



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services Bullsheet

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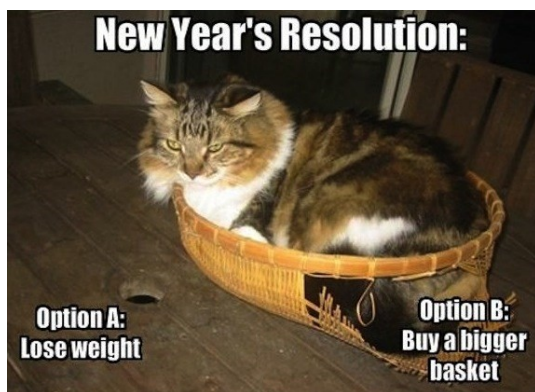
Editorial

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our first Bullsheet of 2018. Hopefully you have all had a nice Christmas and Santa was good for you.

So far so good, we seem to be having a little rain which is keeping the grass growing on most properties, which is great. Good to see the lift in the latest dairy auction, it should help hold up the pay-out.

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Mastitis & the summer period

Now is the time to watch your cell count, and don't stop teat spraying as it is important to keep your cell count down. It is worth while doing an RMT on the herd to help identify the subclinical mastitis cows. Once they are identified, milk sampling will help isolate which is the causative bacteria, so you can then target therapy, or cull problem cows. You need to ensure you are using and applying an effective teat spray after every milking.

Check out the SmartSam web site. It has a Mastitis Investigation Kit, which gives you a step by step method to help if you are having a mastitis problem.

If you are having trouble control-

ling the problem, give us a call and we can help you out.

Booster Time

If you have vaccinated your calves at marking or your lambs at weaning, don't forget to give them a booster, as a simple shot will help prevent the loss of your young stock. If you have had losses, with unexplained deaths in well vaccinated young stock, then *Clostridium sordelli* may be the cause.

The use of Covexin 10 in 1 vaccine will cover for *Clostridium sordelli* as well as all other Clostridial diseases in NZ, and so is your best protection of your young stock.

We will soon be starting our vaccination runs for Lepto protection of your replacement dairy stock.

If you want protection from BVD virus, then this is a good time to start, with young stock requiring 2 shots a month apart, so it fits in well with the lepto programme. Please let us know when we book in your calves if you want the BVD protection as well.

Facial Eczema

Late December spore counts were around the 20 -30000 mark, so it will not take much to get to very dangerous levels. The nights have



been warm, so it is best to assume facial eczema is a real risk, so treatment needs to be started now.

The ultimate control is via using Time capsules or Face guard pellets, which will protect for 4 - 6 weeks. These are ideal for young stock, replacement heifers and lambs. In a dairy situation, oral drenching with Zinc oxide on either a daily or once every 3rd day will give good control. Water trough treatment with Zinc sulphate will go a long way to help protect dairy cows, make sure you are using enough product, start low to get them used to it, then ramp up, add a flavour enhancer like caramello, to mask the taste. It looks like it could be a long season for facial eczema, so it pays to monitor the situation, we do spore counting at both Waipapa and Kaikohe, so bring us in some samples, cut it down to the level the cows are grazing, an Ice cream container full is fine, most people can spare that much !

Thiamine deficiency - polioencephalomalacia/ Stargazers

Often at this time of year, when the grass/feed is changing, we see thiamine deficiency in either weaned calves yearlings or lambs and goats. Ruminants make their own thiamine (vit B1) in the rumen, but sometimes due to a change of feed, like weaning, thiaminase producing bacteria proliferate in the rumen. Thiaminase bacteria break down the available thiamine, and the animal then becomes deficient in Thiamine. Thiamine is essential for the brain, and if it is unavailable, signs develop. Initially the animals become dis-orientated, and don't follow the herd, this can quickly advance to apparent blindness, recumbency, hence star gazing, and then death. If you notice any animals behaving in a disorientated manner, or with apparent blindness, then early intervention, and either IV or IM treatment with thiamine will often result in a full recovery. More advanced cases will give variable responses to treatment, with death common in advanced cases. Prevention involves managing feed changes slowly, and being vigilant of any behavioural changes, and injecting with thiamine any at risk animals.

Young stock management through a dry period

Weaned young stock will often struggle when we are faced with a prolonged dry period through summer as there is simply not enough energy, and or protein in the feed. To get your young stock through a dry period and not miss out on sufficient growth it is always a good idea to have a strategy to supplement, with either meal and or palm kernel. Palm kernel is relatively cheap and has adequate protein and fat, but the feeding out needs to be organised, trailers or troughs are often used. When buying meal, ask what the energy level is, i.e. ME should be >11.5, and the protein is ideal at about 16 %. Just because it may be dry, DON'T FORGET TO DRENCH YOUNG STOCK. In dry periods, you often don't see loose faeces, but worms are still there, in particular LUNG

WORM.

You will need to use an effective drench, preferably containing Levamisole and or Abamectin, Switch oral, or Eclipse pour-on, or injection should give good control.

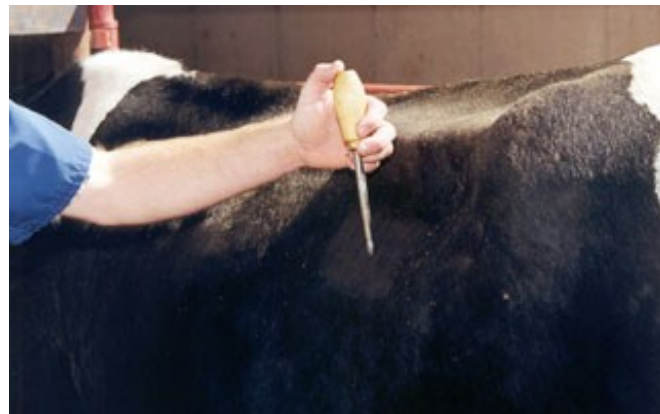
Barbers poll

Yes barbers poll worm *Haemonchus* and all other internal parasites, will be loving this weather, so please ensure you are using an effective drench for your lambs ewes and calves. There are several very effective drenches available, talk to us for the best control on your property. We do faecal egg counting at both our Waipapa and Kaikohe clinics, so please bring us in some samples, to ensure your drench is working, and if it is time to drench again.

Bloat control / Where to stab!!

It is not often that I would write about bloat in January, but there is clover out there on some farms so keep an eye on your cows if the pasture has a high level of clover or there are any signs of bloating. Control of bloat is often achieved with the addition of Rumensin in the feed, either by water trough treatment, feed additive, drenching or bullets. There is a new form of Monensin-**Rumenox** Rumenox is a granular product with a dose rate of 1 gm per cow per day and is designed for addition to Power drenching systems, and inline dispensers. Give us a call to find out the advantages of using Rumenox. Other Bloat control measures include the use of Bloat oil products, which can be added to the water troughs via either an in-line dispenser or trough dispensers.

Emergency Treatment



If you come across a cow with Bloat, and she is so distressed you need to stab her, make sure you stab her on **her left hand side**, approximately a hand's breadth down from her short ribs (lateral processes), and a hand back from her last rib. When a cow is bloated, it is very hard to identify the ribs, so get your eye in on a normal cow! The skin is hard to penetrate, your knife needs to be sharp and you need quite a bit of force to get it through. Make about a 1 inch (25mm) cut, turn the knife and let the air/ingesta out. Once the cow is deflated, give us a call and we will come and stitch her back together. Not all cows need stitching, if the hole is not too big, a course of penicillin maybe all that she needs.