



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

Bullsheets

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Editorial

THE LIONS are coming!! I have 8 tickets to give away. I plan to take a mini bus down to the Lions opening game at toll stadium on Saturday 3rd of June. Just purchase any Merial Ancare product to the value of \$300 or above and you will be in the draw for a seat at the rugby. This should be a fun night, you get to watch the Northland Barbarians take on the mighty Lions, should be a great night!! Ah the Cricket looked like we could have got a test win at home against South Africa, but alas the weather intervened!!

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Grass

Most farms have good grass cover now, and the quality is great, so the cows have responded with giving a little more milk.

But it is time to look at your heifers and any cows not in condition 4.5, as they will take longer to put the weight back on to be ready for next season.

The pay-out is steady at \$6.00, which sure beats \$3.90 and the autumn milking contracts look attractive. Good to see the turn around, and long may it last.

Great to see the Beef is still holding up, cull cows are worth a bit still, so get them away ASAP to leave more for the in calf ones.

How to get the best out of Dry Cow therapy and what is AMR??

That was the title of the talk given by Rosie Milne, a veterinary surgeon employed by MSD Animal Health. Rosie took us through the very real risk the world is facing with **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**. It is predicted by WHO that by 2050 more people will die from resistant bacterial infections than cancer on an annual basis, that's a bit scary!!

So how does that relate to dry cow usage??

There is pressure mounting, both from within the Dairy industry, but also the customers they supply, to show we are only using Antibiotics where an infection has been identified.

So what does that mean?

Basically we will only be able to treat high cell count cows, those with no history of infection through the season should only be getting a teat sealant at dry off to prevent any new infection through the dry period and around calving. You will need good herd test data to select which cows to treat with dry cow, and which will get a teat sealant.

By 2020, the goal is to only use Dry Cow antibiotics when there is

a demonstrated need, so we have 3 seasons to get the data to make informed choices.

In the meantime the antibiotics we currently use have been put into 3 categories.

Penicillin e.g. Intracillin, Penethamate Penicillin e.g. Penethaject Oxytetracycline e.g. Bivatorp, Engemycin.

These antibiotics are in the **Green Zone**, not used much in humans so not seen to be not much of a risk to human health.

Ampicillin Clavulonic acid, cloxacillin e.g. Cloxamp. First and second Generation cephalosporins, e.g. Cepravin.

Aminoglycosides e.g. Vibrostrep, and potentiated sulphonamides.

These antibiotics are in the **Orange Zone**, We are encouraged to only use them where there is a demonstrated need.

All dry cow products fall into this category

Fluoroquinolones e.g. Baytril and 3rd and 4th generation Cephalosporins e.g. Excenel, Excede LA plus Macrolides e.g. Tylan. These antibiotics are in the **Red Zone!!**

They are used in human medicine and are needed for life threatening conditions, so resistance to them would pose significant problems to human health.

We can still use them but only where there is a demonstrated need, and products in the other categories are not effective.

So as you can see, it was not a simple DRY COW talk, but a more of an overview of antibiotic usage on farm, and how that could impact in the human field.

Thank you Rosie and MSD Animal Health for enabling us to put on the talk and bring the information forward.

Leptospirosis; Not just a cow problem;

Each year we vaccinate your cows for lepto, the vaccine we use covers for the 2 most common forms of lepto seen in cattle, serovars Hardjo and Pomona, but also Copenhageni, as serovar carried by rats!

Lepto in cows is associated with abortion storms, and a significant drop in milk yield.

Each form of leptospirosis is a potential Zoonosis, that is, you can get it. Depending on which serovar (type), and your reaction to it, you may or may not end up in hospital, but either way you won't be a very happy camper for some time as effects on your body tend to linger.

So what about the Rats? This is the time of year when you will start to see rats on the lookout for a good place to hole up for the winter, like your cow shed if you're feeding in shed, or in and around barns.

While it may seem nice to share your facilities with these little rodents, they have the potential to also share their diseases with you, your workers or your dogs.

You don't want to risk getting lepto from Rats, as they carry the Copenhageni serovar, and that can put you in hospital, and is likely to kill your dog if it picks it up.

Remember, lepto loves wet conditions, and is spread in urine, so any runoff from your shed areas where the rats hang out will likely carry the leptospores.

How do you get it? Any cut on your hands, feet, or a splash in your eye could result in an infection getting in.

So what to do?

Wear Gloves, and good foot wear. Avoid urine splashes.

Get your dogs vaccinated, Leptoguard will protect them against Lepto copenhageni.

2 shots are required in the first year, followed by an annual booster.

Lay bait stations to stop the influx of rats in the autumn. Take care to ensure dogs have no access to the Rat bait!! Very Lethal.

Remember Cull cows

If you are sending some cull cows, it is a good opportunity to check their mineral status, especially the copper reserves. When you have booked your culls in, give us a call ASAP and we can arrange to have their livers collected for Copper, Selenium, and B12 levels, plus check the line for Liver fluke.

Liver Fluke: Shall we treat this season or not?

The dry period is the only opportunity you get to treat your dairy cows for liver fluke, so if you suspect liver fluke is a problem in your herd, then we can help identify if it is in your herd. When you send a line of cull cows to the works, you should get a report which tells you the incidence of liver fluke. If your cows are still milking then a bulk milk test will tell if liver fluke is present, but if they are dry then a pooled blood test can also identify if Fluke is present. Just give us a call and we can arrange to have your herd tested. All liver fluke products have a meat and milk with holding period, so dairy cows can only be treated in the dry period.

Switch Fluke 10

New to our arsenal for fluke control, Switch Fluke 10 is an oral combination drench of Levamisole, Abamectin and Triclabendazole. Switch Fluke10 will kill any susceptible worms plus adult and immature liver fluke down to about 1 week of age so is an ideal drench to use in late autumn i.e. April /May, for your yearlings, R 2s and dry cows if liver fluke is a potential problem on your property. Switch Fluke 10 has a 35 day milk with-hold period and a 49 day meat with hold period.

Genesis Ultra Pour- On

Genesis Ultra pour-on is a combination of Abamectin, an effective lice and internal parasite drench and triclabendazole, the same active as Fasinex, but with the convenience of a pour-on. Genesis Ultra pour-on has a 91 day meat and milk withholding period, so is fine for beef cattle which will be over wintered, but has some degree of limitation for Dairy cows unless they have an extended dry period.

Ivomec plus injection

Ivomec plus injection, is a combination of Ivomectin plus clorsolon and is convenient way to treat your cattle in the dry period. Ivomec plus will treat both internal and external parasites and will control adult liver fluke. Ivomec plus has a 28 days meat with holding period, including bobby calves, and a 14 day milk with holding period.

Arrest C

Arrest C is a combination of Levamisole and Albendazole as an oral drench. Arrest C will control internal parasites plus adult fluke and is a relatively cheap method of control. Arrest C has a 14 day meat with holding period, and 35 day milk with holding period.

Combat Flukecare + selenium for Cattle; Oral Drench.

Combat Flukecare is a relatively new product for fluke control, and is a combination of Triclabendazole and oxfendazole. Combat Flukecare is very effective at controlling immature and mature fluke plus the oxfendazole component will control other susceptible internal parasites. An added bonus of Combat Flukecare is that it is relatively easy to use as it flows well through the drench guns. Combat is licenced for use in both sheep and cattle. Combat has a 28 day meat withholding period, and 35 days for milk.



Facial Eczema, Beware it is out there!!!

I don't think it has cooled off enough yet, so continue to treat your animals for now. Keep bringing the grass samples into our Waipapa clinic, we want to know the level of challenge.