



## Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

# Bullsheel

[www.bayvets.co.nz](http://www.bayvets.co.nz)

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## Editorial

Well I think the best thing to do is to declare a Drought, that way it rains!! Most if not all farms have had some rain, several have had good repeats, which has resulted in a general greening up everywhere, and the cows have responded, giving more milk which is very pleasing as it was not looking at all good at the end of January.

Great to see the Black caps being very competitive against South Africa, let's hope they can win the series.



## In this Issue

- Facial Eczema
- Mastitis
- Weaner fairs
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- PD results
- Cull cow Livers
- Vaccinations
- Alpheus Capsule

### Facial Eczema

Yes it's out there, but the spore counts seem to be relatively low still. If you have not been treating your cows and calves, now is the time to start. You need 36 gm of Zinc sulphate (heptahydrate) per fresian cow 28 gm per Jersey per day via an inline dispenser. Remember, water trough treatment is unlikely to be sufficient for replacement calves and heifers, as they do not drink enough water, compared to an in milk cow. Zinc bullets are a much better prevention method for young stock. We can test your cows to see whether you are giving enough zinc and if they have already been hit. A simple blood test can reveal if you are treating adequately.

### Mastitis

Many farms have already gone to once a day milking to restrict the weight loss in autumn and to allow for a longer season. Cell counts will generally shoot up when you start once a day, and it is a good time to identify chronically infected cows, which need to be culled or at least treated with Dry cow and Teatseal. If you have repeat offenders (recidivists), either do an extended course of intramammary antibiotic or consider drying those cows off, with a good dry cow therapy plus teat seal or AFFCo. To try to prevent new infections, use your teat spray at the higher concentration and, ensure you are not over milking.

**A note on Sampling:** We don't want to know which bugs are on the outside of the teat, we want the one in the milk!

Clean the teats with teat wipes, like you would before giving dry cow therapy, then collect the sample after stripping the first few squirts.

Ensure the lid of the pottle is held so no contamination can occur there also.

### Weaner Fairs

If you are in the market for weaners, it is best to consider how you are going to treat these new cattle once they are on your property. You do not want to be bringing resistant worms on to your own property, so a quarantine drench with a combination product such as Arrest C or Eclipse pour -on will give you nice clean cattle.

If there is any doubt about the vaccination history, then a 5 in 1 vaccination on arrival with a booster a month later should ensure there is no loss from clostridial disease.

If you have a property which has a history of sudden death in your cattle, then consider using Covexin 10, this vaccine covers all the common clostridial diseases such as blackleg and tetanus, but also sudden death syndrome, caused by Clostridium Sor-delli.

Getting the best out of your Dry cow choice, And What's AMR.  
We are holding a seminar on

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of March  
at the Okaihau Golf Club  
11.45 am**

**Start with lunch provided.**

Rosie Milne from MSD animal health will give us a run down on what is the best approach for Dry Cow therapy, and an update on the responsibility we all carry with respect to **Antimicrobial Resistance**. What should we be using in the way of antibiotics, and what should we be preserving, to safe guard the future ??



## PD Results

So far most pregnancy test results are ahead of last year, with many farms under the 10 % level. It looks like there was a good submission rate in the second and third round of mating. Once a day herds seem to be averaging under 7% empty, which is a great result.

## Cull cows: Don't waste those livers!!

If you are sending your cull cows off to the works, then don't forget to get their livers sampled for copper/ selenium /B12 and check the line for fluke. Cull cows are a great way to monitor your herds copper status, and will help identify whether they have been exposed to liver Fluke. So when you have booked your culls into the works, give us a ring straight away and we can then arrange to have the livers collected for analysis.



## Liverfluke combo drench

**Switch Fluke 10** is a combination oral drench, levamisole/abamectin plus triclabendazole for fluke control. The dose rate is 1 ml per 10 kg, this should be an ideal drench for weaners where you suspect Liver Fluke is a potential issue. This is a great drench to not only clear out worms but most if not all stages of Liver Fluke at the same time.

## Lepto - vaccination time again

We are currently vaccinating herds and calves for this zoonotic disease. **You** can catch lepto from your cattle, so it is much better to vaccinate to prevent you and your workers from catching it and protect your stock as well.

The basic vaccination programme requires young stock to be vaccinated twice in their first year, generally starting at 6 months of age with a follow up booster a month to 6 weeks after the first shot. From then on it is a matter of a yearly booster for all cattle on your property, preferably in the autumn before calving.

Autumn calving cows require their vaccination now, to ensure they will pass on immunity in the clostrum. If you have vaccinated your heifer replacements with 7 in 1 last spring, they will need a booster now to bring them in line for next year.

## Rotavec - Corona - time for Autumn Cows

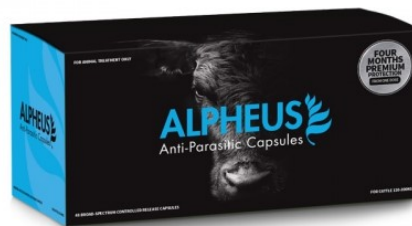
Don't forget to vaccinate your autumn calvers for Rotavirus protection, you need to vaccinate 12-3 weeks prior to calving. Remember to store the colostrum and feed to the new born calves for as long as possible.

## Alpheus Anti-Parasitic Capsules

Alpheus capsules, these are an Abamectin based capsule which pays out a consistent rate of

Abamectin over 4 Months!! These capsule were new to the market last year, and several farm-

ers tried them. They seemed to work well, giving good weight gains, and of course limiting the amount of work required to yard and drench cattle through the Autumn.



There is a primer capsule of oxfendazole/ levamisole which is given at the same time as the capsule to clear out existing infections, then the release of the Abamectin controls incoming Larvae. Trials of this product have shown good control of worms for the full 4 month period, plus an average weight gain of 14 kg over controls which had a 4 weekly drench of a triple combination drench.

This could be an ideal product, where yarding of weaners, and routine drenching is difficult. The product can be used on cattle from 120 – 300kg so will cover most if not all weaners. Give us a call if you think the Alpheus capsule could be beneficial to your farming practices.

## The Queens Footmen

Two blokes living in the Australian outback saw a couple of jobs advertised by the queen of England.

She was looking for footmen, to walk beside her carriage. They applied and were very happy to be flown to London for an interview with her Majesty.

She says to them: "Because my footmen must wear long stockings, I must see your ankles to be sure they are not swollen or misshapen."

After they show their ankles the Queen says: "It is also important that you don't have knobbly knees too."

Once again she has seen their knees, she says: "Now everything appears to be in shape, so I just need to see your testimonials."

Nine years later.... When the pair are finally released from prison, one of the blokes says to the other: "I reckon, if we just had a bit more education we would have got that job!"

