



Bay of Islands
Veterinary Services

Bullsheets

www.bayvets.co.nz

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Editorial

MUD; there seems to be no shortage of mud this year!

Winter seemed slow to start but is here now. Hey but we are into August, so we can expect longer days and a little more sunshine, so the grass should kick in eventually.

Sorry to see the Highlanders fall at the second to last hurdle, but if you have to travel 70,000 km in a month or so, no matter what jet lag medication you may take, it would seem impossible to hold your form 100%.

Go the Hurricanes, let's hope they can win the final!

Good to see a lift in the latest dairy auction, long may it keep heading up!!

In this Issue

- Mastitis
- Metabolic disease
- Guess the weight
- Dry cow & the Bobby calf
- Inhib. subst. Grades
- Spring mating
- Pet calf & lamb day
- Winners

Mastitis

With the mud out there, we are seeing an increase in the incidence of mastitis.

Washing really dirty udders before milking, is a way to help decrease the incidence of mastitis, as is the application of a good teat spray after milking.

Trial work has shown a significant increase in cure rates in treating mastitis if you clean the teat end the same as if you were to give drycow or teatseal. i.e. take a little time to clean the teat end with either teat wipes or cotton wool balls soaked in 70% meths before you insert the antibiotic, only go for partial insertion, and massage the antibiotic up into the udder.

Trial work has shown you can increase the cure rate from a low of 50% to up into the 80% bracket by not introducing any extra bacteria when you are treating an intramammary infection.

Metabolic Diseases

Be aware, effluent paddocks are not good choices to calve your cows on. If you have been able to spread effluent over your paddocks, take care. Effluent is high in Potassium (K), and that is a problem for calving cows, as it will drop their calcium and magnesium levels, leading to **more Milk FEVER**.

The best way to avoid metabolic disease is to provide plenty of Magnesium pre-calving, and a starter drench on the day she calves. Keep the magnesium up after calving with the addition of lime flour for the colostrum cows and the milkers will help ensure they have adequate calcium for the first few days post calving.

Remember to offer your springers lots of grass, at least 12-15 kg DM per day, they may not eat it all, but they do need to take in enough feed so they have the energy to push the calf out and get up and get going.

We are currently running a guess the weight Competition

Check out the Big Fellow in the photo below, and guess his weight, phone, or call into one of our clinics to record your estimate. The person with the closest guess will receive a voucher for lunch for 2 at Marsden Estate to the value of \$200. That should give you a pretty good lunch!!



Ketosis is a cow intoxicated by the mobilisation of her own fat reserves. If you have some fat carry-overs, they are most at risk of Ketosis, you can use Rumensin **Bullets** pre-calving on them. Rumensin helps supply more energy from the feed and so helps prevent ketosis. Ideal time to treat is 10 days prior to calving.

Starter drenches – Starter Plus

Starter drenches contain glycerine, molasses and by pass fat to give cow's energy, also calcium and magnesium to help prevent milk fever. These can be given routinely to cows after calving to make up for low intakes on the day of calving, also as a booster to any sick cow after calving. NOT to be used before calving as early calcium can upset the bodies calcium absorption and can make cows more prone to milk fever.

DRY COW AND THE BOBBY CALF

We are frequently asked about the bobby calf if the cow has had dry cow therapy.

Most dry cow products have a meat withholding period of 30 days (check with us for specific products)

If cows calve after the meat withholding time has elapsed there is no withholding period for the bobby calves suckling the colostrum.

If cows calve before the meat withholding time has elapsed then the bobby calves must be removed from the cow and placed on residue free milk for a minimum of 7 days and withheld from slaughter till the meat withholding time has elapsed for the cow.

If calves are indirectly exposed to drugs via drinking mastitis treated milk, then again the calves need to fed residue free milk for a minimum of 7 days before being sent as bobby calves.

N.B. It is important that bobby calves receive adequate colostrum and are healthy when they go off for slaughter, firstly as a welfare issue for the calf and to ensure you get paid for your product.

Inhibitory Substance Grades

The testing these days is very sensitive, so ensure you milk your fresh cows out well , a minimum of 8 milkings post calving.

If there are any cows being treated for mastitis or sore feet and are on antibiotics, ensure they are kept separate, well-marked and milked after the herd, into test buckets.

If you are using Cephalixin for cows with sore feet, you have no milk withholding , but ensure you use a separate syringe, not one which has had penicillin in it as that is enough to cause a grade!!

Records; You need to ensure you have adequate records of which cows were treated with which product, at what date and when they are safe to go back in the Vat.

An extra day added to a milk with holding period is a minimal cost compared to paying for a tanker load of contaminated milk.

If you think you may have added contaminated milk to your vat, we have a Snap test available, which will give you an idea if the vat can be sent. The Snap test is an overly sensitive test but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Spring Mating - At risk Cows - Metrichecking !

To give you the best chance of finding the cows with infections, the cows need to be checked about 20 after calving. Keep this in mind. Checking the cows in two groups is a good solution. Applying tailpaint to the early calving cows then changing to a different colour is a simple way to tell the two groups apart for checking. Cows should be calved 2-3 weeks before metrichecking. If you don't want to check the whole herd , then all at risk cows need to be checked.

At risk cows are any which have had:

- Assisted calving
- Retained membranes
- Mastitis
- Milk fever
- Sore feet
- Any other illness



Pet Calf and lamb Fun Day

Don't forget our Pet lamb/Goat and Calf day Date Saturday the 8th of October

There will be lots of prizes and activities for the best turned lamb and calf etc. Come along and have fun filled morning with the team from B.O.I Vets

Fishing Promo

Be into to win a day's fishing the Hauraki Gulf, when you purchase any Merial Ancare products to the value of \$500 or greater.

See in store for details.



We have winners

Roger and Jane Hutchings were the lucky winners in our Rotavec competition.

Congratulations, you receive a voucher to the value of \$400. Jane says they will use the money



to help pay for a night out for their Workers.

That's a great idea, I am sure you will have fun, and I am sure the Rotavec will do its job to keep your calves free of Rota and Corona Virus.