



our quality-focused veterinary care for your farm

THE milk carton

Dargaville Vets

Liver Fluke in Cattle:

could be costing your herds production

Liver fluke is a parasite which is ingested off the pasture, migrates across the liver surface and lives in the bile ducts of the liver.



As the liver fluke chews its way across the surface of the liver, it causes considerable damage to the liver. Because of this, it is the immature stages of liver fluke which are responsible for causing most of the damage, rather than the adult liver fluke in the bile ducts.

Production losses can occur with very low numbers of fluke – even with a low burden milk production can be reduced by 10% and growth rates by 9%.

With higher numbers of liver fluke, the growth rates in young cattle can be reduced by 28% or more. Studies have also shown heifer calves with liver fluke infections have a delay of 39 days on their first oestrus – couple that with animals that are less well grown - this is going to have a significant impact on their reproduction. Moral of the story – IF YOU HAVE LIVER FLUKE IN YOUR HERD IT'S COSTING YOU BIG TIME!

APRIL
2020

TEAT SEALANT FOR COWS

why our recommendations have changed away from whole herd antibiotic dry cow therapy

The goal set by the NZVA was by 2020 to only be using dry cow therapy to treat existing infections. "The use of DCT in non- infected cows is no longer appropriate in an era of effective alternatives such as internal teat sealants (ITS) and improved management practices."

Since 2015 there *has* been a significant decrease in whole-herd and an increase in part-herd dry cow antibiotic therapy in NZ, demonstrating our ability to reduce antibiotic use . **In a nut-shell, treating the whole-herd with an antibiotic dry cow therapy is no longer good practice** given we need effective antibiotics available to farm into the future.

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More New Zealand farmers are teat sealing their cows, either alone, or in combination with dry cow antibiotic.

Teat sealants plug the teat canal to prevent mastitis during the dry period and calving. We know that not every cow has an active infection requiring dry cow antibiotics at dry off - let's target those cows that don't and use a teat sealant instead.

To determine which cows should get a teat sealant, dry cow antibiotic, or both, herds should be SCC tested within 2 months of dry-off. Those cows with a SCC over 150,000 should be treated with antibiotics. This allows targeted treatment of cows that truly require antibiotics.

The crux of the matter is this - the biggest problem seen at drying off is hygiene. Administering intra-mammary treatment (especially teat sealant) takes time and effort to avoid the development of severe clinical mastitis. We can draw up a plan with you and administer the teat sealant to help make things easier for you.

TREAT LIVER FLUKE: achieve a return on investment of over 2000%

As liver fluke can have considerable impacts on growth rates and milk production it makes sense to treat it. In fact the return on investment from treating, makes it one of the best investments you can make.

Because liver fluke is different from worms in the intestine, your standard cattle drench won't kill it!

Instead if you have liver fluke infection in your cattle, you will need a treatment that specifically targets liver fluke. Because it's the immature stages which cause the most damage, whenever possible you should treat cattle with a product which kills all stages of liver fluke especially if you have anything more than a low burden of liver fluke.



We do have a range of liver fluke treatment options so please call us to discuss what is most appropriate for your animals. If you would like to use FlukeCare but the thought of orally drenching your cattle puts you off, talk to us as we may be able to help you drench them. Unfortunately this year due to Covid19, we have been unable to obtain any Ivomec Plus injection (it's made in Holland) so instead we have IconF Injection which has exactly the same active ingredients.

Product	Stages Killed	Milk Withholding	Application	Cost per cow/dose	Likely Return on Investment
Genesis Ultra	Adults and all Immatures	91 Days	Pour On	\$9.25	2200%
FlukeCare + Se	Adults and all Immatures	35 Days	Oral	\$6.74	3000%
Icon F Injection	Adults only	14 Days	Injectable	\$4.99	3600%

Cost per Cow dose based on 500kg cow, inclusive of GST
Likely Return on Investment based on extra 10% milk production at 280kg MS/cow/year with a milk payout of \$7.30 per kg MS.

Herd health check:

Now is the time to test trace elements so you can make sure your herd is in top shape before next milking season



...Trace Element testing is considered an essential service so over the next few weeks you will get a call from one of our vets regarding testing. This year we will be testing two minerals, Copper and Selenium, plus Liver Fluke. GGT testing isn't necessary as there has been no sign of facial eczema spores this summer.

We have developed a testing package in partnership with SVS labs and by matching their discount we are able to give you a total 30% off laboratory costs during the months of April and May. This means it will cost just \$496.35 to give your herd a health check.

RVMs

Restricted Veterinary Medicine Consultations- every farmers' favourite topic! Our aim was to have all of these done before farmers required any dry cow therapy at drying off this year.

The Pandemic means that face to face consultations are currently not appropriate. Any farmer that requires dry cow therapy or teat sealants for drying off will be authorised to have access to these by one of our vets over the phone. We will then sit down with you once the restrictions are lifted to complete all of the compliance paperwork required for the new season. As this is completely out of anyone's hands we will continue giving the \$200 credit for the rest of this season's consultations regardless of when it is completed.



Calf and R2 DRENCHING OPTIONS

The rain that we have had recently, should be making you think about drenching your young stock soon.

While larvae won't have been hatching out over the dry, they will have been sitting there getting ready for the rain and have now amassed a great army of worms ready to hit your calves



We have a range of drench options for your young stock so please give us a call to discuss what is best for you.

For calves we recommend using a combination product;

Drench resistance is widespread in sheep and there is nothing to suggest that it's any different for cattle. By using a combination product you maximise your chances of killing every worm in the gut and your youngest animals are most susceptible to the effects of worms.

For calves less than 120kg we recommend **Ivermatrix Calf** – it is a triple combination oral drench that is very safe for young animals.

For bigger calves you have more options. You can continue with **Ivermatrix Calf** or swap to **Matrix C** (still a triple combination). If you prefer to use a pour-on we recommend **Eclipse** as it is a double combination drench. We do have injectable drench options available – **Eclipse E injection with B12 & Selenium** is a great option.



5 good reasons For teat sealing heifers

1 Plugs the teat to protect against new infections over the dry period

2 The plug stays in until milked out, preventing bacteria entering the teat at calving

3 Heifers practice entering the shed before their first milking

4 An inert non-antibiotic substance, so it does not contribute to antibiotic resistance

5 We can come and do the work for you!



Worms and the rain

Over the drought, the worms inside your cattle were still laying eggs...

...however, those eggs, when out on pasture would have been doing their very best to keep safe in their little cocoon of larval skin and not maturing to infective stage larval. They have been patiently waiting their time until the conditions are right and they won't dry out.

Now it has rained, they know that they are much safer and are ready to infect any cattle they come across. This means your animals will suddenly be exposed to a huge influx of worms.

You need to drench your young stock NOW.



Eprinex Gain \$40 per cow!

For the autumn herds out there calving is a great time to give your cows an extra boost with Eprinex Treatment.

Studies in New Zealand have shown that cows given Eprinex pour-on soon after calving spent on average one extra hour grazing than their untreated herd mates. This resulted in higher milk production, additional bonuses such as weight gain and shorter conception rates.

Milk production increased by 0.03kgMS/cow/day for 200 or more days. With the cost of Eprinex \$6.05/cow and the pay-out \$7.30, you do the maths, seems like an opportunity that shouldn't be missed!

Liver fluke; drenches for calves

Does your dairy herd have liver fluke? Are your calves grazing on farm? If they are you can almost guarantee they will have liver fluke too. Or are they away at a runoff or grazing somewhere and drinking out of dams? They probably have liver fluke.

We know that the effects on growth rates and reproduction from even low liver fluke burdens can be big so it makes sense to treat and minimise these effects. We also know that it's the immature stages of liver fluke that cause the most damage so it makes sense to kill as many of these as we can. Even better, we have more flexibility to pick a product we know will do

a great job because we don't have to worry about milk with-holding periods.

But it can get a bit confusing when you are standing at the shelf wondering just what you should take home. Does it kill liver fluke? Will it kill immature liver fluke as well as adults? Will it do a good job at killing the worms that might also limit growth rates?



Switch Fluke 10 ticks all these boxes – treats adults and all immatures and it's a double combination plus flukicide meaning that you will get good roundworm control. If you're looking for a pour-on product Genesis Ultra is a good option, though Switch Fluke 10 will provide better roundworm control.

