



Over the Fence

Greetings from Wanganui Vet Services

October 2015 • Issue 25



Quarterly News and Views



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Animal Health Reminders

For the next two months:

- Calf dehorning
- Treat dirty cows
- TB test deer
- Finish pre-lamb vaccinations/drenching
- Scabivax at docking
- Magnesium supplementation beef cows
- Premating cow blood testing
- BVD test bulls

Well, it's one month in the hot seat and doesn't time fly - although we do seem to have had plenty of challenges and jammed a fair bit into that month. Climatically we look like we are past the worst of what has been a colder and wetter than normal winter, especially those in recent years, and the longer and warmer days are certainly welcome.

Apart from a tougher than usual winter we have had to deal with some low commodity prices, Bruce going on holiday to Ireland, theileria, the start of the world cup, and the after effects of flooding, but for us at the vet clinic the biggest change has been the retirement of Dave Barton, David Taylor, and Raewyn Matthews. We had two fantastic farewell evenings on consecutive nights, one for members and one for staff, and I would like to thank the many of you who came along to the members farewell function.

It's incredible to think that over 100 years of experience would leave at the same time, but it has to be said how well everyone in the clinic has responded. Dave, Dave and Raewyn have made it an easier transition with the assistance they have given over the past few months. Dianna Rotherham has taken over from Raewyn managing the reception area, and you may have also noticed some new faces in the veterinary area with Hein Stoop filling David Taylor's boots, and Chelsea Macdonald covering as a locum. Looking forward we have interviewed several fifth year vet students and now have a new graduate lined up to start in December. Glen Baker has ably taken over in the large animal sales roll over the past few months and many of you will have encountered him out and about already.

Not only is it "the Daves" and Raewyn but also not so long ago John Pickering departed for the warm climate of Hawkes Bay. I have seen John several times and he seems busier than ever but is loving "retirement". I can quite honestly say he looks about ten years younger! John Guiniven has taken over managing the grazing scheme and has settled into the roll over the last four months.

When we have challenges they often are all consuming at the time, and I especially think of our dairy farmers who have had a low pay out, and some who have had the extra stress of theileria, the cattle blood disease transferred by ticks. In many cases with the passing of time these challenges often become a distant memory. Already we have signs of recovery in the dairy pay out and the results we have had with early veterinary intervention against theileria have been very successful. This disease is spreading quite quickly and has now been diagnosed on beef blocks - so it is not just a dairy issue.

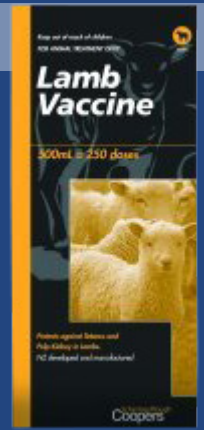
In short taking a pragmatic and longer view to many of the issues we face may bring some degree of perspective to it. Unlike the South African rugby team - who may take a little longer to get over their loss to Japan!

Cheers, Tom.



LAMB VACCINE

Following recent trial work conducted by MSD Animal Health, Multine 5 in 1 can now be used at docking time. The trial work has shown an immune response giving protection against these clostridial diseases. Of special importance in lambs are pulpy kidney and tetanus. If lambs are from unvaccinated ewes it is still advisable to use Lamb Vaccine at docking as the tetanus protection is immediate and will protect against this disease. For lambs from vaccinated ewes there is the opportunity to now start your vaccination programme earlier, ie this would be their sensitiser shot.



DRENCHING ADULT DAIRY COWS?

There have been a large number of studies run around the world that show good economic returns as a result of drenching dairy cows. A published review paper summarised the results of 87 trials examining the production effects of treating adult cows with various deworming products.

They found:

Adult cows can carry a significant worm burden. Cows grazing pasture that have a high parasite burden will have worms, which will reduce appetite and therefore energy intake and thus milk production.

Treating for worms can increase milk production. In 70 or the 87 experiments (or 80%) reviewed in this paper there was an increase in milk production after drenching. The average increase was 0.63kg wholemilk/cow/day.

Endectocides generated more consistent results. These trials were done with different types of drench products. Results showed that the macrocyclic lactone endectocides (ivermectin, abamectin, moxidectin, doramectin and eprinomectin) were more consistently effective than the clear or white drenches. Interestingly the paper shows no differentiation between the different endectocide actives when it comes to increasing milk production.

“When an endectocide drench was used there was a positive milk production response in 97% of the studies.”

From this it is easy to see that IF your cows have a worm burden there is a 97% chance you are going to get a milk production response and therefore a pay increase.

There are also a few other things that will increase your odds of getting a good milk production response.

- 1) Your cows are more likely to have a higher worm burden if you graze your calves or young stock on the milking platform. Adult animals on these types of properties are likely to respond very well to drenching.
- 2) You get far better results from using an endectocide drench – such as a pour-on with a nil milk withholding. Despite the oral drenches being much cheaper they are much less consistent in the results that they give and generally have a milk withholding.
- 3) If you have not drenched during the dryoff period then from a milk production point of few you will get a slightly better result by treating your animals post calving.

THEILERIA ORIENTALIS (THE TICK DISEASE)

The situation

Since the first reports of anaemia in beef and dairy cattle appeared from Northland in spring 2012 there's been an increase in reported cases from Northland down to the central North Island and now the South Island.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has confirmed an association with the outbreaks with *Theileria orientalis* ikeda, a piroplasm parasite transmitted by ticks. The disease is not spread by direct animal-to-animal contact in the absence of ticks. There are no human health or food safety risks associated with *Theileria*.

Spring and autumn have been the predominant disease periods, in particular spring 2013, with increases in the occurrence of the disease in spring 2014 and again in spring 2015 associated with the stress of calving.

Stock movements, environmental conditions, stress in the herd, concurrent disease, tick populations and prior exposure to the disease are likely contributing factors.

What to look out for

- lethargy, weakness, depression, inappetance, poor milk production, mortality
- pale or yellow mucous membranes ie. gums, vulva and sclera(eye)
- increased respiration and heart rates, raised temperature

Farmers who suspect they have animals with anaemia should contact a veterinarian for advice.

SHEEP AND CATTLE DRENCHES CAN KILL FARM DOGS

We know some Farmers use sheep or cattle drenches to dose their valuable working dogs but be warned; some drenches have very low safety margins.

A case in point is the macrocyclic lactone drench family which includes genesis. Merial Ancare that markets genesis reports that every year dogs are killed as a result of exposure to particularly genesis pour on. Pour on products in particular are very dangerous due to their high concentration. Products containing abamectin seem to be implicated most commonly. Clinical signs of toxicity include tremors, unstable gait, vomiting, dribbling from the mouth, blindness and nervous signs followed by coma and death.

There is no antidote. Its sound advice to only use registered dog wormers. Robyn at the clinic manages a worm tablet delivery service for dogs. If you are not on it give Robyn a call. This way your dogs will be on a worming programme that will be kept up to date.



Treatment options

The most important thing to remember is you can't treat the problem if you don't know it exists. This season we have found another severely affected farm and four others with a small number of affected cattle (one of these was in a beef breeding herd). If you are finding cattle with the above mentioned symptoms it is vital you make a diagnosis as we can then implement steps to minimize the impact of this disease on your property.

The initial treatment is to identify the affected animals, rank them in order of disease severity then either put them on once a day milking with minimal walking, once a day milking with minimal walking and treatment or lastly once a day milking with minimal walking treatment and a blood transfusion. The problem with the treatment option is that the drug has a 43 day milk with-hold and an eighteen month meat with-hold. This is not too much of a problem as affected cows don't produce much milk and it can be used on replacement calves (not the Bobbies). The eighteen month meat with-hold is also manageable as the cows treated in our experience have the same in-calf rate as the non-affected cows so only a small proportion have to be carried over empty.

If you are a beef farmer look for the above symptoms in your cows and your calves but also look for unexplained higher than normal death rates in calves under eight weeks old. If these are seen contact us and again we may be able to implement strategies to minimise the effect of this disease.

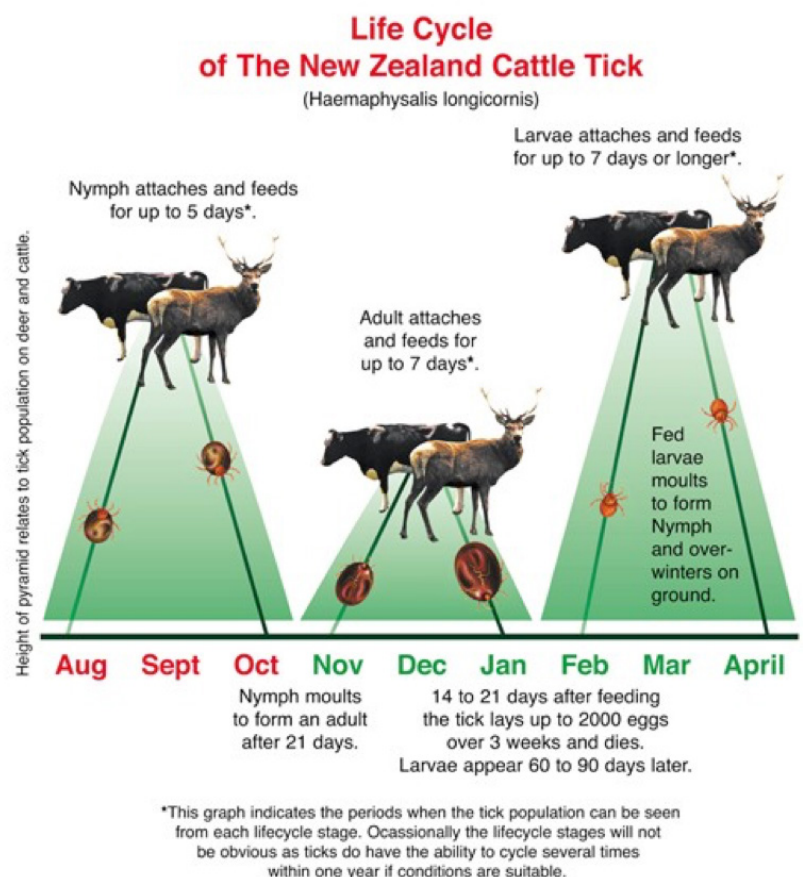
HOW THE DISEASE IS TRANSMITTED

The disease is carried in the affected cows blood stream for life and when a tick bites an affected cow this tick then becomes infected with the disease. The initial stage of the tick(larvae) is not infected so the first stage that can infect a cow is the nymph, once this nymph has fed and fallen off the cow it then moults into the adult stage in as little as 8 days but as long as a number of years(see tick life cycle below). So from this you can see that an infected tick can only infect two cows. This means that if you have very few ticks you will see very low levels of disease. This is why keeping your tick numbers at as

low as possible is vital.

The most effective way of reducing tick numbers is by grazing management as the eggs and larval stages of the tick are very susceptible to desiccation (drying out) so keep your pastures short through the summer and autumn. You can also use pour-on tickicides on cattle but as the tick is only on the cattle beast for between 3 to 5 days and the timing of the hatch of each stage of tick can happen in any month of the year this can have very variable results. Treating for ticks every 6 weeks of all susceptible stock on the property is an option but is obviously more expensive. The other problem with ticks is they are not fussy as to what they bite so all other mammals on your property are fair game and they may even bite birds. For example rabbits, hares, horses, sheep and even humans can transmit ticks between properties or help maintain a large population of ticks.

Lastly remain vigilant as this disease is moving around the North Island extremely rapidly and in my opinion it is only a matter of time until you are affected by this disease.



What's Up

FAREWELL TO DAVE, DAVE & RAEWYN





BE IN TO WIN

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R.I.D. Terms and conditions apply/see entry form for further details. There will be one winner per participating store of a Tuscany 115 litre drinks fridge. Offer ends 5pm 11/10/2015. One entry form to be completed per bag of eligible product purchased. The Promoter is Masterpet New Zealand.

Presented to you by **masterpet**

Meet our new Staff Members We like to warmly welcome to our WVS family



Dr Hein Stoop
Veterinarian



John Gunivin
Grazing Manager



Jo Melville
Groomer



Chelsea Underwood
Veterinarian



VETCARE TRAINING

What a whirlwind of activity over the last two months!! Term three has been a very busy ten weeks for our veterinary nursing students.

This term has seen the students progressing from the basics to more the specialised areas of veterinary nursing.

Exciting topics such as Nursing hospitalised patients, Anaesthesia and analgesia, Intra venous drips and fluid therapy, Dispensing drugs and surgical assistant have been on the timetable.

They have almost completed their "Surgical Rotations", this involves the students being assessed in four different roles supporting the veterinarian and their animal patients in surgery.

A surprise field trip is planned for the last week of term to unwind and debrief before they head out into New Zealand's wider veterinary community to spend a week in another practice. Fun and exciting times ahead!

Term four commences 12th October giving the students seven weeks left to consolidate their learning and get ready to graduate in December.

During the upcoming holiday break we will be conducting interviews for the 2016 class intake. Registrations are still open.

ARANUI SCHOOL SPORTS

Well done to the Super Breeding Stock of WVS

1st Place in Snr Boys Race Chase Morpeth (Scotts son)
Another 1st Place in the Jnr Boys Morgan Murray (Pete's son)
And a Super 2nd Place in Jnr Girls for Charlotte Baker (Glen's daughter)

