



October 2019

Open 8am-5pm Weekdays

9am-12pm Saturdays

After Hours: 021 403 301



Getting Weaning Right

By: Suzannah Taylor, BVSc

Weaning can seem like a relief, one less job to do, no more calves to feed! But don't be deceived, if you would like well grown calves they still need lots of tender love and care:

- **Sufficient meal to aid transition onto grass:** at minimum 1-2kg/calf/day for at least three weeks then slowly reduce over three weeks, longer if there isn't good quantity and quality of grass available.

- **Appropriate drenching:** Once eating grass young stock should be drenched every 28 days with a multi-action drench such as Ivermatrix calf

or Eclipse.

- **Protection against Coccidia:** coccidiostats are contained in some meals, this can vary greatly so Baycox C is a good preventative and only one dose is needed.

- **Clostridial vaccinations:** a 7in1 or Covexin depending on farm history don't forget the booster vaccination 4 weeks later.

The best way to ensure your calves are growing well and notice any problems early is to weigh animals monthly. At Dargaville Vets we know this is key to ensure good stock for your future herd but also un-

derstand it is easier said than done when there is the demands of running a farm. This is why we offer HeiferGain, a simple way to ensure the animals forming your future herd are going to reach their potential, check out the flier enclosed for more information.



Weaned calves should be eating at least 1-2kg meal/day

Editorial

Calving is over and we're another month closer to that capital C word...talking about Christmas, mark your diaries for the 5th of December if you want to join in the festivities of our annual Christmas party.

This month is all about mating. Hopefully your herd has been

tailpainted for a few weeks already and you know exactly who is cycling. This is invaluable information as treating non-cycling cows early provides the best return on investment.

Keep an eye on your calves as you edge closer to weaning. It is important for their growth

over the next few months to get this crucial step right. If you're not sure they are at weaning weights we can come and weigh them for you, or better yet talk to us about our Heifergain programme.

Joyce Gallagher

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Special points of interest:

- October is the best time to scan your autumn cows so we can give you accurate in calf dates
- Problems with scours? To get the right treatment we need to test
- It is worthwhile treating non-cyclers at the right time



Miss A Heat Here and There? It Could Be Costing You More Than You Think!

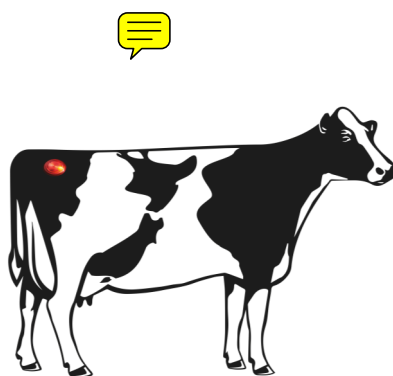
By: Brian Lowe, BVSc

Cost of a Missed Heat

Good mating management is critical if you're seeking to maximise your herd's 6 week in-calf rate. Rewards of a better 6 week in-calf rate include more days in milk, fewer empties, and more AB replacement calves.

Don't miss a heat - The cost of a missed heat is about \$200 (DairyNZ figures). Poor heat detection is a significant limiting factor of New Zealand dairy herds, but this situation is easily remedied. A combination of regular observation, including paddock checks, and heat detection aids is recommended.

Used correctly, heat detection aids should help reduce the incidence of missed heats or 'invented' heats (false negatives and false positives).



FlashMate sits on the rump of the cow and is very easy to interpret

FlashMate gives best bang for buck by accurately alerting heats throughout the AB period, yielding quality submissions that drive up conception rate and add profit to your operation.

Flashmates are proven to increase 6-week in-calf rates by more than 6%. Multiply your herd by 6, multiply that by \$4 and this is what a 6% gain yields in extra profit.

Your team need only draft on the red flashing light, so you're winning through labour flexibility and lifestyle benefits as well.

Autumn Scanning

By: Joyce Gallagher, BVSc

It is time for our Autumn Calving herds to think about scanning! Scanning is a key factor for farm planning and to maximise profitability. Scanning can take place as early as 40 days after conception. We can accurately date the age of the foetus between 40-90 days after conception, providing our clients with critical farm management information relating to calving spreads and which cows have held to

AB.

One of the great tools we have available for recording and analysing scanning results is Infovet. Infovet has a large suite of reports to look at components of production data not only scanning results but also; mastitis incidence, reproductive data and cow body condition score. (You can

also get the MINDA app on your phone to enter data immediately!)

The report we provide after scanning includes

valuable information with a number of graphs that compare your herd to the industry target.

Interested in joining Infovet? Contact us at the clinic!

Scan your autumn cows now to get accurate calving dates

Milk Quality Awards and Christmas Party

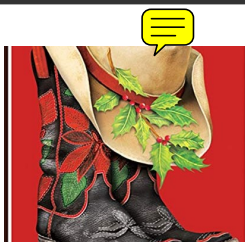
By: Joyce Gallagher, BVSc

It's getting close to that crazy time of the year again, so please mark your diaries for our annual Christmas Party which will be on Thursday 5 December.

This also means it is time again for the **Mamyzin Milk Quality Awards**. If you want to be in to win you will need to be signed up to Infovet by November.

Last year we had two brand new winners, with the Most Improved Award going to Brian and Carolyn Hutchings, and the Best Overall Award going to Totara Dale Farms.

Who will be crowned this years winners? Come to the party and find out for yourself, it could be you!



A hint for the theme this year...

Worms And Coccidia: A Tale Of Two Parasites

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Worms and coccidia are both parasites that live in the gut of ruminants and can both cause scours in young animals but they have some important differences.

Worms live inside the gut but outside of the cells in the gut while **coccidia** is a protozoan parasite and lives inside the cells lining the intestine. Because of this, treatment for worms and coccidia are different so it is important to know what you are treating. The best way (and only) way to know what is causing the problem is to take some faecal samples and get them tested.

Coccidiosis can still occur even in calves fed meal containing a coccidiostat, especially if their immune system is compromised for some reason or there is very heavy environmental contamination with coccidia. Remember a

coccidiostat just stops the coccidia from replicating but doesn't kill it.



To treat worms in young calves we recommend **Ivermatrix Calf** – a safe and effective triple combination drench as part of a regular drenching programme; usually four to six weekly drenching is required in young animals. Unfortunately there are no pour-on products that are safe for calves weighing less than 120kg. For the treatment of coccidia we recommend a coccidicidal product such as **Baycox C**; typically a one off treatment is all that is required.



Calves affected by worms or coccidia can look exactly the same



Dehorning Regulations: A Friendly Reminder

By: Suzannah Taylor, BVSc

Don't forget: as of 1st of October 2019 it is a legal requirement that local anaesthetic is used for all dehorning AND disbudding of cattle and calves.

Dehorning of cattle over 6 weeks of age will now classed as a surgical procedure so must be performed by a registered veterinarian. Preferably all animals will be disbudded at an early age to prevent dehorning being necessary.

Disbudding calves early, between 2-6 weeks, with local anaesthetic is better for both calf and operator.

Not only is it a less invasive procedure for the calf it is a much less dangerous job for the operator as well, this is a win for both animal welfare and human health and safety.

Local anaesthetic for any disbudding/
dehorning is a legal requirement from
1 October 2019.



A Friendly Reminder

7 in 1 Vaccination Reminder

By: Joyce Gallagher, BVSc

7 in 1 Vaccine protects against the five main **clostridial diseases** (black leg, tetanus, malignant oedema, black disease and perfringens) which can cause sudden death as well against two strains of **leptospirosis**.

Calves can be vaccinated as early as 4 weeks of age and need a second injection 4-6 weeks later. This has shown to protect against Clostridial diseases for a number of years. However

calves will need yearly booster for leptospirosis. There should be no longer than 12 months between this vaccine and their next Lepto vaccine. So spring born calves should receive a lepto vaccine in autumn at 6 months of age to align them with the herd.

Why do calves need to be vaccinated for lepto?

Studies have shown that calves are at risk of lepto infection well before 6 months of age. If

they are infected they can become chronic shedders of leptospirosis in their urine for months or years, presenting a health risk to you any time they are handled.



Give your calves their first dose of 7in1 now

Dargaville Veterinary Centre Ltd

97 Normanby Street
Dargaville

Phone: 09 439 7117
Fax: 09 439 7116
E-mail: vets@dargavillevets.co.nz

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Yearlings Or Autumn Calves With Scours

By: Sarah Bird, BVSc

Just like scours in calves, there are several causes of scours in yearling cattle and the treatment differs depending on the cause. The scour may look the same regardless of the cause, or there may be multiple causes for the scouring. Because of this it's always best to get some samples so we can determine what is going on and pick the most appropriate treatment.

- **Worms** – can still cause problems in yearling cattle. An effective drench as part of an appropriate worm control programme is vital. A faecal sample is required to look for worm eggs.

- **Coccidia** – while usually more of a problem in calves around weaning, coccidia can still cause problems, especially if the immune system is under stress and there is a high burden of coccidia in the environment. Typically animals strain and have blood in the scour and faecal samples are needed to check for the coccidia oocyst. We recommend Baycox C® to treat coccidiosis

- **Yersinia** – caused by a bacteria that typically likes colder conditions we see yersinia commonly in yearling cattle. Shedding of the bacteria may be intermittent so it is best if we have samples from a number of animals for culture of the bacteria. A course of oxytetracycline antibiotics are required for treatment.



How To Get The Most Out Of Treating Non-Cycling Cows

By: Don Thomas, BVSc BSc

Abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz plus a picture

