



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

Bullsheets

www.bayvets.co.nz

September 2016

Veterinarians:

- Max Newport BVSc, BSc*
- Toni Monro BVSc*
- Shirley Dryden BVSc*
- Maren Newport Vet Med, DVM*
- Hugh Gorman MVB*
- Geraldine Gorman MVB, MACVSc*
- Hilary Shaw BVSc, BAAGSc*
- Garth Riddle BVSc*
- Joanna Van Pierce BVSc*
- Nikita Osborne BVSc*
- Ashley Wright BVSc*
- Helen Mason BSc, BVMS*

Editorial

September has arrived, the days are getting longer, I suspect spring is not far away and the grass is starting to grow. The Dairy Auction is heading in the right direction, long may it continue.

The Allblacks are going through a blue patch, their form is terrific, let's hope they keep it up.

The Olympics were great, we seemed to save the best till last. Fantastic to see Blair Tuke and Peter Burling take out the Gold in the 49er sailing class.



In this Issue

- Lamé Cows
- Successful Mating
- Guess the weight
- Jump start mating
- Yearling Mating
- Coccidia
- Calf Vaccination
- Drenching Cattle
- Lamb Vaccination

Lamé cows

With the wet weather we have had, there is an increased incidence of lamé cows this season.

There are no magic bullets but the tried and true still should be followed. Identify the problem. Bruising needs rest, and can benefit from cowslips if there is a good claw to glue onto.

Footrot, needs antibiotics. Non withholding antibiotics are available for convenience and if you are discarding milk they can be a cheaper option. Damaged and under-run hoof needs removing. Keep concrete feed-pads clean. Stones on concrete combined with the soft wet feet leads to a problem. Remember, give the cows a chance, don't push them too fast on the race, let them place their feet with their heads down, they know where the rough patches are and they will try their best to avoid damage given a little more time to pick their way.

Successful Mating

This year we seem to have had a pretty wet winter, certainly more rain in August compared to last year. The result is most farms are on top of their feed.

Guess the weight Competition

Winners - Terrence Brocx, of Puketi farms was very close with his estimate of how heavy the Hereford Bull was. Terrence guessed 990 kg, the bull himself weighed in at 992 kg, so a very good guess. The range of estimates were from a low of 468 KG to a high of 2470 KG. That's why we recommend the use of scales! Congratulations Terrence and Susan I am sure you will enjoy your lunch at Marsden Estate.



The first few weeks of calving saw good numbers of calves being born, but since then it has slowed dramatically, so the slow later calving pattern could be a challenge to rectify if there is little grass for the cows in later September.

We now need to start thinking about setting the cows up for a successful mating.

1. Ensure you have enough feed available.

Most are using Nitrogen to keep the grass growing, this is your cheapest form of feed, and so far the cows are responding. Many have or are culling poor producers / older cows / high somatic cows. This will lower your stocking rate, and so will increase the feed available to the herd. The decision to go once a day needs to be made early, a minimum of 3 weeks out from mating.

2. Select 8-10 cows for pre-mating blood tests to check out the herd's mineral status, low copper, selenium, and magnesium levels will all result in a poor mating outcome.

3. Have all at risk cows Metri-checked or get the whole herd checked.

At risk cows are any which have had

- **Retained membranes**
- **milk fever**
- **difficult calvings**
- **Any seen with pus flecks on their tails.**

Also included in the at risk group would be **all your heifers** which have calved.

We can check cows simply with a metri-checker, and treat if necessary. Early treatment, i.e., at least a month before the start of mating, will give the cow the best chance to get back in calf.

Whole herd metri - checking will generally result in finding 10% of the cows needing a treatment.

4. Tail paint the cows a month prior to the planned start of mating.

Check the tail paint one week out from the start of mating. Any cows not rubbed, and which have calved for 30 days or more, are your NON- Cyclers.

This year we have a deal, get some tail paint free! if you enrol for a reproduction consult.

The free tail paint is supplied by Bayer NZ Conditions apply.

5. Get the non-cyclers checked a week before the plan start of mating, these cows will then come up for AI in the first week of mating, and so are more likely to calve within the first 6 weeks next year.

6 . Bull Power

If you follow these five steps you should ensure a successful mating and a get a good return on investment.

Remember you need 1 bull for every 30 cows not in calf at the end of AI. In most herds that is likely to be 30-40 %, so in a 300 cow herd, then 90-120 cows are not likely to be in calf after 6 weeks. You will need 3-4 bulls in with the herd, and another 3-4 to act as back up. That's a lot of Bulls

Remember your bulls will need to be bled and vaccinated for BVD before entering the herd.

Vaccination for BVD, requires 2 shots 4 weeks apart to ensure good antibody levels for protection prior to mating.

Lepto vaccination is also a good idea.

Jump start mating

If you want to **Jump start** your mating, you will give the cows the greatest opportunity to get in calf early for next year.

The program for Jump Start requires good pre-mating heat detection 3 weeks prior to mating. All cows cycling are identified, then mate for 6 days, on the sixth day we will come and inject with a prostaglandin all cows which have been identified as cycling but not yet mated. Then continue to AI, expect 80- 90 % of the cows injected to cycle over the next 48-96 hours. All cows in the program which have not cycled a week after the PG injection are non-cyclers and will need to go into a non - cycling cow program.

Yearling Mating

There are now several options to help synchronise your yearlings, but the most important thing is that they are up to weight and cycling well at the start of mating. Talk to us about the various options for synchrony.

If you have not seen them lately, get them in for a once over, they are likely to benefit from a drench now and possibly a B12 and selenium injection prior to mating.

Coccidia

Coccidia is a natural parasite of young calves and lambs, but it can become a problem where the young susceptible animals are all run together on contaminated pasture.

Coccidia will cause a dark/ bloody diarrhoea with typical staining on the hocks, and calves will lose condition.

Calves from 3 weeks of age on will benefit from a coccidiostat in their feed, either milk or meal or both. Most commercial meals have a coccidiostat added, but to be effective, calves need to be eating 1 kg plus of meal per day. A simple method is a coccidiostat which is added to the milk to control coccidia .We have several coccidiostats available,

so just give us a call to get the best one for your situation.

Calf Vaccination

If you have had your calves dehorned by us, they would have had a 7 in 1 vaccination at the time of disbudding, they will then need a booster vaccination 4 weeks after the disbudding.

If you have not had your calves disbudded, then they can have a 7 in 1 vaccine at 4- 6 weeks of age, followed by a booster 4 weeks later.

To ensure your cattle are well protected from lepto, a booster vaccination in the autumn is recommended.

Drenching Cattle

Drenching cattle now as they come out of the winter is a rational thing to do, so the cattle can make the most of the spring grass, not wasting it on parasites!!

We currently have some great promos, for drench, the best being a 3 plus1 on Eclipse E injection.

Yes that's right, buy 3 X 500ml of Eclipse E injection, and you will receive 1 X 500 ml free.

Eclipse E is a combination injection of Eprinex plus levamisole, with a dose rate of 1 ml per 35 kg, is an ideal product to use. The use of Eprinex on your dairy heifers, and or any thin cows will help through this period and is proven to have a positive effect on milk production and mating. We currently have a **3 plus 1 deal on Eprinex 5 litres.**

Along with the great products there is also a free Crock pot, Fry pan or Thermos with selected items.

Don't forget you also go into the draw for a place on our fishing the Gulf trip, in November with any purchase of Ancare- Merial products to the end of September.

Lamb Vaccination – Worm treatments

Docking time is now happening, remember if you have not vaccinated the ewes, then use Lamb Vaccine, if you have then use 5 in 1 on the Lambs, don't forget the booster in 4 weeks' time.

If you are going to drench your Lambs at docking, then you will need a product that will give tape-worm control.

First, a two way drench plus tape drench is ideal, unless you have a resistance problem to either Levamisole or Albendazole.

IverMatrix tape a three way combination drench plus tape wormer will give good control where you may have resistance. It is generally recommended you treat your lambs with a tape worm drench twice before moving to a normal drench.

The use of B12 on lambs either at docking or weaning is a great way to help your lambs grow, and lower the number of tail end lambs.

**Pets Day
will be held at Waipapa
on
Sat 8th of October,
this is a fun day for the
family, so looking forward
to see you there.
10 am Start!!**

