



VET notes

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT ANIMALS ON YOUR FARM

MAY 2017



Bruce Callon with the Biggest Snapper of the day

Fishing Comp roundup

Carla Sheridan

Our 2017 Fishing Competition saw record numbers of fish presented. The conditions were perfect and the fish were certainly biting.

Snapper, blue cod, terakihi, gurnard, kingies and even a big hapuka were amongst those caught.

Catch of the day went to Tony Haywood, **Lady Angler** was Rachel Pettigrew, and **Junior Angler** went to Hayley Baker.

A huge shout out to our extremely generous sponsors and a special thank you to Pam at Coastguard and to Brian from the Fishing Club. Without their support and contributions this competition wouldn't be possible.

Here's hoping 2018 will see us right with the same fantastic weather and fishing conditions. We look forward to seeing you all then!

For a complete list of prize winners and sponsors see the full article on our website www.totallyvets.co.nz.

Avoiding inhibitory substance grades

PART TWO - AROUND CALVING

Helen Mather

In our April newsletter we looked at the risk of inhibitory substance (IS) grades around drying off, this month we will consider steps that can be taken to minimise risk of grading around calving.

Critical to success is excellent record keeping. Maintaining clear and complete treatment records will go a long way to minimise any risk of an IS grade. However the ability to do this is dependent on accurate tagging and easy identification of individual cows – the dry period can be a valuable time in which to make improvements in this area if required!

Once calving has begun, ensure colostrum mob entry/exit dates for individual cows are recorded. It is vital to clearly identify and run colostrum and antibiotic treated cows separately from cows milked into supply and to milk these cows AFTER the main herd. Hot wash the milking machine after each milking (twice-a-day!) where cows treated with antibiotics have been milked through the plant.



Ensure you are aware of and that you follow label instructions of antibiotic treatments given at drying off and/or during the dry period, most importantly in regards to withholding periods (WHP). Remember that WHP are based on number of milkings NOT days, for example where cows are once-a-day milked, the WHP following dry cow therapy (DCT) is eight milkings, not four days. In addition, with DCT, it is also important to be aware of and adhere to the required length of dry period which varies according to which product has been used.

Two final points to remember are:

- that once-a-day or incomplete milk out following calving (such as for milk fever cases or low producing/skinny cows) has an effect on residue duration.
- that, where milk from multiple treated animals is to be returned to the vat on the same day, or the label dose rate or regime has been varied, it is important to follow the recommendations of your prescribing veterinarian as residue concentration may also vary.

With attention to detail and some organisation IS grades are avoidable, so take some time to meet with your team prior to calving and ensure you have a solid plan in place!

Looking ahead

Potential animal health issues, tasks to consider and reminders for **May** include...

DAIRY

- **Drying off** – although feed may not be such a limiting factor this season it is still important to keep a good eye on cow body condition to ensure it doesn't drop too low. Also be aware of falling production levels and potential increased risk of inhibitory substance grades – **article P1**.
- **Herd testing** – Bulk milk somatic cell count will likely be rising as lactation progresses and cows are beginning to be dried off. Consider

investing in a herd test to gain valuable information to assist in making both dry-off and dry cow therapy decisions – **article P3**.

- **Trace element monitoring** – pre-winter is a good time for liver biopsies to ensure levels of copper, selenium and cobalt are adequate.
- **Leptospirosis vaccination** – autumn is a perfect time to boost your herd prior to winter, being the period of greatest risk. Ensure that young stock are included in this programme and that the interval between annual vaccinations never extends beyond 13 months.

Bobby calf regulations

Leisa Norris

The welfare of all farmed animals must always be at the forefront of, and at the heart of, a good farming business. When it comes to bobby calves, everyone in the supply chain – farmers, transporters, sale-yard operators and processors – has a responsibility and role to play in protecting their welfare.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) have recently introduced seven new regulations after recognising that calves are vulnerable. The intention was to set clear guidelines and expectations for their care and so to strengthen the rules around calf welfare.

Four of the new regulations came into effect in August 2016:

- That young calves must be at least four FULL days of age AND physically fit before they're transported off farm for sale or slaughter, or as a result of sale.
- That the maximum journey time for young calves is 12 hours.
- That the transport of young calves by sea across Cook Strait is prohibited.
- That it is prohibited to kill calves by use of blunt force to the head, except in an emergency situation.

Three of the new regulations were given delayed commencement dates, coming into force in 2017, to allow people in charge of animals time to make the changes required:

- That young calves must be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival at the slaughter premises and within 24 hours of the last feed on farm – in force from 1st February 2017.
- That suitable shelter must be provided for young calves before and during transportation, and at points of sale or slaughter – in force from 1st August 2017.
- That loading/unloading facilities must be provided and used when young calves are transported for sale or slaughter, or as a result of sale – in force from 1st August 2017.

A full account of the regulations is on the New Zealand Legislation website as "Animal Welfare (Calves) Regulations 2016" and numerous resources have been developed and are available from all professionals involved in the supply chain.

MPI is working with industry organisations to implement the new regulations and to ensure people in charge of calves are aware of and comply with the regulations. MPI will be actively investigating incidents where an offence may have occurred.

Guidance on preparing, selecting and transporting calves are all available from MPI and/or DairyNZ websites and titles include "Caring for bobby calves being transported for processing"; "Fit for transport" – guidance for drivers handling calves and for farmers; "Calf holding and loading facilities good practice guidelines" and "Humane slaughter guidelines".

As a final note, along with the regulations applying to bobby calves, owners or people in charge of animals must also comply with the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and the minimum standards for calf care and management in codes of welfare.

For further information don't hesitate to contact your vet or email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Source: MPI website, www.mpi.govt.nz, update March 14th 2017



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SHEEP and BEEF

- **Mating** – continue to monitor plane of nutrition for both ewes and rams. Ensure adequate ram ratios and that rams are active, sound and in good general health.
- **Planning for winter** – consider timing of winter shearing, when to book in your scanning, prepare an autumn/winter feed budget and relate it to body condition score, and consider the benefits of iodine supplementation of ewes.

DEER

- **Mating** – keep a close eye on stags as mating progresses. Monitor general health, body condition and any signs of lameness, and act quickly at any sign of a problem.

EQUINE

- **Vaccinations** – now is a good time to make sure all your horses are up-to-date with all their vaccinations, particularly mares that are in foal.

- **Worming** – autumn is a good time to drench horses of ALL ages with a product containing the active moxidectin (for example Ultra-mox™) to control cyathostomes which inhibit over winter, hiding from the immune system, and can cause colitis/colic.
- **Planning for winter** – regular hoof care will help decrease the risk of foot abscesses and timely dental checks will help, particularly in older horses, ensure maintenance of condition through winter.



Internal teat sealants

Leisa Norris

Internal teat sealants (ITS) have the ability to prevent mastitis in heifers and in cows, and is a well proven and widespread practice on many dairy farms.

The decision if to use ITS is one worth taking time to consider. Many cows are dried off with combination therapy – insertion of both an antibiotic dry cow therapy (DCT) combined with use of an ITS. The antibiotic DCT cures existing infections and the ITS stops new ones from establishing over the dry period. But what about those cows that are not infected at drying off? Do they need that antibiotic? The short answer is, if there is no infection to treat, all we need to do is prevent new infections from establishing, and using an ITS is the most effective way of achieving that.

Firstly, what is an “uninfected” cow? We actually don’t know if a cow is infected or not

unless we run a milk culture on every cow at drying off. Therefore we use the cow’s mastitis and somatic cell count (SCC) history. Combined, those two pieces of information are very accurate at sorting infected cows that should be treated with antibiotic DCT from uninfected cows that don’t need antibiotic DCT. So by “uninfected” cows, we mean cows that did not have clinical mastitis and whose SCC did not exceed a threshold (typically 150,000 cells/ml) during the season.

Numerous trials from New Zealand (NZ) and overseas have demonstrated that using an ITS alone in uninfected cows roughly halves their mastitis rate next spring, compared to no treatment. Use of an ITS was also shown to be as effective as long acting antibiotic DCTs in uninfected cows.

ITS prevents mastitis until it is removed by suckling or stripping at first milking. Most NZ cows are dry for much longer than the length of cover offered by the longest acting antibiotic DCTs. Relying on antibiotic DCT alone means your cows are most likely unprotected during the period of highest risk for mastitis infections establishing - as they bag up and calve.

So should you use an ITS alone in your uninfected cows? It depends on your farm’s mastitis pattern. You should consider it if:

- You want to protect your cows for the entire dry period.
- You have little contagious mastitis circulating through your herd.
- You want to minimise antibiotic use.
- You want to minimise inhibitory substance risk.
- You want to save money on unnecessary combination therapy.
- You have herd test results (ideally at least two) and good mastitis records.

Don't hesitate to discuss the options with your vet and whether using an ITS is appropriate in your herd. Lastly, whether it is in cows or heifers, if you're using antibiotic DCT or an ITS hygiene is paramount! We have a great team of technicians that, if required, can provide expert advice and additional hands on support during the drying off process, so don't hesitate to give us a call today to book your herd in!

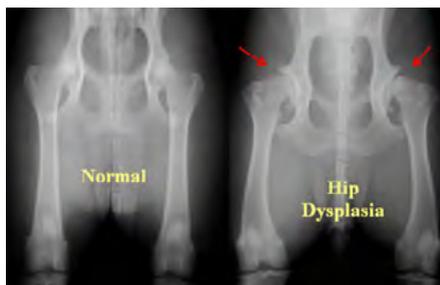
Hip dysplasia in huntaways

Helen Sheard

Hip dysplasia is a complex disease primarily involving genetic conformation of the hip joint. Growth rate, especially in the first 60 days of life, and the mineral composition of the diet fed during puppyhood also play a large role.

Laxity or 'looseness' in the joint ligaments is a feature of the disease and, because the joint is unstable, the head of the femur hits the acetabulum (the pelvic part of the hip joint) each time weight is put on the limb causing damage and pain. As the joint tries to stabilise itself it puts down more bone and arthritis develops.

Pain from the arthritis is variable and can be mild, such as a reluctance to jump or



to negotiate stairs, through to severe and crippling lameness. Options for treatment include long term pain relief medications, corrective surgery to improve the depth of the joint (suitable only in young dogs with only early osteoarthritic changes) and even full hip replacement – all of which have their various pro's and con's and attached price tag!

A study of working dogs conducted by Paul Hughes at Tailhapa Vets found that 24% of huntaways were affected with some degree of hip dysplasia, compared to only 6% of heading dogs. The dogs for the study were selected randomly and none were showing any signs of hind limb lameness at the time.

He thought it likely that since working dogs are typically fit, well-muscled and highly motivated, signs of lameness aren't seen until the arthritis associated with the disease is well advanced. Only the most severe cases are likely to be diagnosed early, this being before they have already been bred from. This means without x-raying every dog prior to breeding, the trait is likely to persist in the population.

Because only part of the disease is controlled by genetics, there is no 100% guarantee that breeding dogs with radiographically good hips won't have any affected pups. However, the risk is very much reduced. Keeping pups lean and feeding a balanced large breed puppy diet will also help.

If you have concerns about your dog and/or if you are considering breeding talk to your vet first – we are happy to help – we can share information, help to manage pain, or assess breeding lines by x-raying both dog and bitch prior to breeding.

CONTROL THE RISK OF SALMONELLOSIS AND LEPTOSPIROSIS IN YOUR CATTLE

SALVEXIN®+B
Protect against unnecessary deaths and productivity losses from Salmonella disease.

The greatest risk is the period leading into and following calving. Epidemics are seen annually with 2-30% of the herd clinically affected and up to 30% of infected cattle dying.

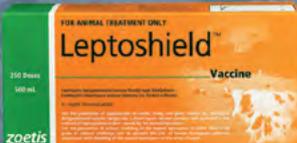
Vaccination provides effective cover to protect your herd and your personal health.



LEPTOSHIELD™
Long lasting: Leptoshield has a duration of immunity of at least 12 months.

Effective prevention: Leptoshield prevents renal colonisation and urinary shedding and has proven efficacy against New Zealand leptospires.

Leptoshield is used for the routine immunisation of livestock against leptospirosis caused by *L. hardjo* and *L. pomona*.



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