



# VET notes

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT ANIMALS ON YOUR FARM

AUGUST 09



Above Nigel Coddington

## Why cull Kaimanawa Wild Horses?

Nigel Coddington has been involved in the Kaimanawa Wild Horses (KWH) musters for over 10 years. Being the astute observer he is, Nigel has gathered some real data that give us an objective perspective on these much discussed and majestic animals.

Where horses are indigenous to a country, Mother Nature has also placed a balancing mechanism - in the horse's case, predators. The KWH were released into an area that was predator-free. The result has seen animals dying in unacceptable numbers from starvation and poor-quality feed, jaw and limb deformities and disease. This animal welfare problem was created by humans, and it is the responsibility of humans to solve the problem. Aside from animal welfare, other reasons for the cull included rare plant protection and population control.

## Kaimanawa Wild Horses - some facts to help with the fiction!

**Nigel Coddington**

The Kaimanawa Wild Horses (KWH) have inhabited the North Island since the 1870s, when Sir Donald McLean released a stallion and some mares onto the Kaiangaroa Plains.

This nucleus was added to in small numbers over the following years, with major additions coming when tractors replaced forestry horses, and an outbreak of strangles in military cavalry horses in 1941 resulted in the release of these horses to the central North Island. In 1978, the KWH Committee was formed under the NZ Forest Service.

By 1979, approximately 174 wild horses remained in the Southern Kaimanawa region – none in the northern (Kaiangaroa Plains) region. In 1981, a protected area was established for the KWH – this encompassed basically the Waiouru Military area, plus some smaller privately owned blocks that bordered the army area.

Since 1979, ground and aerial surveys saw an increase in horse numbers from 174 to 1697 in 1997. Between 1998 and 2008 the KWH numbers ranged from 495 to 795 with an

average 127 horses being removed from the herd annually. In 2009 there were 594 KWH and 230 of these were removed.

Data from early musters up to and including 1997 and since 1997 show consistent ratios:

	Up to 1997	Post 1997
Mares in foal	80%	80%
Mares with foal at foot	43%	55%-66%
Mares with yearling representative	12.5%	19%

The survival rate of the young horses and condition scores of the horses mustered have improved since 1997. The other major improvement has been hoof condition, with less evidence of laminitis seen in the horses mustered each year since 1998. Not surprisingly, there is little difference in worm burdens.

Horses mustered in the last three years have been more robust in attitude and livelier. The KWH herd is currently in reasonable health, and able to maintain that health, with a current population of around 500 horses in this area.





# Totally Vets current stock health

## Dairy Cattle

It's time to start pregnancy testing those autumn calvers.

Natural mating sires need to be assessed and disease-checked before running with heifers or the herd.

A follow-up on Body Condition Score now will determine what weight loss has occurred since calving and its influence on your herd's

mating. Check pre-mating trace mineral status at the same time.

If you intend to induce cows this season confer with Totally Vets to ensure compliance with the Code of Induction.

Identify and record 'at risk' cows for regular checks and treatment.

Sort your final plan for measuring your pre-mating heats (PMHs). PMHs are the



## HA HA The Human Body

- It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach
- One human hair can support 3kg (6.6 lb)
- The average man's penis is three times the length of his thumb
- Human thighbones are stronger than concrete
- A woman's heart beats faster than a man's
- There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet
- Women blink twice as often as men
- The average person's skin weighs twice as much as their brain
- Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still
- If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it
- Women reading this will be finished now
- Men will still be checking their thumbs

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## Magnesium supplementation of dairy cows

Anita Renes

Magnesium supplementation is an essential part of transition management on dairy farms.

Severe magnesium deficiency will cause nervous signs and often death around the time of calving. Mild deficiency will suppress appetite and milk production. Magnesium is also linked to hormones that help maintain blood calcium levels and hence plays a very important role in milk fever prevention.

Dairy cattle require between 12 and 20g of elemental (pure) magnesium per day over the transition and early lactation periods, depending on their bodyweight. The table shows the number of grams of each product the cow must be given to achieve the required dose of pure magnesium.

If MgO is being dusted on pasture, double the dose to allow for wastage.

If the magnesium salts, MgS and MgCl, are fed pre-calving they are likely to be better at preventing milk fever than MgO due to the Dietary Cation Anion Difference (DCAD) effect. MgS and MgCl have a low pure magnesium concentration and the dose required to achieve adequate levels of magnesium makes the water taste bitter. Doses above 60g/cow/day of MgS or MgC increases the risk of reduced water intake and in the

case of MgS, may cause diarrhoea. One way to get around this is to supply the cows with 60g/cow/day of MgS or MgC through the water and also dust the pasture/silage with 50-70g of MgO.

Magnesium supplementation should begin 3 weeks prior to calving - when to stop will depend on the property. Most should continue through the mating period.

**Cows can be blood tested to check if they are receiving enough magnesium. Contact Totally Vets for advice on supplementing with magnesium.**

Magnesium source	Pure magnesium content	Dose of product needed to receive required dose of magnesium (g/cow/day)	
		16g e.g. Crossbred	20g e.g. Friesian
Magnesium Oxide (MgO)	55%	29g	36g
Magnesium Sulphate (MgS)	10%	162g	202g
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl)	12%	134g	167g



last chance to make a decision that might influence your herd's mating outcomes.

## Beef Cattle

Aim to increase feed levels one month before calving.

Plan Rotavec and other pre-calving booster vaccines.

If you're a grass staggers farm, plan your magnesium supplementation.

## Deer

Yersiniosis is still a risk. Minimise stress, especially feed stresses.

## Sheep

Our intrepid scanners, Guy and Ross, report ewe scanning in the Manawatu has produced the best results ever. The next challenge will be to avoid sleepy sickness due to declining feed levels under cold and wet conditions.

Avoid stress close to lambing. Get last minute vaccinations and drenches (if necessary) out of the way 2-3 weeks before lambing.

Set stock ewes and disturb as little as possible.

Sharpen the docking equipment, purchase clostridial vaccines and sort the ear tags.

**Consider a docking drench of ewes. Perhaps discuss this with Totally Vets.**

## Horses

Winter is when those small red worms with the unpronounceable name, cyathostomes, burrow in before emerging again in the spring. A winter drench with a drug that is effective against encysted cyathostome larvae, such as Equest® Plus Tape, will reduce their spring emergence as well as remove any tapeworms.

# Canine calamities - part one

Greta Baynes

Good working dogs are invaluable farm hands, working tirelessly all day without complaint. They deserve the best care they can get so you can get the most out of them. This is the first in a series of articles on common issues associated with farm dogs.

### OBSTRUCTIONS

Problems caused by foreign bodies blocking the intestines are not uncommon. These dogs

usually have vomiting and/or diarrhoea and can become very sick very quickly. In those dogs that are taken to surgery, ear tags and bones are commonly found to be the problem. Sometimes, the foreign body can perforate through the intestinal wall causing infection and inflammation of the entire abdomen - this seldom ends well.

If bones are part of the diet, feed only large raw bones. Cooked bones become brittle and break easily, causing gut damage. Make sure you bury any carcasses deeply.

### CONSTIPATION

Constipation is also relatively common. Prostate problems and fusion of the spine in the lower back can lead to problems passing faeces. Constipation is usually caused by feeding poor-quality food, notably dog roll slabs which contain partially ground up bone. The sooner constipation is treated, the less expensive it is!

### GDV (gastric dilation and volvulus)

This is a tricky way of saying twisted stomach. It is more common in deep-chested dogs (e. g. Huntaways), when large meals are fed infrequently or when dogs work soon after feeding.

The twist can occur very quickly - you will see a very crook dog with retching, breathing difficulties, pale gums and a bloated abdomen. This is an emergency - to save the dog surgery must be done immediately.

**THE TAKE HOME MESSAGE IS: the earlier you discover the problem, the greater the chance of saving your workmate. If you are worried about the health of your dog, please call Totally Vets sooner rather than later.**

# Farmers fined for medicine misuse

The successful prosecution of two farmers who sent bobby calves for slaughter that tested positive for veterinary medicine residues is a reminder that

farmers must follow instructions for dosage rates and withholding times on product labels.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority's assistant director of operational response Justin Rowlands says he is pleased with the outcome of the cases. "It shows farmers who jeopardise our animal product markets by misusing vet medicines are very likely to be caught and punished."

In both instances sulphonamides were

incriminated. Sulphonamides are commonly present in drugs used to treat bacterial intestinal infections in calves, and have a required holding period of 14 days.

Fines of \$1000 and \$1500 plus court costs were imposed.

**Totally Vets urges all farmers to follow the dosage rates and withholding time instructions provided on product labels and by their veterinarian to prevent this type of contamination.**



# The genetics of equine coat colour - part one

Dr Jenny Cahill BVSc PhD

Coat colour has long fascinated horse owners and was one of the first groups of genetic traits to be investigated in horses.

There are **4 basic coat colours** upon which the myriad of complex colours we observe on horses in the field are built - **grey - chestnut - bay - black**.

There are **3 genes** which interact to produce these 4 base colours, and there are genetic screening tests available for them.

Once you know the genetic recipe for these 3 genes that make up the base coat colour, it is possible to accurately predict the possible coat colours, and the likelihood of each possible coat colour, of future offspring. Every horse has a pair of alleles for each of the 3 colour genes - one from its dam and one from its sire, and will pass one of the pair on to its offspring. Remember though that the law of averages doesn't always perform as expected!

## THE 3 GENES

**1 Grey gene**, dominant and overrides the other 3 base colours

**GG or Gg** will be a grey horse

**gg** will be a non-grey horse

**2 Extension/red gene**, determines if pigment in the hair is red or black

**ee, recessive** will be a chestnut horse

**EE or Ee** will have black pigment (bay or black)

**3 Agouti/black gene**, acts if black pigment is present and determines whether black is all over or distributed to the points

**EE or Ee** black pigment will be present

**aa, recessive** will be a black horse, black all over

**AA or Aa** will be a bay horse, black will be distributed to the points

Mating 2 black horses may produce a chestnut, but never a bay

Mating 2 bays may result in bay or black or chestnut depending on the genetic recipes of each parent

## WHICH TEST WILL GIVE MAXIMUM INFORMATION FOR YOUR HORSE?

Test for the marker/gene which is hidden by the base coat colour, so you can then predict possible colours of offspring and choose suitable matings.

Next month... more on the genetics of other colours including paint horses.

## TO HAVE YOUR HORSE COLOUR TESTED PLEASE CONTACT

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More information available on this subject at <http://ivabs.massey.ac.nz/centres/EPAGSC>

**For definitions of genetic terms refer to VetNotes July article on parentage verification or visit [www.totallyvets.co.nz](http://www.totallyvets.co.nz).**

## SOME SIMPLE RULES

All grey horses must have 1 grey parent

Mating 2 grey horses can produce non-grey foals

Mating 2 non-grey horses can never produce grey foals

Mating 2 chestnuts will always result in chestnut foals



# What's the goss?

A jack-knifed truck on the 'Three Sisters' blocked both lanes of the Desert Road preventing **Trevor, Greta and Paula** from getting to the Sheep and Beef Conference in Rotorua. The conference had to be re-arranged to accommodate one of its keynote speakers!

To be invited to attend an international sheep conference is huge recognition by one's peers, especially when the conference is in Norway. **Ginny**, the well-deserving recipient of this invitation has hardly had time to unpack. We hope to bring you some of Ginny's experiences next month.

After many years of sterling service **Gaylene** has left us to join the team at Gribbles Veterinary Laboratory in Palmerston North. While it's sad to see Gaylene go, it's great to

# Feeding ewes

Hamish Pike

After lambing, the ewe's demand for energy rises to reach a peak about 3-5 weeks into lactation. If the ewe is restricted during this time, her potential milk yield will not be achieved which in turn will have a direct affect on the growth of her lamb/lambs. The effects of nutrition on milk yield are greatest in the first month of lactation.

Lamb growth rates are governed to a major degree by the ewe's milk production. Maximum growth rates are achieved while on the ewe - on milk - so attention to feeding the ewe enough high-quality spring pasture after lambing is critical to your farm profit.

After lambing, the ewe's demand for energy rises to reach a peak about 3-5 weeks into lactation. If the ewe is feed-restricted during this time, her potential milk yield will not be achieved which in turn will have a direct affect on the growth of her lamb(s).

A 65kg ewe that lambed 3 weeks ago with twins at foot for example will require about 3kg DM/day (with a single lamb, 2.6kg DM/day) to maintain body condition and lactation. Therefore, the pasture must grow at 30kg DM/ha/day to maintain pasture covers 3 weeks after lambing, assuming 10 stock units to the hectare. Clearly, this will not be possible in some areas if lambing in late July/early August.

Therefore, if feed is tight post-lambing, this will adversely affect ewe body condition and survival rates, and growth rates of the lambs at foot.

Ewes can be set stocked on sward heights of 3cm (1300kg DM/ha) without penalising

lamb growth rates, but at these low sward heights, ewes will lose up to 10kg by weaning time (60-70 days). Thus, sward heights of 4-6cm (1500-1800kg DM/ha) are more appropriate to prevent this liveweight loss, ensure good milk production, and sustainable production between years. Sward heights of 6cm (1800kg DM/ha) will just about maximise ewe intakes, as ewes will physically be unable to harvest the extra dry matter made available.

Therefore, if feed is tight post-lambing, this will adversely affect ewe body condition and survival rates, and growth rates of the lambs at foot.

Remember that the most efficient time to put weight back on ewes is in late lactation (prior to weaning). This is in part due to the ewes greater ability to put weight back on while she has a lamb at foot, but also due to the late spring pasture having a higher digestibility than summer pastures.

# Ticks in deer

Joao Dib

A tick will consume about 1ml of blood per day. Up to 600 ticks have been recorded on a young fawn. Not only do ticks cause anaemia, they also damage hides and velvet.

## Life cycle

Tick larvae emerge from eggs and attach to deer and any other warm-blooded animal from mid-spring to late summer. They feed for 7 days and 5 days later enter a pre-moult phase for a month, emerging as a nymph which

feeds for a further 7 days. Nymphs drop to the ground where they develop for 40 days to become adults. The adult seeks a host, feeds for a week and then drops to the ground and lays eggs, sometimes as many as 2000. The next generation of larvae will emerge 60-90 days later.

Thus, in most parts of New Zealand, ticks can appear in various forms and feed on the host animal three times a year. In warm moist areas with mild winters, there may be at least two generations each year.

## Control

Stock are only tick-free during late autumn, winter, and early spring. Applying Bayticol (a tickicide registered for use in deer) between September and March/April when larvae,

nymphs and adults are feeding on the host and therefore susceptible, is one option for control.

## Additional control measures

- All bought-in stock should be treated at least 10 days prior to release
- Use sheep to mop-up a paddock that has been lying fallow before allowing deer back in. Treat the sheep with an appropriate sheep dip before returning them to a new paddock
- Heavily graze areas most likely to host ticks between June and October, to coincide with their habitat and life cycle phases.

Adopting the above controls will improve the health of your deer and minimise losses.

still have her in the "business".

**Richard McKinley** has been battling an illness and decided to remove himself from the rigours of veterinary practice and allow himself plenty of time to get well. We all wish Richard a hasty and complete recovery.

While on comings and goings, **Katie McKinlay** (no relation to Richard) re-joined the team at the Palmerston North branch after maternity leave in July. Welcome back Katie!

If you have super-cute kids like Jade and Charlie, why stop now? **Barny and Al** have confirmed that number three is on the way. Congratulations!

Rarotonga seems to be a popular destination for those seeking respite from our chilly winter. **Paula and Dan** went for a belated honeymoon, **Craig and Danni** took wee **Thomas** on his first family holiday and we have no idea why **Jo and Gary** also chose the sunny isle.

**Jenny and Paul** have both been through shoulder surgery and are now chaffing at the bit from the frustrations of the prolonged recovery period required.

Totally Vets thanks those clients that took the time to offer their views and opinions at a series of **focus groups** held recently. It is now up to us to take your comments and suggestions on board. Your assistance is hugely helpful and greatly appreciated.

# Does 78% of your herd calve within 6 weeks?

One of the two major measures of a herd's overall reproductive performance is the 6 week in-calf rate. The primary drivers of this overall performance are submission rate and conception rate.

Where are you now?

What improvements can realistically be achieved?

What areas for improvement should you be focusing on?

How much is improved reproductive performance worth?

There is a positive economic benefit with increasing the 6 week in-calf rate, regardless of payout. There is more to lose or gain for variances in the 6 week in-calf rate when payout is high.

Measure your 6 week in-calf rate by counting the cows and heifers that calve in the first 6 weeks from planned start of calving. Is it 78%? If not, why not?

**Totally Vets can help you to explore specific management areas such as calving pattern; heifer rearing; body condition and nutrition; heat detection; pre-mating heats; non-cycling treatments; bull management and individual cow health.**



## Some new research findings on worms in deer

**Ginny Dodunski**

Most of our advice around worm management in deer is extrapolated from what is known about sheep and cattle. However, throughout the history of deer farming in NZ, we have found examples of where these lessons don't apply - the starkest being the extreme vulnerability of deer to lungworm in comparison to other species.

Most worm control decisions in deer centre on the need to prevent deaths from lungworm, which is perfectly valid. However this has tended to lead to a heavy reliance on using long-acting endectocide pour-on drenches, a practice which is highly exposed to the development of drench resistance, plus a relative lack of attention to

other management practices that could give effective worm control.

A major limitation of our advice is the scarcity of valid data and information about worms in deer.

Thankfully however, Massey University and AgResearch Invermay are currently doing some really good basic work to better define the way worms behave in deer, which will be really useful in providing better advice.

The Massey group is finding that 'comparatively low' doses of gut worms cause immediate and major reductions in appetite and liveweight gain in young deer.

Fawns develop quite high faecal egg counts within a few weeks of birth if they and their mums are grazing contaminated pastures. Thus these young fawns have the potential to be major sources of contamination themselves.

It also appears that the phenomenon of the rise in faecal egg output that can occur in ewes around the lambing period does not occur in red hinds - meaning that the level of worm larval challenge faced by these young fawns is mainly set by the previous grazing history.

**This is all really interesting stuff, but how does it apply to my farm? All that will come next month.**

## 'Tail-end ewe' trial update

**Greta Baynes**

This trial aims to identify the significant causes of tail-end ewes. We are monitoring tail-end ewes on five farms where 120 ewes have been tagged -

60 light ewes and 60 medium and fat conditioned ewes as comparisons

All ewes have been weighed, body condition scored and dag scored pre-mating and at ram removal. We are also assessing their teeth and feet at each visit.

All 'thin' ewes and a sub-sample of the medium and fat ewes have had faecal egg counts at each visit. Interestingly, the thin

ewes have consistently higher egg counts. Half the thin ewes have been drenched and we will soon assess the effect of this.

**More in depth results will follow in the near future when there are clearer trends to discuss. Until then, please peruse Ginny's article on the website (Farm Animals - Sheep - Tail-end ewes) for more information.**

# Dairy cow health and fertility

Anita Renes

Calving is when dairy cows are at the most risk of disease. Many illnesses that arise around calving time not only cost in terms of time, money, stress and animal welfare but also impact negatively on fertility in the next mating period.

The major effect of cow health on reproduction arises through the development of endometritis ('dirty' cows). Endometritis is an infection of the lining of the uterus. The cow is not visibly unwell and there may or may not be a pussy (white to yellowish) discharge from her vulva. Cows that have endometritis will usually still cycle normally but have reduced conception rates as their uterus provides an unhealthy environment for an embryo to implant.

New Zealand studies have shown that cows with endometritis conceive 2-3 weeks later than normal cows and have 10-30% higher empty rates. Cows with endometritis are also at a much higher risk of developing pyometra (uterus full of puss).

Appropriate diagnosis and treatment can result in very significant cost benefits through:

- Extra days in milk
- Fewer empties
- More AB calves to select from
- Less wasted semen
- Fewer inductions

The following diseases put cows at a higher risk of endometritis. These cows are known as 'at-risk' cows:

- Retained foetal membranes (RFMs) - membranes still in 24 hours after calving
- Difficult calving - assisted or natural
- Twins
- Dead calf - born dead or dies within 12 hours of birth
- Inductions
- Uterine prolapse
- Ketosis/fatty liver disease
- Downer cows
- Vaginal discharge

Although 'at-risk' cows are at a higher risk of being dirty, 10-15% of cows that had no problems at calving will also develop endometritis. Totally Vets can detect the majority of these using a metricheck tool which allows a quick, on-the-spot diagnosis of endometritis.

What options do you have this season for limiting the impact of endometritis on your herd's fertility?

One option is to record all 'at-risk' cows and any other cows with a discharge and have these examined by Totally Vets in batches 3-4 weeks after calving. Anything with clinical endometritis can be treated with a nil

withholding intra-uterine antibiotic at this time. There is evidence that also treating 'at-risk' cows that have no discharge will improve their pregnancy rates as many of these cows have sub-clinical infections. If a lot of your 'at-risk' cows are from RFMs then this may be a viable option.

A second option is to have the whole herd metrichecked 5-6 weeks prior to the start of mating. Any cows that have not been calved 2 weeks at this point should be re-examined at a later date.

A certain number of cows will develop endometritis in any herd regardless of how well they are managed. Things you can do to reduce the number of 'at-risk' cows include ensuring cows are in optimal calving condition and are well-transitioned; supplementing with trace elements as needed; being very hygienic when assisting in calvings and treating any illnesses/conditions that arise around calving time promptly and appropriately. Induced cows have a significantly higher risk of RFMs and hence endometritis. Focus on tightening up your calving spread and pull the bull out earlier so that you do not need to induce.

The following are acceptable levels of illness in a herd; if your herd is above any of these levels then you should seek help.

Retained foetal membranes	2%
Stillborn calves (or die within 24 hours of birth)	1%
Assisted calvings	5%
Other health problems (e.g. ketosis, milk fever etc)	5%

**Contact Totally Vets to make a plan for reducing the impact of endometritis in your herd.**



# Induction of dairy cows

Joao Dib

## COW SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Cows should be between 12 and 6 weeks from calving. Your vet may be able to assist in determining the likely age of the foetus. Remember that the aim is to avoid the

birth of a live calf

- Cows should be between 3 and 8 years of age
- Cows must be in good health
- Cows must have a condition score of at least 4.5 and no more than 6.5

## OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Pasture cover and supplements - ensure you have plenty on hand to meet the increased demand

- Ensure trace element status of the group is known and any deficiencies corrected before inducing
- It is essential that magnesium supplementation is in place well before induction
- Ensure induced cows are well-identified

**Induced cows are 'at-risk' animals and should have a reproductive tract check prior to the planned start of mating.**



# Early lactation clinical mastitis - a rational approach to treatment

Craig Tanner

Best practice guidelines for a trouble-free start to the season would include:

- Culling chronic mastitis offenders, cows with ongoing high somatic cell counts and those with suspect udder conformation
- Using dry cow therapy appropriately in cows you are retaining
- Dealing effectively with dry period infections
- Teatsealing™ heifers
- Checking and fully servicing the milking plant, as well as acting on all recommendations
- Reviewing milk quality control policies and practices with all farm personnel

Further:

- Springing cows fed generously, and not calved down on effluent paddocks or muddy breaks
- Fresh cows come into the shed for complete milking out within 12 hours of calving
- Colostrum cows managed as a separate mob with milk inspected at least daily

- Milk from all quarters of all colostrum cows screened for suitability to enter the vat
- Once in the milking herd, vigilance is exercised at all levels to detect and act on any signs of infection

In spite of best efforts, mastitis remains a reality of milking cows. While wet weather will conspire to increase the risk, the extent of mastitis is often a function of how thoroughly the above principles are applied.

So what is 'best practice treatment' for clinical mastitis? It is unrealistic to expect to 'cure' all infected quarters, but you can shift the odds in favour of a positive outcome:

- 1 Know your enemy** - collect sterile milk samples from the first 10-20 clinical cases of the season, before treatment, for bacterial culture
  - 2 Detect clinicals EARLY** - 'if you do not look, you will not find!'
  - 3 Treat aggressively** - NZ studies have established that more than 60% of mastitis over calving is due to *Strep uberis*. Unless milk culture results indicate otherwise, penicillin or its derivatives represents the best therapeutic approach
- As a **minimum**, administer 3 tubes of selected product per quarter at stated infusion interval (usually 12 hours)
  - Be prepared to treat difficult infections for longer (6 tubes) provided progress is being made, but prolong milk withholding period on label and/or seek veterinary advice
  - Use appropriate intramuscular drugs if more than one quarter is infected, especially in heifers and young cows, or where cow is sick due to mastitis

- Milk out infected quarter(s) completely, TWICE daily
- Use oxytocin to assist milk letdown and emptying of a swollen gland
- In the event of a poor response to initial treatment, develop a 2nd line treatment contingency in consultation with your veterinarian

Whenever dealing with clinical infections, be aware of the high risk of spread to 'clean' cows. To minimise this:

- Milk infected cows separately and last - this applies especially if run with colostrum cows
- Decide on a management system and an identification system for treated cows to avoid mishaps that could result in costly inhibitory substance grades or having to dump precious milk
- Mix teat spray fresh daily at the HIGH mastitis risk rate, adding extra emollient at up to 15%

Record all details. Review alongside herd test and other data to highlight:

- patterns of infection - by age, by days in milk
- completeness of cure
- future options for treatment and control

**Mastitis can be mastered!** Dealing with early season mastitis in a rational way will limit the short and long term effects on the health, welfare and productivity of the herd.

**At Totally Vets, we have the resources and the expertise to help. Talk to us today as an essential part of a strategy to ensure a high quality food product leaves your farm everyday.**