevent the disease and the only vaccine on the market offers little protection.

Some new studies on the disease are to be released at the Dairy Vets conference next week – we will keep you updated.



## Merial Ancare Winter Offers

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## Theileria Update

A recent outbreak of Theileriosis in adult dairy cows in Kaitaia in May is very concerning as we expected it to be a spring/summer problem when tick numbers were at their highest.

The mob of cows was brought in from the Waikato and was obviously naive to the disease having never had contact with ticks or Theileria before.

Two deaths occurred and we believe this was related to Theileria infection.

Theileria is a blood borne parasite which is transmitted by cattle ticks, and in turn ruptures the red blood cells of the affected animals.

Animals become anaemic and can be weak, lethargic, depressed, fever, have pale mucous membranes and sometimes die.

There is currently no treatment for the disease but tick control is obviously very important. We would recommend that you treat for ticks on all young stock as necessary and closely monitor all brought in stock from outside northland for ticks and signs of anaemia.



## Brief News

### Calf De-budding

We will be carrying out calf de-budding again this year. We have our calf crate available and carry out de-budding with local anaesthetic.

The best time to do it is when the calves are 2-6 weeks old.

Give us a ring at the clinic to book in.

### Lungworm

Lungworm can be significant in young cattle particularly in the autumn. Most drenches are effective against lungworm however large burdens can build up between drenches which can cause coughing, lethargy and even death!

### Rotavec Corona Vaccination

For those of you who vaccinate your herd with Rotavec corona don't forget that the time to do this is between 3-12 weeks prior to calving.

### Lepto Vaccinations

We are almost done with our lepto vaccinations, we are now mostly doing 2nd boosters for calves. However there are a few of you who still need to get on and get your herd done before calving starts. Please call us at the clinic to book in so we don't have to chase you!

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