



## Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

# Bullsheel

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

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## Editorial

Yay Spring Has Arrived !!!  
The sun is warmer and lasts a little longer. The winter sure was wet enough, but not a match on Texas.

Great to see the Allblacks holding out against an improved Aussie side, it will be interesting when they come up against the Pumas and the Boks.

Good to see the Dairy payout looking good, Beef is strong, Lamb ? , so overall the farming scene is looking positive.

The election is hotting up, I wonder what mix of a government we will have after the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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### Lamb Vaccination – Worm treatments.

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.

### Pet calf & Lamb Day 7th October

Pets Day at Waipapa will be held at Waipapa on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, this is a fun day for the family, so looking forward to see you there. 10 am Start!!

### 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.

If you would like some help clear-

ing a back log of lame cows, give us a call, we are here to help.

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, very much like last year. The result is most farms are on top of their feed. 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.

**3.** 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.

If you treat these cows they 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 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.

### Laminitis (Founder)

This is just a warning note that every year by the end of September we are dealing with cases of laminitis in horses.

Most cases are caused by the sudden upsurge in grass growth and extra energy in the grass at this time of year. To help prevent laminitis in susceptible animals, it is best to restrict access to fresh grass and feed hay plus a supplement such as Founder Guard. The full paddock which has been sufficient for the pony over the winter period needs to be subdivided to restrict intake of the Rocket Fuel type grass of early spring!

Founder is best prevented as it is a major problem to treat, often ending in the destruction of a previously healthy young animal.

### Jump start mating;

If you want to **Jump start** you're 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. The coccidiostat, such as rumensin, will restrict the growth of the coccidia, and therefore lessen the challenge to the young stock.

### New Vet Power

Jorrit Verver has just arrived to help us out. My name is Jorrit (not to pronounce like yoghurt!), but I guess Jo will do as well. I just came over from Holland after eight years in veterinary practice and I brought my Italian girlfriend and hopefully soon my Scottish dog with me.



My passion is in mixed practice, I like the variation of dairy, equine and small animal work all in one day! Looking forward to meet the clients and their animals at Bayvets and to start this adventure in the Bay of Islands.

### Fast Bike

A man decided he was going to ride his 10 speed bike from Auckland to Wellington, he got no more than halfway there around Taupo when the task got too great and he could go no further.

He stuck his thumb out but after three hours, not a single person had stopped. Finally a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride but of course the bike would not fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying on the side of the road and tied it to his bumper, he tied the other end to the bike and told the guy that if he was going too fast to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down. Everything was fine for the first 50 km when suddenly another Corvette flew past them. Not to be outdone the Corvette pulling the bike went after the other. A little later the two Corvettes both doing 120km flew through a speed trap.

The police officer radioed ahead to the other officer that the two Corvettes were coming towards him at 120km.

He added "your not going to believe this but there is a guy on a 10 speed bike honking to pass."